

THE BOOK OF JOSHUA

“Be Strong and Courageous!”

-Joshua in the Old Testament

-Jesus in the New Testament

Date: 4-26-15 Lesson: 11

A.TEXT – Chapter 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."

(7) But the men of Israel said to the Hivites, "Perhaps you live among us; then how can we make a covenant with you?" (8) They said to Joshua, "We are your servants." And Joshua said to them, "Who are you? And where do you come from?" (9) They said to him, "From a very distant country your servants have come, because of the name of the Lord your God. For we have heard a report of him, 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 the king of Heshbon, and to Og king of Bashan, who lived in Ashtaroth." (11) So our elders and all the inhabitants of our country said to us, "Take provisions in your hand for the journey and go to meet them and say to them, "We are your servants. Come now, make a covenant with us.'" (12) Here is our bread. It was still warm when we took it from our houses as our food for the journey on the day we set out to come to you, but now, behold, it is dry and crumbly. (13) These wineskins were new when we filled them, and behold, they have burst. And these garments and sandals of ours are worn out from the very long journey." (14) So the men took some of their provisions, but did not ask **counsel from the Lord**.

(15) 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. (16) At the end of three days after they had made a covenant with them, they heard that they were their neighbors and that they lived among them. (17) And the people of Israel set out and reached their cities on the third day. Now their cities were Gibeon, Chephirah, Beeroth, and Kiriath-jearim. (18) But the people of Israel did not attack them, because the leaders of the congregation had **sworn to them by the Lord, the God of Israel**. Then all the congregation murmured against the leaders.

(19) But all the leaders said to all the congregation, "We **have sworn to them by the Lord, the God of Israel**, and now we may not touch them. (20) This we will do to them: let them live, lest wrath be upon us, because of the oath that we swore to them." (21) And the leaders said to them, "Let them live." So they became cutters of wood and drawers of water for all the congregation, just as the leaders had said of them.

(22) Joshua summoned them, and he said to them, "Why did you deceive us, saying, 'We are very far from you,' when you dwell among us? (23) Now therefore you are cursed, and some of you shall never be anything but servants, cutters of wood and drawers of water for **the house of my God**." (24) They answered Joshua, "Because it was told to your servants **for a certainty that the Lord your God had commanded his servant Moses to give you all the land and to destroy all the inhabitants of the land from before you--so we feared greatly for our lives because of you and did this thing.** (25) And now, behold, we are in your hand. Whatever seems good and right in your sight to do to us, do it."

(26) So he did this to them and delivered them out of the hand of the people of Israel, and they did not kill them. (27) But Joshua made them that day cutters of wood and drawers of water for the congregation and for the altar of the Lord, to this day, in the place that he should choose.



B. STUDY NOTES

1. Gibeon – a site north of Jerusalem, today called “el-Jib” which was a late Bronze age city with a good water supply. They were Hivites or Horites, an ethnic group related to the Hurrians of northern Mesopotamia (**Gen 10:17; Ex 23:23; Jdg 3:3**)
2. The Gibeonites resort to a ruse, but since they are afraid of and respect the true Lord God, they trick Joshua into a treaty. This shows their pluck and cunning, but also their intelligence (with the dried bread and burst wineskins – this was a well thought out trick.) But in their honor for the true God and their willingness to pay the cost to be allowed to live, they would submit to become common workers as a result. Ironically, they were doing so as Gentiles to serve the house and altar of God.
3. When Joshua took an oath to protect them, though done in-advisedly, and contrary to God’s command (**Ex 23:32; 34:12; Num 33; Dt 7:2**), still, all such oaths taken in the name of the Holy God were binding (**Ex 20:7; 24:7; Lev 19:12; 1 Sam 14:24; 2 Chr 15:12-15**). Later on the wrath of God fell on Israel when King Saul broke this oath and attacked Gibeon (**2 Sam 21:1-14**).
4. As household servants and laborers, they were under a curse. Noah predicted that the Canaanites would someday be slaves of the sons of Shem (**Gen 9:25,26**) and this was a partial fulfillment of that.
5. They served the house of God and the tabernacle and the future temple worship. Because of the necessity of all the sacrifices required by God, much wood and water were needed for the burnt offerings and washings. This required alot of menial labor. From now on, the Gibeonites supplied it. It was a constant reminder to them that the pagan, Canaanite, Baal idolatry and worship were over forever. Only the true God was to be worshipped. Note that in this way, they entered the Lord’s service, and when Solomon became king, the tabernacle and the altar were at Gibeon (**2 Chr 1:3-5**)
6. Later, the place the Lord would choose would be Shiloh, where the tabernacle and altar would be moved (**1 Sam 4:3**), where it stayed until the days of Samuel, and then under King David it moved to Jerusalem.
7. Also see (**Ps 15; Jer 26:14,15; 28:1; 41:12; Neh 3:7**) - Gibeon in the future.
8. Today, the worship of the true Triune God is available to all nations, and all peoples may serve in the house and tabernacle of this true God, that is, - the Body of Jesus – the Church!
(**Mt 28:19; Mk 11:17; 13:10; Lk 24:47; Rom 1:5; 16:26; Gal 3:8; 1 Tim 3:16; Rev 21:24-27; 22:2-4**)

C. LIFE APPLICATION

1. Where do we see today when people, on their part, act with cunning, sometimes in service to the true God?
2. How do we broadcast in all the world the name of the Lord our God, so that many have heard the report of him, and all that he has done through the new Joshua – Jesus?
3. When do we know for a certainty that the Lord our God, who has commanded his servant Moses (in the Law) and also the new Joshua – Jesus (in the Gospel), to give us all the land of the new heavens and the new earth, and to destroy all the wicked, unbelieving inhabitants of this sinful earthly land from before us?