

**Refuge City Church — August 8, 2021**  
**“Prayerful Decisions” [Joshua 9-11]**

## **Introduction**

- **LAST WEEK:** Joshua dealt with Achan’s sin. Ai was defeated. God renews His covenant with His people.

## **Joshua 9**

**1** As soon as all the kings who were beyond the Jordan in the hill country and in the lowland all along the coast of the Great Sea toward Lebanon, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Canaanites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites, heard of this, **2** they gathered together as one to fight against Joshua and Israel. **3** But when the inhabitants of Gibeon heard what Joshua had done to Jericho and to Ai, **4** they on their part acted with cunning and went and made ready provisions and took worn-out sacks for their donkeys, and wineskins, worn-out and torn and mended, **5** with worn-out, patched sandals on their feet, and worn-out clothes. And all their provisions were dry and crumbly. **6** And they went to Joshua in the camp at Gilgal and said to him and to the men of Israel, “We have come from a distant country, so now make a covenant with us.”

- Gibeon: a people crippled with fear because of what God did for the Israelites in Egypt, and to all those who opposed God, along with the story of Jericho and Ai.
  - **LIE:** “We’re from a distant country” [Gibeon was within the territory of the promised land]
  - [Concerning cities far away, outside the promised territory] **Deuteronomy 20:10-11**, “When you draw near to a city to fight against it, offer terms of peace to it. And if it responds to you peaceably and it opens to you, then all the people who are found in it shall do forced labor for you and shall serve you.”
  - **Exodus 23:32**, “You shall make no covenant with them and their gods.”
- **Verse 14-15:** “So the men [of Israel] took some of their provisions, **but did not ask counsel from the Lord**. And Joshua made peace with them and made a covenant with them, to let them live, and the leaders of the congregation swore to them.”
  - Ai = Israel relied on physical strength to win the day.
  - Gibeon = relied on their own wisdom to make decisions.
    - Even though the law allowed them to do just as they did, there may have been slight hesitation when the Gibeonites did not reveal who they were, or where they came from.
  - **QUOTE:** “Everyone makes decisions that impact his or her life—and the consequences of those decisions spill over into the lives of others. That is why you can’t say, ‘It’s my own life, I will do with it whatever I please.’ You and I can’t live that way because we all have influence.” [Dr. Charles Stanley]
  - **Are you seeking God’s knowledge, or relying on your own?**
    - **Proverbs 2:6**, “For the Lord gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding;”
    - **Proverbs 3:5**, “Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding.”
    - **Proverbs 12:15**, “The way of a fool is right in his own eyes, but a wise man listens to advice.”
    - **Matthew 6:33**, “But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness...” [context]

- **Ephesians 5:15**, “Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise,”
- **James 1:5**, “If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him.”
- How often are we seeking God’s wisdom on all the decisions we face? From business/career, marriage, family, purchases, relationships, et al.
- **Verses 16-27**: Gibeon’s consequence for their deception
  - The truth is revealed, but the covenant was made in the name of the Lord.
    - **Numbers 30:2**, “If a man vows a vow to the Lord, or swears an oath to bind himself by a pledge, he shall not break his word. He shall do according to all that proceeds out of his mouth.”
  - The Gibeonites were made to become servants of the tabernacle. [wood cutters and drawers of water]
    - It was because of the wickedness of the Caananites and others that God devoted them to destruction [Lev. 18; Deut. 7:5; sexual immorality and idol worship]
  - God made a covenant with His people and kept His promises...so should we.
    - **James 5:12**, “But above all, my brothers, do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or by any other oath, but let your “yes” be yes and your “no” be no, so that you may not fall under condemnation.”
    - **Matthew 5:37**, “Let what you say be simply ‘Yes’ or ‘No’; anything more than this comes from evil.”
  - **Be a man or woman of your word! When there is confusion, have a moment of pause, and seek the Lord on what should be done [patience is a gift of the Spirit; use it]. However, the moment a decision is made, stick to it.**
  - In this case, the Gibeonites were to fall under the authority and influence of God, and therefore become a sojourner/partner in God’s promised land.
    - The tabernacle and ark of the covenant would reside in Gibeon on various occasions prior to the construction of the temple.
    - So to judge their initial motives for peace is not for us to do. God’s will is preeminent. We are to be obedient.
      - **Psalm 84:10**, “For a day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere. I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of wickedness.”
      - No matter what God calls us to do, relish in the beauty of being in His will.

## Joshua 10

**1** As soon as Adoni-zedek, king of Jerusalem, heard how Joshua had captured Ai and had devoted it to destruction, doing to Ai and its king as he had done to Jericho and its king, and how the inhabitants of Gibeon had made peace with Israel and were among them, **2** 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 warriors.

- 6 more kingdoms form an alliance against Israel.
  - Because of what they heard about Jericho, Ai, and the peace with Gibeon.
  - But they decide to attack Gibeon, not Israel.
- Gibeon requests help from Joshua, and the Lord gives them victory.

8 And the Lord said to Joshua, "Do not fear them, for I have given them into your hands. Not a man of them shall stand before you." 10 And the Lord threw them into a panic before Israel, who struck them with a great blow at Gibeon and chased them by the way of the ascent of Beth-horon and struck them as far as Azekah and Makkedah. 11 And as they fled before Israel, while they were going down the ascent of Beth-horon, the Lord threw down large stones from heaven on them as far as Azekah, and they died. There were more who died because of the hailstones than the sons of Israel killed with the sword.

- **Verses 12-13:** Joshua's prayer for divine intervention **[what did they not do in Ch. 9?]**  
"At that time Joshua spoke to the Lord in the day when the Lord gave the Amorites over to the sons of Israel, and he said in the sight of Israel, "Sun, stand still at Gibeon, and moon, in the Valley of Aijalon." And the sun stood still, and the moon stopped, until the nation took vengeance on their enemies..."

- He didn't ask for God to do all the work.
- He asked for God's assistance, so Israel could have an extended opportunity to be a part of what God was already doing! **[vs. 14: "...for the Lord fought for Israel."]**
  - Do we pray this way??

40 So Joshua struck the whole land, the hill country and the Negeb and the lowland and the slopes, and all their kings. He left none remaining, but devoted to destruction all that breathed, just as the Lord God of Israel commanded.

42 And Joshua captured all these kings and their land at one time, because the Lord God of Israel fought for Israel.

- **REMINDER: Proverbs 21:31**, "The horse is made ready for the day of battle, but the victory belongs to the Lord."

- The southern kingdoms have now been conquered.
- **QUOTE:** "It is eternally true that the land of full blessing is a land of intensive warfare." [Alan Redpath]
  - This is something that is very applicable to our life today!
  - So many want God to simply hand them a life of peace, without trial. That's not reality. We live in a fallen, sinful world that will do all it can to influence us away from the Lord.
  - **Spiritual warfare is real, and we need to be ready to fight!**
    - **Colossians 2:15**, "He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him."
    - **Ephesians 6:12-13**, "Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm."
      - The battle against sin has already been won! Walk in the grace of God.
      - However, we are to battle each day against the very things that would seek to infiltrate our lives **[other gods, sexual immorality, etc.]**
      - God has given you the ground. Take it. Own it. Protect it.

## Joshua 11

- Conquest of Northern Canaan

- 4 And they came out with all their troops, a great horde, in number like the sand that is on the seashore, with very many horses and chariots. 5 And all these kings joined their forces and came and encamped together at the waters of Merom to fight against Israel. 6 And the Lord said to Joshua, “Do not be afraid of them, for tomorrow at this time I will give over all of them, slain, to Israel. You shall hamstring their horses and burn their chariots with fire.”... 14 And all the spoil of these cities and the livestock, the people of Israel took for their plunder. But every person they struck with the edge of the sword until they had destroyed them, and they did not leave any who breathed... 19 There was not a city that made peace with the people of Israel except the Hivites, the inhabitants of Gibeon. They took them all in battle.
- **Verses 21-22:** “And Joshua came at that time and cut off the Anakim from the hill country... Joshua devoted them to destruction with their cities. There was none of the Anakim left in the land of the people of Israel. Only in Gaza, in Gath, and in Ashdod did some remain.”
    - **Numbers 13:28,** “However, the people who dwell in the land are strong, and the cities are fortified and very large. And besides, we saw the descendants of Anak there.”
    - Goliath, a Philistine, resided in Gath and would come on the scene about 500 years later.
    - God may reserve your greatest fear for last, because He wants to prove to you in all other circumstances that He will provide, and He will fight for you!
  - **Verse 23:** “So Joshua took the whole land, according to all that the Lord had spoken to Moses. And Joshua gave it for an inheritance to Israel according to their tribal allotments. And the land had rest from war.”
    - Not 100% destruction, as many small towns/cities remained.
    - It would be up to the individual tribes to conquer, once they received their inheritance.
      - **Joshua 13:1,** “...and the Lord said to [Joshua], “You are old and advanced in years, and there remains yet very much land to possess.”

## CONCLUSION

- Whereas Jesus completely destroyed sin and defeated death by His victory on the cross and resurrection from the dead, so we are to continue in obedience to fight against the very things that the enemy wants you to fall into [lust, pride, selfishness, self-sufficiency...]
- **Colossians 1:9-14 NLT,** “So we have not stopped praying for you since we first heard about you. We ask God to give you complete knowledge of his will and to give you spiritual wisdom and understanding. Then the way you live will always honor and please the Lord, and your lives will produce every kind of good fruit. All the while, you will grow as you learn to know God better and better. We also pray that you will be strengthened with all his glorious power so you will have all the endurance and patience you need. May you be filled with joy, always thanking the Father. He has enabled you to share in the inheritance that belongs to his people, who live in the light. For he has rescued us from the kingdom of darkness and transferred us into the Kingdom of his dear Son, who purchased our freedom and forgave our sins.”