

GOD'S PROMISES FULFILLED

A Study in the Books of Joshua and Ruth

The Treaty with the Gibeonites

Joshua 9

"Israel took some of their provisions; but they did not ask counsel of the LORD." Joshua 9:14 (NKJV)

Read Joshua 9:1–6.

1. As chapter 9 opens, what is fresh on the minds of Israel? (Josh. 8:34-35; Ex. 34:12; Deut. 7:2)

2. According to God's instructions in Deuteronomy 20:10–18, what is the difference between how Israel is permitted to treat *distant* nations and *local* nations?

3. Describe the Canaanite change in attitudes toward the invading Israelites and their God in Joshua 5:1 and 9:1-2.

What are the "things" that the Canaanites heard that may have caused this change?

4. Anybody opposed to the One and Only True God and his people can be classified as the "world." Trace the world's opposition to God from the first Joshua to the second Joshua (Jesus) by summarizing these verses:
 - a. Joshua 9:1, 2

 - b. Psalm 2:1–3

 - c. Acts 4:25–27

5. What had the Gibeonites heard about the fate of nations who had opposed Israel? What fate awaits the opposition to the second Joshua (Jesus Christ)? (Rev. 19:11–16)

6. List the specific things that the Gibeonites did to give Israel the impression that they had traveled a great distance. (vv. 4-6)

How are the actions of the Gibeonites different from the other Canaanites? (v. 2)

Read Joshua 9:7–15.

7. By what name are the Gibeonites referred to in verse 7? _____
 What else do we know about this people group? (vv. 1-2; Gen 10:15-17)

8. What is Israel's first reaction to the Gibeonites? (v. 7)
9. Notice that Israel's first reaction to the Gibeonites is correct. How then do they go wrong? (9:14; Ps. 106:13; Is. 30:1)
10. Can you think of a time when your first assessment of a situation was correct but then you trusted your own judgment rather than God's wisdom? Explain.

Read Joshua 9:16–21.

11. When the leaders of Israel discover that they have been tricked by the Gibeonites, how do they respond? (v. 17)

Why did they not attack these cities? (vv. 18-19)

12. How do the Israelites respond to their leaders who admit to having made a peace treaty with Gibeon? (v. 18b) Why do you think they responded this way?

Why was it important for leaders to abide by the oath they made? (Num. 30:2)

13. What role is assigned to the Gibeonites? (v. 21)

Interestingly, where is the tabernacle eventually set up? (2 Chron. 1:3)

Read Joshua 9:18–27.

14. What do Rahab and the Gibeonites have in common? How are they different? (2:8–13; 6:25; 9:23)

What do they each know about God as revealed through their stories? (vv. 24-25)

15. What do we learn about the Gibeonites in 2 Samuel 21:1–6?

What does this account teach us about how God views promises—his promises to us and our promises to Him and others?