

The Book of Joshua

The Battle for Canaan

The Treaty with Gibeon

Text: Joshua 9

- I. An Alliance Against Israel (Joshua 9:1-2)
 - A. After the events at Jericho and Ai, the people of Canaan decided to take action against Israel.
 - B. Instead of submitting to the God of Israel, they decided to fight against Israel - and, therefore, Jehovah.
 - C. Notice that the land is divided into three sections.
 1. The Hills (mountains)
 2. The Valleys (plains, Shephelah)
 3. The Sea Coast
- II. The Deceit of Gibeon (Joshua 9:3-13)
 - A. The word 'wily' refers to "trickery, shrewdness, or subtlety."
 - B. They disguised themselves to look like they had travelled from a great distance.
 - C. They claimed that they came from a far country and wanted to make a covenant with Israel - desiring to be their servants.
 - D. They claimed that they had come because they heard of the wonderful things God had done to Egypt and the kingdoms in and around Canaan.
 - E. Note that they admit that they knew the truth about God; yet, they refused to submit to Him!
- III. The Failure of Israel (Joshua 9:14)
 - A. This is the key verse of the chapter.
 - B. The leaders of Israel looked at the outward, fleshly evidence and based their decision solely upon it.
 1. This is how people are deceived by 'wolves in sheep's clothing' (Matt. 7:15-27).
 2. This is how false doctrine and unauthorized practices take root in the church.
 - C. They failed to ask God.
- IV. The Treaty with Gibeon (Joshua 9:15-27)
 - A. So, Joshua made a covenant of peace with the Gibeonites - allowing them to live.
 - B. When they found out who they really were, it was too late to break their word.
 - C. Thus, the people of Gibeon were made servants of Israel from that day forward (cf. 2 Sam. 21:1-9; Neh. 3:7; 7:25).

