



Lesson 52 – League with the Gibeonites

based on Joshua 9-10.

Joshua had just led the Children of Israel into the Promised Land. They had success over Jericho and Ai. They took time to worship and now returned to their encampment to make plans for going forward.

- 1) Scared beyond measure, what did the Gibeonites do?

Joshua 9:3-4 And when the inhabitants of Gibeon _____ what Joshua had done unto Jericho and to Ai, They did work _____, and went and made as if they had been ambassadors, and took old sacks upon their asses, and wine bottles, old, and rent, and bound up;

Joshua 9:5-6 And old shoes and clouted upon their feet, and old garments upon them; and all the bread of their provision was dry and _____. And they went to Joshua unto the camp at Gilgal, and said unto him, and to the men of Israel, We be come from a _____ country: now therefore make ye a league with us.

- 2) Were the Israelites going to make peace with the inhabitants of Caanan?

Joshua 9:7 And the men of Israel said unto the Hivites, Peradventure ye _____ us; and how shall we make a league with you?

- 3) Did Joshua automatically believe them?

Joshua 9:8 And they said unto Joshua, We are thy servants. And Joshua said unto them, Who _____ ye? and from whence _____ ye?

- 4) What did they tell him?

Joshua 9:9 And they said unto him, From a very _____ country thy servants are come because of the name of the LORD thy God: for we have heard the _____ of him, and all that he did in Egypt,

Joshua 9:12-13 This our bread we took _____ for our provision out of our houses on the day we came forth to go unto you; but now, behold, it is dry, and it is mouldy: And these bottles of wine, which we filled, were _____; and, behold, they be rent: and these our garments and our shoes are become old by reason of the very long journey.

- 5) Where did things go wrong?

Joshua 9:14 And the men took of their victuals, and asked not _____ at the mouth of the LORD.

- 6) What did Joshua do?

Joshua 9:15 And Joshua made peace with them, and made a _____ with them, to let them live: and the princes of the congregation swore unto them.

- 7) How'd that go?

Joshua 9:16 And it came to pass at the end of three days after they had made a league with them, that they heard that they were their _____, and that they dwelt among them.

Great was the indignation of the Israelites as they learned the deception that had been practiced upon them. And this was heightened when, after three days' journey, they reached the cities of the Gibeonites, near the center of the land.



8) Did Israel keep their word?

Joshua 9:19-20 But all the princes said unto all the congregation, We have sworn unto them by the LORD God of Israel: now therefore we may _____ them. This we will do to them; we will even let them live, lest wrath be upon us, because of the _____ which we sware unto them.

The oath had been secured by deception; it was not to be disregarded. The obligation to which one's word is pledged, if it does not bind him to perform a wrong act, should be held sacred. No consideration of gain, of revenge, or of self-interest can in any way affect the inviolability of an oath or pledge.

9) Why?

Proverbs 12:22 _____ lips are abomination to the LORD: but they that deal truly are his delight.

10) What was the final decision about the Gibeonites?

Joshua 9:27 And Joshua made them that day _____ of wood and _____ of water for the congregation, and for the altar of the LORD, even unto this day, in the place which he should choose.

These conditions they gratefully accepted, conscious that they had been at fault, and glad to purchase life on any terms.

11) Did they have to make this commitment?

Leviticus 19:33-34 But the _____ that dwelleth with you shall be unto you as one born among you, and thou shalt _____ him as thyself; for ye were strangers in the land of Egypt: I am the LORD your God.

Numbers 15:15 One _____ shall be both for you of the congregation, and also for the stranger that sojourneth with you, an ordinance for ever in your generations: as ye are, so shall the stranger be before the LORD.

It would have fared better with the Gibeonites had they dealt honestly with Israel. While their submission to Jehovah secured the preservation of their lives, their deception brought them only disgrace and servitude. God had made provision that all who would renounce heathenism, and connect themselves with Israel, should share the blessings of the covenant.

It was for the deception to which they had resorted. It was no light humiliation to those citizens of a "royal city," "all the men whereof were mighty," to be made hewers of wood and drawers of water throughout their generations. But they had adopted the garb of poverty for the purpose of deception, and it was fastened upon them as a badge of perpetual servitude. Thus, through all their generations their servile condition would testify to God's hatred of falsehood.

12) What did the creation of this covenant do in the land?

Joshua 10:1-2 Now it came to pass, when Adonizedek king of _____ had heard how Joshua had taken Ai, and had utterly destroyed it; as he had done to Jericho and her king, so he had done to Ai and her king; and how the inhabitants of Gibeon had made peace with Israel, and were among them; That they _____, because Gibeon was a great city, as one of the royal cities, and because it was greater than Ai, and all the men thereof were mighty.



Joshua 10:3-4 Wherefore Adonizedek king of Jerusalem sent unto Hoham king of Hebron, and unto Piram king of Jarmuth, and unto Japhia king of Lachish, and unto Debir king of Eglon, saying, Come up unto me, and help me, that we may _____ Gibeon: for it hath made _____ with Joshua and with the children of Israel.

The submission of Gibeon to the Israelites filled the kings of Canaan with dismay. Steps were at once taken for revenge upon those who had made peace with the invaders. Under the leadership of Adonizedek, king of Jerusalem, five of the Canaanite kings entered into a confederacy against Gibeon. Their movements were rapid.

13) Panicking, what did the Gibeonites do?

Joshua 10:6 And the men of Gibeon sent unto Joshua to the camp to Gilgal, saying, Slack not thy hand from thy servants; come up to us quickly, and _____ us, and help us: for all the kings of the Amorites that dwell in the mountains are gathered together against us.

The danger threatened not the people of Gibeon alone, but also Israel. This city commanded the passes to central and southern Palestine, and it must be held if the country was to be conquered.

14) What did Israel do?

Joshua 10:7 So Joshua ascended from Gilgal, he, and all the people of _____ with him, and all the mighty men of valour.

15) Did they check with God this time?

Joshua 10:8 And the LORD said unto Joshua, _____ them not: for I have delivered them into thine hand; there shall not a man of them stand before thee.

16) How did the battle go?

Joshua 10:9-10 Joshua therefore came unto them suddenly, and went up from Gilgal all night. And the LORD _____ them before Israel, and slew them with a great slaughter at Gibeon, and chased them along the way that goeth up to Bethhoron, and smote them to Azekah, and unto Makkedah.

17) What did God do in the middle of this conflict?

Joshua 10:11 And it came to pass, as they fled from before Israel, and were in the going down to Bethhoron, that the LORD cast down great stones from heaven upon them unto Azekah, and they died: they were more which died with _____ than they whom the children of Israel slew with the sword.

The immense host fled before Joshua up the mountain pass to Beth-horon; and having gained the height, they rushed down the precipitous descent upon the other side. Here a fierce hailstorm burst upon them.

While the Amorites were continuing their headlong flight, intent on finding refuge in the mountain strongholds, Joshua, looking down from the ridge above, saw that the day would be too short for the accomplishment of his work. If not fully routed, their enemies would again rally and renew the struggle.

18) What did Joshua pray?

Joshua 10:12 Then spake Joshua to the LORD in the day when the LORD delivered up the Amorites before the children of Israel, and he said in the sight of Israel, Sun, _____ thou _____ upon Gibeon; and thou, Moon, in the valley of Ajalon.



19) Did God answer?

Joshua 10:13-14 And the _____ stood still, and the _____ stayed, until the people had avenged themselves upon their enemies. Is not this written in the book of Jasher? So the sun stood still in the midst of heaven, and hasted not to go down about a whole day. And there was no day like that before it or after it, that the LORD hearkened unto the voice of a man: for the LORD _____ for Israel.

Before the evening fell, God's promise to Joshua had been fulfilled. The entire host of the enemy had been given into his hand. Long were the events of that day to remain in the memory of Israel.

20) How did Habakkuk relate it?

Habakkuk 3:11-13 The sun and moon stood _____ in their habitation: at the light of thine arrows they went, and at the shining of thy glittering spear. Thou didst march through the land in indignation, thou didst thresh the heathen in anger. Thou wentest forth for the _____ of thy people, even for salvation with thine anointed; thou woundedst the head out of the house of the wicked, by discovering the foundation unto the neck. Selah.

The secret of success is the union of divine power with human effort. Those who achieve the greatest results are those who rely most implicitly upon the Almighty Arm. The man who commanded, ***"Sun, stand thou still upon Gibeon; and thou, Moon, in the valley of Ajalon,"*** is the man who for hours lay prostrate upon the earth in prayer in the camp of Gilgal. The men of prayer are the men of power.

21) How hard was it for God to hold nature in place?

Psalms 148:8 Fire, and hail; snow, and vapour; stormy wind fulfilling his _____:

Jeremiah 50:25 The LORD hath opened his _____, and hath brought forth the weapons of his indignation: for this is the work of the Lord GOD of hosts in the land of the Chaldeans.

Job 38:22-23 Hast thou entered into the treasures of the snow? or hast thou seen the treasures of the hail, Which I have reserved against the time of _____, against the day of battle and war?

22) What did John see in vision about the end of time?

Revelation 16:17, 21 And the seventh angel poured out his vial into the air; and there came a great voice out of the temple of heaven, from the throne, saying, It is _____... ..And there fell upon men a great _____ out of heaven, every stone about the weight of a talent: and men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail; for the plague thereof was exceeding great.

This mighty miracle testifies that the creation is under the control of the Creator. Satan seeks to conceal from men the divine agency in the physical world, to keep out of sight the unwearied working of the first great cause. In this miracle all who exalt nature above the God of nature stand rebuked.

Can you see God keeps His Word?

Would you like God to be your defender?

When is it time to walk in His blessings?