

THE GIBEONITE DECEPTION

A Lesson Learned For All

Joshua 9



The Reaction to Israel's Conquest (1-2)

Let's start off with some observations from these first two verses:

Question: Up to this point, what has been the reaction of the kings of Canaan to the Lord's conquest of Canaan?

Question: What is their reaction in verses 1-2?

Question: What changed?

SIN DIMINISHED THE GLORY OF GOD

the consequences of our sin diminishes the glory of God among unbelievers of whom we are God's primary representative

Matthew 5:16 (NASB95) – 16 *"Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.*

1 Peter 2:12 (NASB95) – 12 *Keep your behavior excellent among the Gentiles, so that in the thing in which they slander you as evildoers, they may because of your good deeds, as they observe them, glorify God in the day of visitation.*

"When the grace of God visits the heart of an unbeliever, he will respond with saving faith and glorify God because he remembers the testimony of believers he had observed." (MacArthur)

GIBEON DECEIVES

- Gibeon was not far from Ai
- 5 miles northwest of Jerusalem
- They were a tribe of the Hivites
- "Hivite" meaning snake

Israel's command to destroy all the inhabitants of the land of Canaan

Deuteronomy 20:16-17 (NASB95) – 16 "Only in the cities of these peoples that the Lord your God is giving you as an inheritance, you shall not leave alive anything that breathes. **17** "But you shall utterly destroy them, the Hittite and the Amorite, the Canaanite and the Perizzite, the Hivite and the Jebusite, as the Lord your God has commanded you,

A provision of peace that could be extended to the nations that Israel encountered outside of Canaan

Deuteronomy 20:10-12 (NASB95) – 10 "When you approach a city to fight against it, you shall offer it terms of peace. **11** "If it agrees to make peace with you and opens to you, then all the people who are found in it shall become your forced labor and shall serve you. **12** "However, if it does not make peace with you, but makes war against you, then you shall besiege it.

WHERE HAVE WE HEARD THESE WORDS BEFORE?

Joshua 9: 9-10 (Giebonites)

for we have heard the report of Him and all that He did in Egypt, **10** and all that He did to the two kings of the Amorites who were beyond the Jordan, to Sihon king of Heshbon and to Og king of Bashan who was at Ashtaroth

Joshua 2:10 (Rahab)

For we have heard how the Lord dried up the water of the Red Sea before you when you came out of Egypt, and what you did to the two kings of the Amorites who were beyond the Jordan, to Sihon and Og, whom you utterly destroyed.

ISRAEL'S FOLLY (14-15)

- They did not seek the Lord in their decision
- Lit: "But the mouth of the LORD they did not ask"

Numbers 27:21 (NASB95) – 21 *"Moreover, he shall stand before Eleazar the priest, who shall inquire for him by the judgment of the Urim before the Lord. At his command they shall go out and at his command they shall come in, both he and the sons of Israel with him, even all the congregation."*

- The leader of Israel was commanded to use this process when making decisions for Israel
- Joshua completely ignored this provision
- And made a covenant with them without consulting the Lord

LORD'S PLAN TO OBEDIENCE AND BLESSING

*Proverbs 3:5-6 (NASB95) – 5 Trust in the Lord with all your heart And do not lean on your own understanding.
6 In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He will make your paths straight.*

1) Trust in the Lord with all your heart

2) Do not lean on your own understanding

3) In all your ways acknowledge Him

Result: And He will make your paths straight

THE LORD'S PATH VS JOSHUA'S PATH

God is there to be consulted, and we ignore him to our own peril (Howard, David M.)

The Lord's Path to Obedience and Blessing

Israel's Path to Failure

Trust in the Lord with all your heart

Trusted in themselves

do not lean on your own understanding

Looked only at the physical and relied only on their judgment

In all your ways acknowledge Him

Made themselves out to be the true authority

Result: ***And He will make your paths straight***

Result: ***Deceived***

GIBEON'S PLOT REVEALED (16-21)

*Three days to discover their error! But a lifetime to live with it!-Boice,
James Montgomery*

Question: What do the people want to do to them?

Answer: Kill them

Question: What is the response of the leaders of Israel?

Answer: We made a covenant before the Lord, we cannot touch them

GIEBON'S RESPONSE AND LOT(23-27)

The Gibeonites response?

1) *We feared the LORD*

2) *Do with us what you will*

Question: What do we do with these Gibeonites?

Here are some thoughts:

- They were a desperate people
- They have the same profession of Rahab
- They came "because who Israel's God is"
- They left the kingdom of the enemies of God for the kingdom of the Jews
- They pitted themselves against the rest of Canaan with their decision
- They were under a death penalty from the rest of Canaan (will see in Ch 10)
- They never defected back to the its original side
- When the land was divided, Gibeon was one of the cities given to the line of Aaron
- 400 years later, David put the Tabernacle in the city, where they served
- At least one of David's mighty men was a Gibeonite
- They are included in the genealogies that came back from the Babylonian captivity (others who claimed to be Jews were not)
- They helped Nehemiah rebuild the Temple
- The descendants of these Gibeonites ("Nethinim" or "devoted persons")had a place of honor in the service of the temple centuries later

CONCLUSION

Although they came under the guise of deception, they are a picture desperation and acknowledgment of God's future wrath that caused them to throw themselves upon the mercy and character of God to be spared.

Therefore, they were brought into the people of God

It is in precisely such a spirit and attitude that sinners are to come before God in Christ—convicted of their sins, convinced of the verity of God's threatenings, casting themselves upon His good pleasure, hoping in His mercy, submitting unreservedly to His will, ready to take His yoke upon them. (Pink, Arthur W.)

APPLICATION

Does my life communicate a high view of God? Or a picture of His diminished glory?

Ephesians 5:15-20 (NASB95) – 15 Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise, 16 making the most of your time, because the days are evil. 17 So then do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.

In your life, where are you:

Relying on yourself?

Leaning on your own understanding rather than biblical wisdom?

Carrying on absent of God's authority ?

Test: Where are your paths "crooked" or where have you gotten off the path?

- Where is their confusion? Selfishness? Pride? Disorientation? Strife?

Identify those, repent, put off the sinful motivations, and put on Proverbs 3:5-6

In the story of the Gibeonites, we see the picture of what is required to be part of God's people

1) Desperation

2) Pardon

3) Willingness to be a slave