

A TREATY OF DECEIT (part one)

With the Central Campaign completed, Israel's military was preparing for the Southern Campaign (Josh.chs.9-10; 10:40-43).

The outline of the Southern Campaign will be in three parts.

- Josh.9:1-27 Crossed by Gibeonites
- Josh.10:1-28 Conquest of five Amorite Kings (Josh.10:5)
- Josh.10:29-43 Conquest of seven key cities of south Canaan

God will perform three miracles in the Southern Campaign (Josh.10:10; 10:11; and 10:12). Can you recall two miracles in the Central Campaign? (Josh.9:3, 9-10)

When you compare the nations occupying the land of Canaan in Josh.3:10 (7 nations) with Josh.9:1 (6 nations), you discover the Girgashite nation missing. The Central Campaign took it out. This was Joshua's way of saying 1 down and six to go! GOD IS FAITHFUL.

**This lesson will study SIX aspects of the Treaty of Deceit by the Gibeonites.
We will study it in two parts: Josh.9:1-15 and Josh.9:16-27.**

1. We learn an important doctrine about victory in the Christian Way of Life (CWL) from the conquest of the land of Canaan.

- Victory in the world is based on believers walking by faith (2 Cor.5:7) [the faith cycle].

“For **whatever is born of God** overcomes the world; and this is the **victory** that overcomes the world – **our faith**.” (1 John 5:4)

“No man will be able to stand before you all the days of your life. Just as I have been with Moses, I will be with you; I will not fail you or forsake you. **Be strong and courageous**, for you shall give this people possession of the land which I swore to their fathers to give them.” (John 1:5-6)

“Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous! Do not tremble or be dismayed, **for** the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.” (Josh.1:9)

2. We have also learned a doctrine about defeat in the Christian Way of Life (CWL), the result of the consequences of sin. (Josh.7:11-12, 20-21)

Achan violated the cherem war ban and brought defeat at Ai and the sin unto death discipline upon the nation of Israel (Josh.6:18).

The consequence of that sin brought the sin unto death upon he and his family, even after confession (1 John 1:9) because God had instituted a consequence clause associated with it (Josh.6:18).

Sexual sin in the CWL is also a sin with consequences built into it (1 Cor.6:15-20). Note the three “Do you not know” clauses. The point is that you must change you belief about causal sex and sex outside of marriage (Old Man Cosmos Diabolicus Thinking) in the CWL.

3. The remaining six kings formed an alliance against Israel. They believed that their best hope was strength in numbers (Josh.9:1-2).

Israel had defeated strong independent nations so that the remaining kings believed that their best chance against Israel was strength in numbers. This probably made sense from human viewpoint (HV) except for what their military intelligence had learned:

- “When the inhabitants of Gibeon heard what Joshua had done to Jericho and to Ai.” (Josh.9:3)

Their military had learned the same thing Rahab had learned:

- “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. And when we heard it, our hearts melted and no courage remained in any man any longer because of you; for the LORD your GOD, He is GOD in heaven above and on earth beneath.” (Josh.2:10-11)

The alliance between the kings of the south and the north never came about because the LORD struck first.

4. Gibeon was part of the Hivite nation.

“And the men of Israel said to the Hivites, ‘perhaps you are living within our land; how then shall we make a covenant with you?’” (Josh.9:1, 7)

It is interesting that the Gibeonites took a different approach to dealing with Israel’s conquest of the land. They chose to place themselves under Israel’s divine protection rather than fight against it.

Their military intelligence had gathered information regarding the cherem war ban regarding cities within the land and cities outside the land (Deut.20:15-20; Josh.6:18).

The Gibeonites were already part of a tetrapolis (4 cities) alliance recorded in (Josh.9:17-18). This Gibeonite alliance was described by the king of Jerusalem: “As he feared greatly, because Gibeon was a great city, like one of the royal cities, and because it was greater than Ai, and all its men were mighty.” (Josh.10:2)

5. The Gibeonites devised a peace treaty with Israel based on deceit (Josh.9:3-15).

This enemy of Israel used deceit and disguise and trickery rather than military might. Israel’s military intelligence thought that these people probably were inhabitants of the land and fell under the cherem war ban (Josh.9:7).

The Gibeonites came as wolves in sheep clothing (Matt.7:15-20). There were obvious signs if Israel had looked for them like “teeth and appetite of wolves are different than that of sheep”. The Gibeonites knew that Israel could make treaties with nations outside the land boundary (Josh.9:8-13).

Principle: Beware of entering covenants with unbelievers or becoming unequally yoked (2 Cor.6:14-18).

6. Israel’s mistake is recorded as “They did not ask for the counsel of the LORD.” (Josh.9:14)

How could they miss such a simple doctrine?

When you are in doubt, what do you do? Don’t fly by the seat of your pants, but rather seek the counsel of the LORD. “But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all men generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him. But let him ask in faith without any doubting, for the one who doubts is like the surf of the sea driven and tossed by the wind.” (James 1:5-6)

They could have saved some future difficulty by doing it right - the first time.