

**Episode 9:** The Gibeonite Deception – Joshua 9

March 9 & 10, 2022

Leader Lecture Outline

1. Responses to Israel’s defeat at Ai
   1. Kings’ Response: kings of six cities gathered together to form a coalition to fight against Joshua and Israel (vv. 1-2)
      1. Hittites, Amorites, Canaanites, Perizzites, Hivites, Jebusites
      2. They saw that Israel might not be invincible and decided that maybe they could fight them.
   2. Gibeonite Response: instead of joining the coalition of kings that would fight Israel, they decided to trick Israel into making peace with them.
      1. Fearful that they would be defeated by the Israelites, they came up with a ruse (vv. 3-5)
2. Deception of Joshua and the Israelite leaders
   1. Who are the Gibeonites?
      1. The Gibeonites were from a cluster of four towns, five to ten miles northwest of Jerusalem – Gibeon, Chephirah, Beeroth, Kiriath-jearim (v. 17)
      2. The Israelites were prohibited from making treaties with the people in these cities because they might influence the Israelites to worship their false gods. (Exodus 34:11-1; Deut. 20:15-18)
   2. What did the Gibeonites do? (vv. 3-15)
      1. They tricked the Israelites into thinking they were from a faraway land so that the Israelites would make peace with them.
         1. Worn-out sacks, worn-out wineskins, worn-out sandals, worn-out clothes, dry and crusty bread.
   3. How did Joshua and the Israelites respond?
      1. At first they were skeptical (v. 7-8)
      2. They did not seek counsel from the Lord (v. 14)
      3. Joshua made peace with them and a covenant with them to let them live (v. 15)
3. The truth comes out
   1. Joshua and the leaders of Israel discover they have been deceived (v. 16)
      1. The Israelites did not attack the Gibeonites because of the treaty they had made with them (v. 18a)
      2. The congregation were angry with the leaders and murmured against them (v. 18b)
   2. Punishment for the Gibeonites
      1. The Israelites did not attack or kill the Gibeonites because of the oath they had made, even though the Gibeonites deceived them. (v. 20)
      2. The Gibeonites were cursed and became servants of the Lord *and* of the congregation by cutting wood and drawing water. (v. 21-23)
      3. The Gibeonites respond to their punishment with gratitude because they were allowed to live and were protected by the Israelites through their treaty. (v. 24-25)