YOUTH WORSHIP **14 November 2026**

Text: Joshua 9

Title: "Do with us as it seems good and right" Joshua 9:25

INTRODUCTION

1. The Battles fought

a) Jericho

b) Ai

2. Initial Dread felt by the Amorites and Canaanites

So it was, when all the kings of the Amorites who *were* on the west side of the Jordan, and all the kings of the Canaanites who *were* by the sea, heard that the LORD had dried up the waters of the Jordan from before the children of Israel until we had crossed over, that their heart melted; and there was no spirit in them any longer because of the children of Israel.

Joshua 5:1

a) The kings of the Amorites

b) The kings of the Canaanites

3. Subsequent Decision of the Inhabitants of Canaan

[1] And it came to pass when all the kings who *were* on this side of the Jordan, in the hills and in the lowland and in all the coasts of the Great Sea toward Lebanon—the Hittite, the Amorite, the Canaanite, the Perizzite, the Hivite, and the Jebusite—heard *about it,*

[2] that they gathered together to fight with Joshua and Israel with one accord.

Joshua 9:1-2

a) The Hittite

b) The Amorite

c) The Canaanite

d) The Perizzite

e) The Hivite

f) The Jebusite

g) They formed an alliance among themselves to resist the advancement of the children of Israel

THE GIBEONITES

1. Identity of the Gibeonites

[1] Now there was a famine in the days of David for three years, year after year; and David inquired of the LORD. And the LORD answered, "*It is* because of Saul and *his* bloodthirsty house, because he killed the Gibeonites."

[2] So the king called the Gibeonites and spoke to them. Now the Gibeonites *were* not of the children of Israel, but of the remnant of the Amorites; the children of Israel had sworn protection to them, but Saul had sought to kill them in his zeal for the children of Israel and Judah.

2 Samuel 21:1-2

a) They were identified as of the remnant of the Amorites

b) Sihon was an Amorite king Numbers 21:21-35; Deuteronomy 1:4

c) Og was also an Amorite King Numbers 21:31-35; Deuteronomy 1:4

d) Og was the last of the Rephaim (giants)

THE CUNNING OF THE GIBEONITES IN THE DAYS OF JOSHUA

[3] But when the inhabitants of Gibeon heard what Joshua had done to Jericho and Ai,

[4] they worked craftily, and went and pretended to be ambassadors. And they took old sacks on their donkeys, old wineskins torn and mended,

[5] old and patched sandals on their feet, and old garments on themselves; and all the bread of their provision was dry *and* mouldy.

[6] And they went to Joshua, to the camp at Gilgal, and said to him and to the men of Israel, "We have come from a far country; now therefore, make a covenant with us."

Joshua 9:3-6

1. The Gibeonites heard about the battles of Jericho and Ai

2. They came up with a crafty plan to deceive Joshua and the leaders (rulers)

3. Their disguise

a) Pretended to be ambassadors

b) Took old sacks, old wineskins that were torn and mended

c) Old and patched sandals and old garments

d) Brought old and mouldy bread with them

4. They went to Gilgal

a) This was the command centre of Israel

b) Joshua and the rulers were there

c) They offered to make a Covenant with Israel

THE INITIAL RESPONSE OF THE MEN OF ISRAEL

7 Then the men of Israel said to the Hivites, "Perhaps you dwell among us; so how can we make a covenant with you?"

8 But they said to Joshua, "We *are* your servants."
And Joshua said to them, "Who *are* you, and where do you come from?"

9 So they said to him: "From a very far country your servants have come, because of the name of the LORD your God; for we have heard of His fame, and all that He did in Egypt,

10 and all that He did to the two kings of the Amorites who *were* beyond the Jordan—to Sihon king of Heshbon, and Og king of Bashan, who was at Ashtaroth.

11 Therefore our elders and all the inhabitants of our country spoke to us, saying, 'Take provisions with you for the journey, and go to meet them, and say to them, "We *are* your servants; now therefore, make a covenant with us." '

12 This bread of ours we took hot *for* our provision from our houses on the day we departed to come to you. But now look, it is dry and mouldy.

13 And these wineskins which we filled *were* new, and see, they are torn; and these our garments and our sandals have become old because of the very long journey."

14 Then the men of Israel took some of their provisions; but they did not ask counsel of the LORD.

15 So Joshua made peace with them, and made a covenant with them to let them live; and the rulers of the congregation swore to them.

Joshua 9:7-15

1. The men of Israel

    a) They took them as Hivites

    b) They did not verify their identities

2. The Gibeonites presented their story

    a) They are from a country far away

    b) They presented what they possessed

3. The leaders of Israel

    a) They did not consult with the Lord

    b) They made a treaty with the Gibeonites

    c) A covenant made becomes a sacred treaty

DISCOVERY OF THE IDENTITY OF THE GIBEONITES

16 And it happened at the end of three days, after they had made a covenant with them, that they heard that they *were* their neighbours who dwelt near them.

17 Then the children of Israel journeyed and came to their cities on the third day. Now their cities *were* Gibeon, Chephirah, Beeroth, and Kirjath Jearim.

18 But the children of Israel did not attack them, because the rulers of the congregation had sworn to them by the LORD God of Israel. And all the congregation complained against the rulers.

Joshua 9:16-18

1. The children of Israel discovered that the Gibeonites were neighbours

2. They could not attack the Gibeonites because of their Covenant treaty

3. The congregation complained against the rulers!

COMMITTED TO KEEPING THE COVENANT WITH THE GIBEONITES

19 Then all the rulers said to all the congregation, "We have sworn to them by the LORD God of Israel; now therefore, we may not touch them.

20 This we will do to them: We will let them live, lest wrath be upon us because of the oath which we swore to them."

21 And the rulers said to them, "Let them live, but let them be woodcutters and water carriers for all the congregation, as the rulers had promised them."

22 Then Joshua called for them, and he spoke to them, saying, "Why have you deceived us, saying, 'We *are* very far from you,' when you dwell near us?

23 Now therefore, you *are* cursed, and none of you shall be freed from being slaves—woodcutters and water carriers for the house of my God."

24 So they answered Joshua and said, "Because your servants were clearly told that the LORD your God commanded His servant Moses to give you all the land, and to destroy all the inhabitants of the land from before you; therefore we were very much afraid for our lives because of you, and have done this thing.

25 And now, here we are, in your hands; do with us as it seems good and right to do to us."

26 So he did to them, and delivered them out of the hand of the children of Israel, so that they did not kill them.

27 And that day Joshua made them woodcutters and water carriers for the congregation and for the altar of the LORD, in the place which He would choose, even to this day.

Joshua 9:19-27

1. The Rulers

    a) They honoured the Covenant with the Gibeonites

    b) This was a promise made to them (by an oath)

2. Joshua's Rebuke

    a) He rebuked them for their deception

    b) He declared that they would be "cursed" to become

        i) Wood cutters

ii) Water carriers

iii) They would serve God in the Tabernacle ministry

3. The Quiet acceptance of the Gibeonites

a) It was Fear that drove them

b) They would accept whatever punishment meted out to them

c) They became the famed Nethinim who served the Lord all their lives

VITAL LESSONS

1. The Role of Leaders

a) To check and verify

b) To consult with the Lord

2. Committed to honouring a Covenant

a) An error had been made

b) A Covenant has been established

c) That Covenant must be honoured