

PRAYER: SEEKING GOD'S SENSE OVER COMMON SENSE: Joshua 9-10:28

1. Introduction
 - a. Chapter 9 shows us Israel "without" God
 - b. Chapter 10:1-28 shows us Israel with God
 - c. Summarize passage (Joshua 9-10:28)
2. The Gibeonites Lies (vs 3-13)
 - a. Why was deception necessary?
 - i. All cities in Canaan must be destroyed (Deuteronomy 20)
 - ii. Once conquest was complete, the option for peace could be granted to those outside the land.
 - iii. If they would've sought peace as the Gibeonites, Joshua would've obeyed God and destroyed them.
 - b. Deceived them with their looks
 - i. Worn out sacks, wineskins patched and mended, patched sandals, worn out clothes. Dry, crumbly provisions. (vs 4-5)
 - ii. Appeared as a peace delegation from afar
 - c. Deceived them with their words
 - i. "come from a distant country" vs 6
 - ii. To "make a covenant" vs 6
 - iii. "we are your servants" vs 8
 - iv. "because of the name of the Lord" vs 9
 - v. Mentioned previous victories but NOT most recent
 1. Didn't mention Jericho and Ai
 2. News wouldn't have traveled to a "far away" land yet
 - d. Deceived them with their provisions
 - i. Bread, wineskins, garments, and sandals vs 12-13
 - ii. The story had now taken shape and the provisions acted as "proof"
3. Joshua's Lax Examination (vs 7-8, 14-15)
 - a. Implored Earthly Advice
 - i. Questioned the men
 1. "Who are you?" vs 8
 2. "Where do you come from?" vs 8
 - ii. Knew the law
 1. "Perhaps you live among us" vs 7
 2. "How can we make a covenant with you?" vs 7
 - b. Ignored Heavenly Advice
 - i. God said He was with them
 1. Joshua 1:9, "with you wherever you go"
 2. Joshua 3:7, "I will be with you"
 - ii. God proved He was with them
 1. Crossing Jordan, Battle at Jericho, Battle at Ai
 2. Guiding them in the middle of the battle at Ai (8:18)
 - iii. "did not ask counsel from the Lord" vs 14
 - c. Made a covenant with them

4. Israel's Commitment to the Covenant (vs 16-20)
 - a. The Gibeonites true identity
 - i. Israel found out who they were
 - ii. "neighbors that lived among them"
 - b. The Elders true identity
 - i. Men of their word
 1. "did not attack them" vs 18
 2. They "had sworn to God" vs 18
 - ii. Men who respected God
 1. "lest wrath be upon us" vs 20
 2. "we have sworn to them by the Lord...we may not touch them"
 - c. The Israelites true identity
 - i. Obedient
 1. "people of Israel didn't attack them" vs 18
 2. Listened to the leaders
 - ii. Critical
 1. "all the congregation murmured against the leaders" vs 18
 2. Distracted by emotion, not led by God
5. Gibeonites Subjected to Servant Status (vs 21-27)
 - a. Joshua honored the oath
 - i. "Let them live" vs 21
 - ii. Emotion would've wanted blood!
 - b. Gibeonites were cursed
 - i. "Now therefore you are cursed" vs 23
 - ii. "Became cutters of wood and drawers of water for all the congregation" vs 21
 - c. Gibeonites reasoning and acceptance
 - i. "we feared greatly" vs 24 (Because they knew the Lord had given them the land)
 - ii. "Now, behold, we are in your hand. Whatever seems good and right in your sight to do to us, do it." vs 25
 - iii. No scriptural evidence that they caused any problems after this.
 - iv. They would rather be servants than experience death like Jericho or Ai.
 - d. Gibeonites in history
 - i. God used this peace oath to bring victory over 5 kings in chapter 10
 - ii. Later called the "Nethinim" meaning "given ones" to assist the priests
 - iii. After the Babylonian captivity, over 500 Nethinim returned to Jerusalem. Historians suggest that this group was devoted to the Lord.
6. Joshua Decides to Defend (10:1-28)
 - a. King of Jerusalem calls for attack on Gibeon vs 1-5
 - i. "he feared greatly, because Gibeon was a great city, like one of the royal cities...greater than Ai" vs 2
 - ii. With another city out of the way through this peace oath, Joshua kept advancing. The king knew he needed that city back.
 - iii. Called for 4 other kings to unite in this attack
 - iv. Gibeon enemies were now allies and allies were now enemies

- b. Gibeonites call for help from Joshua vs 6-7
 - i. Joshua had established himself as a man of his word
 - ii. His word was to protect them
 - iii. They trusted him and he came through
 - 1. “So Joshua went up from Gilgal, he and all the people of war with him, and all the mighty men of valor.” vs 7
 - 2. He could’ve allowed them to be defeated and it wouldn’t have technically broken the oath.
 - 3. Oath was to let them live instead of directly killing them
- c. God calls out to Joshua vs 8
 - i. “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.’ vs 8
 - ii. Joshua honored his oath before the Lord
 - iii. Joshua honored his word to the Gibeonites
 - iv. God honored Joshua’s faith
 - v. God used Joshua’s mistake for a greater purpose
 - 1. Victory over 5 kings at once instead of 5 different battles!
 - 2. Joshua admitted his mistake and learned from it.
- d. Joshua calls for help from God vs 9-15
 - i. Joshua used wisdom
 - 1. “came upon them suddenly” vs 9
 - 2. “having marched all night” vs 9
 - ii. God used confusion
 - 1. “the Lord threw them into a panic” vs 10
 - 2. God is a God of purpose and intentionality. His plan was not confused or chaotic, but He used it for His purpose.
 - iii. God used divine ammunition
 - 1. “As they fled before Israel...the Lord threw down large stones from heaven on them...and they died.” vs 11
 - 2. Joshua hadn’t asked for anything yet
 - 3. God honored His promise to protect just like Joshua honored his promise to Gibeon.
 - 4. God’s ammunition only hit the enemy army.
 - a. “There were more who died because of the hailstones than the sons of Israel killed with the sword.” Vs 11
 - b. This was an act of God. Glory be to God, not Joshua.
 - iv. Joshua “asks” and receives
 - 1. “Sun, stand still at Gibeon, and moon, in the Valley of Aijalon” vs 12
 - 2. Joshua spoke to the Lord but was giving a command to the elements under God’s control.
 - 3. He trusted that God would provide victory, so he asked for something that would help his men.
 - 4. “The sun stood still...the moon stopped, until the nation took vengeance on their enemies.” vs 13

5. God listened to Joshua and provided a miracle.
 - a. Have you ever felt like the day never ends!?
 - b. Imagine how the soldiers felt!
- e. Joshua calls on his army vs 16-28
 - i. Kings experienced the power of having God against them.
 1. "These five kings fled and hid in the cave" vs 16
 2. Earthly kings, even in numbers, have no power and should tremble before God.
 - ii. Joshua ends with encouragement
 1. "striking them with a great blow until they were wiped out" vs 20
 2. "bring those 5 kings out to me from the cave" vs 22
 3. "Do not be afraid or dismayed; be strong and courageous. For thus the Lord will do to all your enemies against whom you fight." vs 25

7. Lessons on Prayer

- a. What happens without it?
 - i. Lose sight of God's wisdom
 1. We follow our own sense instead of God's sense
 2. Prayer redirects us to His plan and His purpose
 - ii. Become inattentive
 - iii. Open to deceit
 - iv. Walk by sight not by faith
 - v. Wrong decisions
 - vi. Dangerous friendships
- b. Why is prayer needed?
 - i. Humbles us before a mighty God
 1. 1 Peter 5:6, "Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you"
 2. Joshua humbled himself after his mistake of not praying, and the Lord exalted him
 - ii. Gives us reverence for a mighty God
 1. Psalm 113:5, "Who is like the Lord our God, who is seated on high?"
 2. Psalm 91:15, "When he calls to me, I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble; I will rescue him and honor him."
 3. "the God who is seated on high stoops down and bends His ear to lips of dust and ashes" Hess Commentary
 - iii. Teaches us about God
 1. We can go to God with anything.
 - a. Joshua asked God for something he had never seen but trusted that God could do it.
 - b. God created all things and all things serve His purpose.
 2. He is always there for us
 - a. Psalm 77:1, "I cry aloud to God, aloud to God, and he will hear me."
 - b. Cry out to Him anytime, anyplace

iv. Redirects our preferences, impulses, emotions, and selfishness

1. 1 Peter 5:7, "casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you"
2. Philippians 4:6-7, "do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."
3. Psalm 55:22, "Cast your burden on the Lord, and he will sustain you; he will never permit the righteous to be moved."