

JOSHUA 9-10

**GOD HONORS
HIS COVENANT**

INTRODUCTION

- The neighboring Gibeonites approach Israel as though they were faraway sojourners seeking asylum. The Israelites enter into a covenant before they realize the lie, but cannot go back on their word.
- The Gibeonites' lives are spared and, now as an ally, Israel comes to their rescue when surrounding city-states band together to attack.
- Israel enters into its first defensive battle and the Lord brings them victory.

MAKING BAD DECISIONS

JOSHUA 9:1-27

UNDERSTAND THE CAUSE (1-13)

- The Israelites decided to walk by sight instead of learning to walk by faith. They entered into a bad agreement with the Gibeonites.
- The victories of the Israelite army spread through the country, and the Gibeonites were afraid.
- They deceived the Israelites into thinking they were sojourners from a far land (Israel was allowed to make peace with inhabitants far from them).

UNDERSTAND THE CAUSE (1-13)

- You have to give them credit: they believed the reports of military victories and knew enough of the directives of Israel.
- The Israelites at first acted with caution but eventually had sympathy and compassion.
- The key verse in this chapter is verse 14 which says that they “did not ask counsel from the Lord.”

HONOR THE COMMITMENT (14-21)

- The Israelites did the human thing (help those who were poor) but they didn't do the divine thing.
- Joshua accepts highly questionable evidence.
- Proverbs 12:19 says "A lying tongue lasts only a moment" - in this case, the moment was 3 days.
- Israel had sworn an oath to the Gibeonites by the Lord, the God of Israel - the congregation grumbled, but the leaders kept their word.

HONOR THE COMMITMENT (14-21)

- Their commitment was tested in the next chapter when they had to defend the Gibeonites in battle.
- God helped the Israelites for honoring this oath.
- God also punished Israel later because Saul abandoned this commitment and killed some of the Gibeonites (2 Samuel 21).
- They became (vs. 21) woodcutters and water carriers which put them in contact with the Tabernacle.

ACCEPT THE CONSEQUENCES (22-25)

- The Israelites did the right thing by keeping their commitment, but they also had to live with the consequences of their actions.
- They would bear the burden of defending them.
- The Gibeonites were now consigned to carrying wood and water to the Tabernacle.
- It would be a visual reminder to Israel every day.

EXPECT THE CONCILIATION (26-27)

- The Gibeonites received God's grace through Israel's protection.
- They faithfully fulfilled their role. Centuries later when the Israelites returned from captivity, Ezra records that descendants of the Gibeonites were still serving in the temple.
- Their service allowed the Israelites to focus on the military conquest of the Promised Land.

THE LONGEST DAY

JOSHUA 10:1-43

MARCH WHEN YOU DON'T WANT TO (1-15)

- The five kings of the southern region banded together and threatened the Gibeonites.
- In reality, this allied army gave Joshua an opportunity. He had been picking off one city at a time. Now all of their armies were gathered together.
- The victory was going so well that Joshua needed more time, so he prayed for a longer day. That astronomical event was recorded in the Book of Jashar (2 Samuel 1:18).

ENGAGE WHEN YOU ARE AFRAID (16-28)

- Joshua and his troops learned an important lesson that appears again: press the battle according to God's plan and leave the miracles to Him.
- The kings are hiding in a cave, he directs the Israelites to wall up the cave while the cities were destroyed.
- Joshua said to them, "Do not be afraid or dismayed; be strong and courageous. For thus the Lord will do to all your enemies against whom you fight."

PURSUE WHEN YOU ARE TIRED (29-43)

- This section shows us that any serious opposition to Israel and the southern part of Canaan has now been eliminated.
- The major cities have been defeated and any effective coalitions have been broken up.
- The lesson of these two chapters is to keep commitments you have made and to be persistent against the enemies of God.

THE ART OF THE DEAL

ART OF THE DEAL

- New Testament parable (Luke 16:8-9) might reflect back on this Old Testament example (Joshua 9).
- Jesus tells the parable of the shrewd manager, who teaches some lessons about our possessions.
- First, the rich man commends the manager's shrewdness with stewardship.
- People of the world are usually more shrewd than Christians.

ART OF THE DEAL

- Second, worldly possessions can be used to prepare for eternity.
- Shrewd people in business sacrifice comforts for future profits. Christians should do the same with an eternal perspective.
- Apparently Jesus did not feel that the disciples (or at least the Pharisees) handled their resources (worldly wealth) properly: money and influence.

SUN STOOD STILL

- This is one of the most difficult passages in the Bible.
- There are many possible interpretations:
- Earth stopped rotating - The Earth rotates about about 1100 miles per hour (at equator), everything would be destroyed, God caused the rotation to slow.
- Sun's light lingered - refraction of light produced more light so the battle could be completed.

SUN STOOD STILL

- Special sign - perhaps this was some unusual alignment of the sun and moon that served as a sign.
- Figurative language - this was merely a literary attempt to say that God's victory over the Canaanites was something that even the sun and moon joined.
- Judges 5:20 says that the sun and moon fight for Israel in Deborah's day.
- Habakkuk 3:11 says the sun and moon stand amazed.

LONG DAY
OF JOSHUA

WHAT THE TEXT SAYS

- Battle of Beth Horon - fought against Adonai-Zedek, the king of Jerusalem (cities: Salem, Jebus).
- This allied coalition is defeated by “stones of fire from heaven.”
- The day is extended: “sun stood still.”
- The sun and the moon extended the day so that Joshua can finish the job, rest is a mop-up operation.

FACTS FROM HISTORY

- All the ancient calendars were based on 360 day year.
- All ancient calendars changed by 701 BC, most then used a 365 day year.
- Ancient civilizations were terrified by the planet Mars. Many even worshipped Mars (god of war).
- Some scientists now believe that Mars was on a resonant orbit and those closely passed by Earth.

ADDITIONAL FACTS

- Earth may have had a 360 day orbit, while Mars had a 720 day orbit.
- This means that there was a close pass-by every 108 years.
- This phenomenon accounts for various catastrophic events throughout history.
- These energy transfers apparently stabilized by 701 BC.

Spring, March 21
Inside: after perihelion

Earth



Mars

Fall: October 25
Outside: from aphelion

Resonant Orbit
Earth - 360 days
Mars - 720 days

ADDITIONAL FACTS

- Jonathan Swift - *Gulliver's Travels* (1726)
- "Voyage to Laputa" - details the size, revolutions, and orbits of the two moons on Mars.
- When he was alive, the astronomer Herschel did discover Uranus and later saw its moons. The moons of Mars were not seen by an astronomer until 1877.
- Jonathan Swift actually describes them 151 years before they were discovered.

ADDITIONAL FACTS

- Jonathan Swift knew Herschel, but neither of them knew this because the moons were so small.
- Most likely he drew upon ancient accounts to color his political satire. He was drawing on eye witness accounts from people who could see the moons.
- During some of these pass-by, Mars was about 50 times larger than our moon. They could have not only seen Mars but its two moons.

LONG DAY OF JOSHUA

- Battle of Beth Horon - October 25, 1404 B.C.
- Mars at a polar pass at 70,000 miles, appears 50 times larger than the size of the Moon.
- Severe earthquakes, land tides, polar shift of 5 degrees, which lengthened the day (also lengthen the night in the other part of the globe).
- This was followed by meteorites hitting the earth at 30,000 mph which only hit Israel's enemies.



