

*“Surely the Lord
was fighting for Israel!”*

Joshua 10:14

Joshua 9–10

Day 1

The Gibeonites' Deception. Joshua 9:1–15

1. How did the kings of the land to the south react to the Israelite battles with Jericho and Ai (9:1–2)? How much of the land did they represent?

2. How did the Gibeonites react differently (9:3–5)? List the deceptions they used.

- What did they request (9:6)?

FYI: “Gibeon, a city of the Hivites, was a city between Bethel and Jerusalem. The inhabitants of Gibeon knew they were also under God’s condemnation, like the inhabitants of Jericho and Ai, and thus were in imminent danger of destruction. Hence their stratagem of pretending they were from a distant land not under God’s judgment.”
– David Guzik

3. Why were the Israelites hesitant to make a treaty (9:7)?

4. Compare the Gibeonites’ report in 9:9–10 to Rahab’s in 2:9–12. What was similar? What was different?

5. What commands had God given to the nation of Israel about making treaties with people who were faraway? See Deuteronomy 20:1,10–15. (Note: This was different than kidnaping people for slavery which was prohibited. See Exodus 21:16.)

- How do you think the Gibeonites knew this? How would not mentioning things about Jericho or Ai help with the deception?

6. What seemed to persuade the Israelites that the Gibeonites were telling the truth (9:12–14)?

- What did they neglect to do (9:14b)? Do you think the victory over Ai caused them to let their guard down?

<p>Digging Deeper What way had God given the people to handle decisions? Numbers 27:18–21</p>
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7. What does this hasty decision say their focus and trust? Compare Proverbs 3:5–7.

FYI: “We do not have in ourselves strength to resist even what we may consider the mildest of Satan’s attacks. We need God’s counsel and help in every instance. God can enable us to overcome in every situation. And He will do so, if we are but true to Him, look to Him for counsel, and implicitly obey Him. But we must give Him glory, and acknowledge that it is not ourselves, but God who giveth us the victory.”
– Irving Jensen (49)

Joshua’s leadership failure had vast effects for he brought an entire community of idolatrous Canaanites into Israel’s midst! The danger was immense, for as Moses explained in Deuteronomy 7:2b,4: ‘You shall make no covenant with them and show no favor to them...For they will turn your sons away from following Me to serve other gods; then the anger of the Lord will be kindled against you, and He will quickly destroy you.’”
– R. Kent Hughes (108)

8. List the verbs in 9:15 that describe the actions Joshua and the elders took with the Gibeonites.

✎ Applying the Word: What “checks” help you make sure that you are in God’s will?

Day 2

The Gibeonites’ Lie Discovered. Read Joshua 9:16–27

9. How quickly did the Israelites discover they had been tricked (9:16)?
 - How close did the Gibeonites live? How strong were they (9:17; 10:2)?
10. Why didn’t the Israelites break their covenant with the Gibeonites (9:18–19)? How did this affect the relationship between the people and the leaders?
11. How seriously did the leaders regard the oath they had made (9:20)? See Leviticus 19:11–12.
 - From 2 Samuel 21:1, what happened years later when this treaty was broken?
12. What curse did Joshua pronounce on the Gibeonites for their deception (9:21–23)?

13. How was that curse also a blessing? See Psalm 84:10.
14. What reason did the Gibeonites give for their deception (9:24)? How does this, along with their statement in 9:9–10, show some reverence for God?
- Do you think the Gibeonites could have done things differently and found a blessing instead? Consider Rahab.
15. Down through the years, how did the Gibeonites become assimilated into Israel?
- 1 Chronicles 12:1,4
 - 2 Chronicles 1:3
 - Nehemiah 3:7; 7:6,25
 - Jeremiah 28:1
- ✎ Applying the Word:** Have you ever been deceived by something that looked true or right? What can make us vulnerable to believing a lie?

Day 3

Rescue of the Gibeonites. Read Joshua 10:1–11

16. Why was the king of Jerusalem afraid (10:1–2)?
- Whose aid did he seek (10:3–4)?
- FYI:** “Each one of these cities...were important cities either for their location or for the trade routes associated with them. ‘Like Adoni-Zedek, the names of the four leaders can be identified with similar names from texts and peoples in and around Palestine during the same period of time that the account in Joshua purports to describe.’ (Hess)”
– David Guzik
17. Why do you think the kings of the Amorites wanted to fight Gibeon first instead of Israel (10:5)?

18. On what basis did the Gibeonites appeal to Joshua (10:6)? What might have tempted the Israelites to reject their appeal?
19. How did Joshua respond and what assurance was he given (10:7–8)? Compare 1:5; 6:2. What does this indicate about Joshua’s focus and leadership? Contrast 9:14.

FYI: “Fear takes away our ability to fight God’s battles. Even in the face of strong enemies, Joshua was commanded to not fear. For Joshua, fear was unbelief – being unwilling to believe what God promised. So it is with us today.” – David Guzik

20. How did Joshua gain a surprise advantage (10:9)?

FYI: Interactive Map: “Joshua, The Conquest of Canaan Southern and Central Campaigns” – <https://ibiblemaps.com/joshua-central/>

“The march from Gilgal to Gibeon involved a climb of 3,300 feet (1,000 meters), over a distance of about 20 miles.” – David Guzik



21. List the phrases in 10:10–11 that describe what the Lord did to the Amorite army.

- 10:10
- 10:11 (What would you say about the precise location and timing of this?)

FYI: “The LORD cast down. That this unique event was of the Lord, inexplicable by either human might or natural phenomena, is evident from the entire account. The justification for God’s miraculous intervention here was both the importance of this key battle in the entire plan of God for Israel and the world, as well as the testimonial value implicit in demonstrating to the sun-worshipping, moon-worshipping, nature-worshipping Canaanites—as well as the Israelites themselves—that the God of Israel controlled the sun and moon and forces of nature, using them in giving victory to Israel.” – The Defender’s Study Bible

22. What promises had the Lord given the people? See Deuteronomy 20:3–4.

- What kind of battles do we face and what protection have we been given? See Ephesians 6:10–18. What is our part and God’s part? What weapons do we use? How dependent do we need to be on God?

FYI: “We will never succeed in battle without God’s help, no matter how capable and well-armed we are. In fact, we have never won a battle in which God has not fought for us. Each of the pieces of armor we are commanded to wear...demonstrates that it is God who give us energy for our battles. Behind each of those pieces of armor is a dimension of God’s power. So we, like Joshua, fight in utter dependence on God.” – R. Kent Hughes (118)

23. What part did Joshua and the people have in the fight (10:7,9,11b)? What would you say about their dedication to their vow?

24. What unusual request did Joshua make of the Lord (10:12)? What do you think might have emboldened him to ask this of God?

- What happened (10:13)?

- How is this unusual event described in Isaiah 28:21?

FYI: “If God is please to modify the speed or tilt of the earth or the refraction of light, He will also be able to adjust all relative phenomena, and then make all things run together harmoniously.”

– R. Kent Hughes (119)

“This was surely a unique miracle, but not beyond the capabilities of the Creator of the sun and moon and planets. He started their motions, has maintained them through the ages, and is able to change them at will.”

– The Defender’s Study Bible

Article: “Joshua’s Long Day” by Russell Grigg <https://creation.com/joshuas-long-day>

25. What extra biblical source could people of Joshua’s day look to for another account of this miracle (10:13)? See also 2 Samuel 1:18. (There are many other extra Biblical sources referred to in scripture. For example, see 1 Kings 11:41; 14:19; Esther 10:2. What do you see as the reason(s) for quoting these sources?)

FYI: “This day was unique in history, and the main evidence that it really happened is the historical record—not only as recorded in the Bible and the (probably) lost book of Jasher—but in the legends and traditions of all parts of the world. Such legends of a long day are found in Greece, Egypt and other ancient nations; legends of a long night are found among the American Indians, South Sea islanders and others in the Western Hemisphere.”

– The Defender’s Study Bible

26. What made this miracle even more significant (10:14)?

- What reasons do you see for the Israelites being a part of the battle, rather than God wiping out the enemy?

Applying the Word: Why do you think people sometimes struggle with supernatural events recorded in the Bible? What makes belief difficult? In what ways do we often limit God? What do we need to recognize about even natural laws that don’t change?

Day 4

Victory over the Southern Coalition. Read Joshua 10:22–43.

27. What does the action of the five kings say about the battle (10:16)?

28. What orders did Joshua give (10:18–19)? What encouragement did he give the people?

29. How complete was the victory against the southern coalition (10:20)?
 - What do the phrases “in peace” and “No one uttered a word against any of the sons of Israel” (10:21) tell you about the extent of their success? Compare Isaiah 54:17.

30. How did Joshua deal with the kings in the cave (10:22–26)? How literally had God fulfilled the promise He gave in 10:8?
 - What ironic end did the Kings have (10:27)? Compare to 8:29.

FYI: “Among the Hebrews, criminals were first deprived of life; this was the debt required by *justice*: then they were hanged up, perhaps generally by the *hands*, not by the *neck*; this was done by way of *example*, to deter others from committing the crimes for which those had suffered.” (Clarke)
 - David Guzik

31. Note the names of the cities that “Joshua and all Israel” conquered in 10:29–39. Refer to the interactive map site given in question #20.
 - What message keeps being repeated about the “LORD”? See 10:8,12,14,19,25,30,32,42. (Also 8:1,7,18)

 - How complete was their victory (10:40)? Why (10:42)?

FYI: “Joshua, in his obedience, needed much courage, because he had undertaken a task which involved, if he carried it out, long years of perseverance. After he had captured one city, he must go on to attack the next fortress. The days were not long enough for his battles. He orders the sun to stand still, and the moon is stopped; and even when that long day has passed, still the morning sees him sword in hand..Such is the life of the Christian, a warfare from beginning to end...Every foot of the way will be disputed; Satan will not yield an inch to you. You must continue to fight daily.”

– A Sermon Delivered By C. H. Spurgeon “Joshua’s Obedience”

<https://www.spurgeon.org/resource-library/sermons/joshuas-obedience/#flipbook/>

32. To where did the Israelite army return (10:43)? What had that place become to them? See 4:19–20; 5:2,9–10.

FYI: “Israel’s victories always came from Gilgal. This was the place of total faith, commitment and fellowship with God, and the place where Israel had been conquered by God.” – David Guzik

- ✎ Applying the Word:** What do you consider as some of your successes in life? What do you think God considers as successes in your life? If the lists differ, why do you think that is?

In your prayers is there something you are asking God to do for you? How do you think He might want you to be involved in the process too?