

JOSHUA CHAPTER 9

The Enemy's Secret Weapon: DECEPTION

- Spiritual warfare deepens now. The Enemy knows that you will admit your mistake and repent, so he changes tactic.

9:1-2 After the conquest of Ai all the other Kings gathered together to fight Joshua.
- they don't remain holed up in their fortresses anymore. They will take on Israel.

- (NB) We should **connect** this general mobilisation for war **with** the Declaration of God's Law on Gerizim and Ebal
- as soon as the Law of God and the Reign of God is declared, the enemy is out of the traps!
- (NB) We have here both **Man's** hostility to the Law of God **And** Satan's hatred of God's Reign.
- Sinful **unconverted** society does not acknowledge **the Rights** of **The Creator** of the Universe.
 - They refuse to submit to His Revealed Will.
 - They also refuse His High standards of morality.
 - The pagan 'gods' reflected very low standards of living and corrupted society.

Example: Pharaoh's reaction to Moses bringing God's Revelation to Egypt is to the point.
Ex 5:2 **And who is the Lord that I should obey His Voice!** This is Pride opposing God.

- (NB) Ultimately sin is a revolt against God – it is a determination to follow our **own** inclinations – the carnal mind is at enmity with God.

Rom 8:7-8 **... to limit oneself to what is unspiritual is to be at enmity with God: such a limitation never could and never does submit to God's Law.** cf Heb 2:13

Eph 4:18 **Intellectually they are in the dark, estranged from the life of God WITHOUT knowledge - Because they have shut their hearts to it.**

- hence sinners manufacture 'gods' from all kinds of things, **people** and situations - and they show no hostility **to these!**

But when God comes and reveals His true Nature and His Holy Laws the enmity becomes clear.

(NB) Habakkuk 1:3 **Lord, your eyes are too Holy to look upon evil.** cf Heb 12:14

- For God's Reign to come about, **EVIL** has to be dealt with.

Example • As soon as **the true** Joshua (Jesus) appeared in the Incarnation and tried to lift people up from idolatry and immorality, the opposition to Him became fierce.
John 15:25 They hated me without cause.

- Jesus was too Holy for them. His standards were too high. He wanted them to change too much.
- Jesus' miracles showed up the so-called "good people" – and they slandered Him!

This revolt of Humanity is expressed well in **Ps 2: The Kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers took counsel together AGAINST the Lord** (God the Father) **and His Anointed** (Jesus, God the Son) **saying "Let us break their bonds** (God's Law) **in pieces And cast away Their Cords** (Covenants) **from us."** cf Acts 4:25-27

- 9:1-2**
- (i) The Kings who joined forces against Joshua were **NOT** friends of **each other**. **But** they sank their differences and faced Joshua with 'one mind and heart' – thus making a powerful opposition.
 - (ii) The same happened in Jesus' case: the Scribes, Pharisees, Sadducees and the Herodians were **all opposed** to each other, but combined together against Jesus.
 - (iii) So the Remnant of Believers find today - our **whole society** – made up of so many different groups and philosophies are combined against **us...**

In all 3 cases the opposition was not shown immediately... it took time for the opposition to “build its case”... just as the elites of the **New World Order** have been gathering momentum - and making it very clear that Christianity is **NOT** part of their plans.

- (NB) Satan has **his** plans to rule the Earth and to enslave all souls for time and eternity so he **stirs up** opposition to anyone who will put themselves in **God's** Camp to save souls and help let **God's Reign** come.

- The opposition**
- 1) were not put off by the miraculous event at Jericho nor the victory at Ai.
 - 2) They did not consider surrendering to Joshua...
 - 3) Neither they nor Satan (the spirit behind opposition to God) would accept defeat.
 - 4) Both Satan and the opposition against God have to accept defeat in the end.

- With us**
- 1) sin never surrenders to God's Will
 - 2) the flesh and its lusts do not want to surrender to **you**, or God either.

In fact the **more you want** of God the **harder the battle**, because Satan does not want you to become 'King of your Castle'... and most certainly does not want you to surrender your castle (soul) to the **King of Kings!**

Remember that when God's People – are most conscious of their obligations

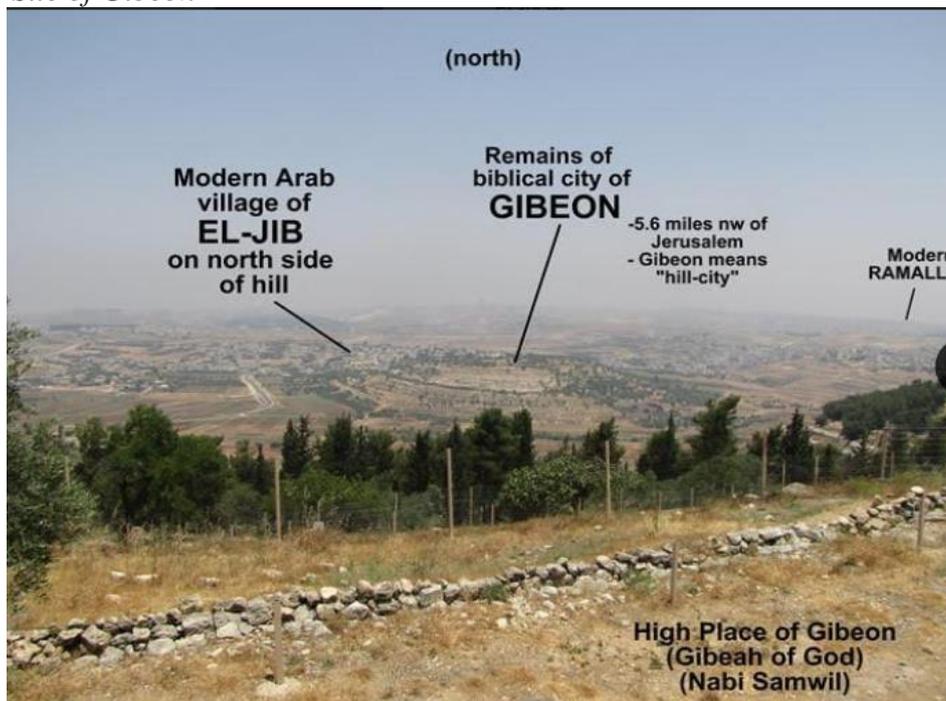
- are most determined to serve God
- when they consecrate themselves to live in the Divine Will

that the anger of Satan is stirred up against us.

- It was **after** Joshua **declared** God's Will **the Law of the land** that the Canaanite kings gathered to oppose him...
- Satan is not put off by 'signs and wonders' – either for Israel or in Jesus' time...
 - even when Jesus defeated him in the desert **the devil left him,** BUT **TO RETURN AT THE APPOINTED TIME!** (Luke 4:13)
 - the 'appointed time' is very soon for Christianity today:
 - the fact that **the gates of Hell won't prevail** will not stop Satan from getting his own awful harvest of souls who remain in opposition to God! (Matt 16:15).

The Gibeonites

Site of Gibeon



The Devil – the enemy of all God’s People is depicted in Scripture as approaching us from two angles:

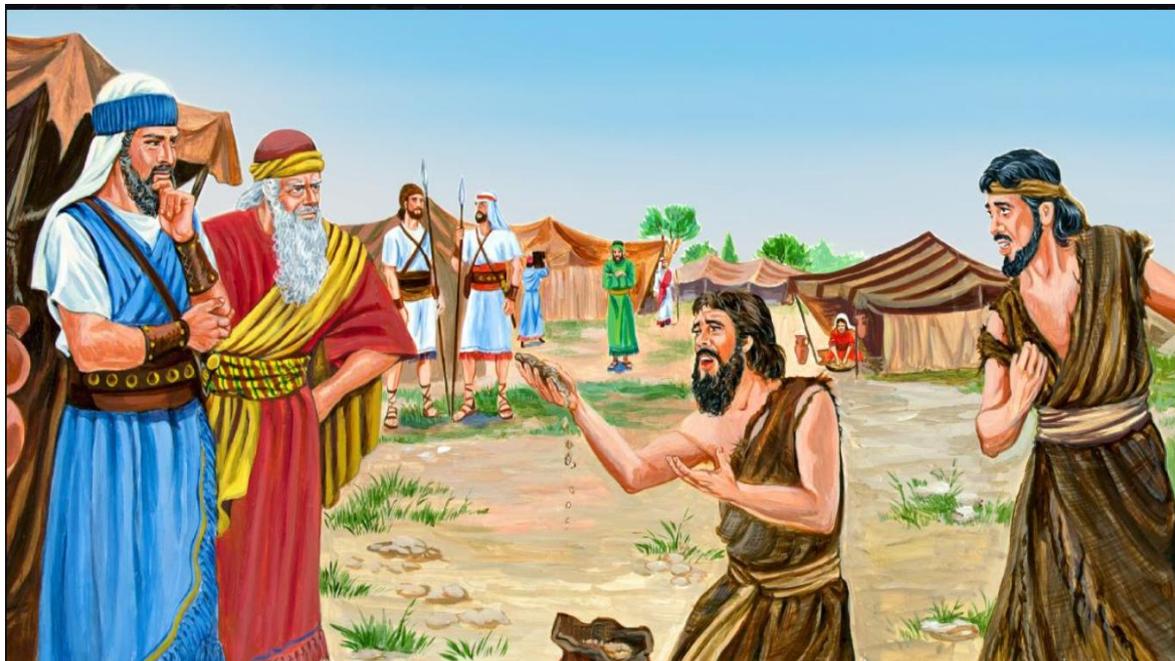
- 1) The Roaring Lion **wanting to devour**: 1 Pet 5:8
 - 2) The subtle serpent **wanting to deceive**: Gen 3 - here he employs cunning and delivers poison in order to corrupt us and draw us away from the **Revealed Plan of God** for this Earth, and also for **our place** in it.
- In this second form he works secretly and wants to defile us from within.
 - (i) The roaring lion stirred up the Kings of Canaan to fight the people of God.
 - (ii) The **deception of** Gibeon showed Satan’s craftiness – which is more successful as an attack on us.

- Example**
- (i) **with Adam** and Eve, Satan was sly and subtle; with their children he was the roaring lion killing the **good** son, Abel.
 - (ii) **with Jesus** Satan was the subtle serpent in the desert but the roaring lion in the Passion. [The roaring lion tried to kill Jesus as an Infant too!].
 - (iii) **with us** Satan is the sly serpent in temptations; But the roaring lion in **persecution** of the Church.

Hopefully we are not ignorant of Satan’s devices: 2 Cor 2:11

Both Scripture and history prove that deception works best on us – much more successful!

- (i) the roaring lion is much easier to detect – persecution throws us upon the Lord. The strength and fortitude of the martyrs become a blessing to the Church.
- (ii) Deception, on the other hand, is harder to detect... here Satan wants to corrupt the Church from within, with pride and immorality which lead to apostasy and turn us into hypocrites.



- 9:6** The Gibeonites posed as Ambassadors of a foreign country, seeking a covenant with Israel.
- it was all pretence as their city was nearby – in fact next in line to be conquered by Joshua!
Josh 10:2 **Gibeon was a great city... it was greater than Ai and all of its men were mighty.**

So, why the pretence? They answer this themselves in **9:9-10**

So, Gen 35:5 is seen here: **the terror of God was upon the cities that were around them.**

Examples of People using Pretence to get their own way: they **USE** Satan's weapons!!

- (i) **Jacob** dressed himself to **look like Esau**: Gen 27:1-29 - he wanted to steal his brother's blessing and inheritance.
- (ii) **King Saul** disguised himself to go to **the witch of ENDOR**: 1 Sam 28:8
- (iii) King **Jeroboam's wife** disguised herself to visit the **Prophet Ahijah**: 1 Kg 14:1-6
- (iv) The 'wolves in sheep's clothing': Matt 7:15

- Note that when we get to Joshua chap 10 and 11, we will see Israel make short work of the confederation of kings against them (Jos 11:1-12).
- **But** as 2 Sam 21:1 shows, the Gibeonites were 'a thorn in Israel's side' for a very long time!

Remember Matt 13:24,25: **the Kingdom of Heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field, but while he slept his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat.**

Jesus explained in Matt 13:38: **the good seed are the children of the Kingdom
the tares are the children of the Wicked One.**

- **Note** that **TARES** are **NOT** darnel or thistles... they appear to **BE** wheat!
The tares and wheat cannot be distinguished until harvest time.

For our Age: What deception presented itself to the Church over the past 100 years?

- (i) We were infiltrated by Communists who put atheists into our seminaries to corrupt the priesthood with homosexuality...
- (ii) ... infiltrated by Freemasons after that who steered the Church **AWAY** from **true** spirituality **first**... and then towards the world...
- (iii) Vatican II opened the windows of the Church **TO** the world and **The World** infiltrated our Fortress until a terrible apostasy followed...

Here are some warnings from New Testament writers to **avoid** what has just happened!

- (i) 2 Cor 6:16-15: **Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness? And what accord has CHRIST with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever?**
- (ii) James 4:4 **... do you not know that friendship with the world is ENMITY with God?**

9:6 Joshua returned to the camp at Gilgal after the long journey from Gerizim and Ebal (8:30).

There Joshua dedicated the whole country to God and declared **God's Law** the **Law of the Land**.

- so the fact that he succumbed to this type of temptation **immediately** after that is quite shocking!
- Remember Jos 5:9, Gilgal was the place where **the shame** of Egypt was taken from them.
- It was **there** that they covenanted themselves to God. cf Gen 17:9-10

Since Sinai (Deut 14:2) and since Calvary (1 Pet 2:9) God's people were chosen **from** the world, **For** His Kingdom.

1 Pet 2:9: **But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, HIS OWN SPECIAL PEOPLE, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His wonderful light.**

→ We are set apart for **HIS SERVICE** only those who surrender to His Divine Will enjoy communion with Him

The extraordinariness of our call is expressed in **Num 23:9 ... they are a people dwelling alone, not reckoning itself among the Nations** cf Deut 33:28

What was wrong with accepting the Gibeonites? ... a lot!

It was a temptation to ignore their special call to **SEPARATION from the world.**

- Since God wanted to begin the Kingdom of God on earth through Israel they **needed** a special experience of God to co-operate.
- As soon as they would '**let the world in**' they would be influenced by the ways of the world... whereas **they** were called to **teach the world** the **ways of God!**
eg Solomon, who was a good servant of God until he allowed **WEALTH** and **foreign alliances** to corrupt his heart... so his famed wisdom turned to foolishness!

Vital Message for us:

- (i) Our greatest need is to **preserve OUR CONSECRATION** to the Divine Will.
- (ii) We preserve our consecration through mortification and self-denial.
Not my will, but thine be done O Lord.
Be it done unto me according to your word.
- (iii) Fasting to keep our spiritual antennae 'up to speed'.
- (iv) Constant prayer to deepen our Communion with God.
- (v) Feed daily on Holy Eucharist and the Holy Word of God.
- (vi) Spiritual warfare to conquer the inner Kingdom for God and to allow God to found and develop this Kingdom of Divine Will in us and through us.
- (vii) Total obedience to Divine Will in everything, always.
- (viii) Develop a horror for sin...
- (ix) Total dependence on God at every moment...
- (x) Live in the safe place of our nothingness *[my 10 Commandments! (Nos ii – xi)]*
- (xi) Love is everything – it's all about love.

Vital consideration for Joshua: Laws in Deuteronomy

(i) Deut 20:10-11

compared to

(ii) Deut 20:16-17

Far away **cities**:

- You may make a covenant of peace with **faraway** cities....
- If they make peace with you **they** **become** your **vassels** paying tribute to **you**.

But cities **given** to you as an inheritance are to be put under **the Ban**.

17: you are to utterly destroy them:

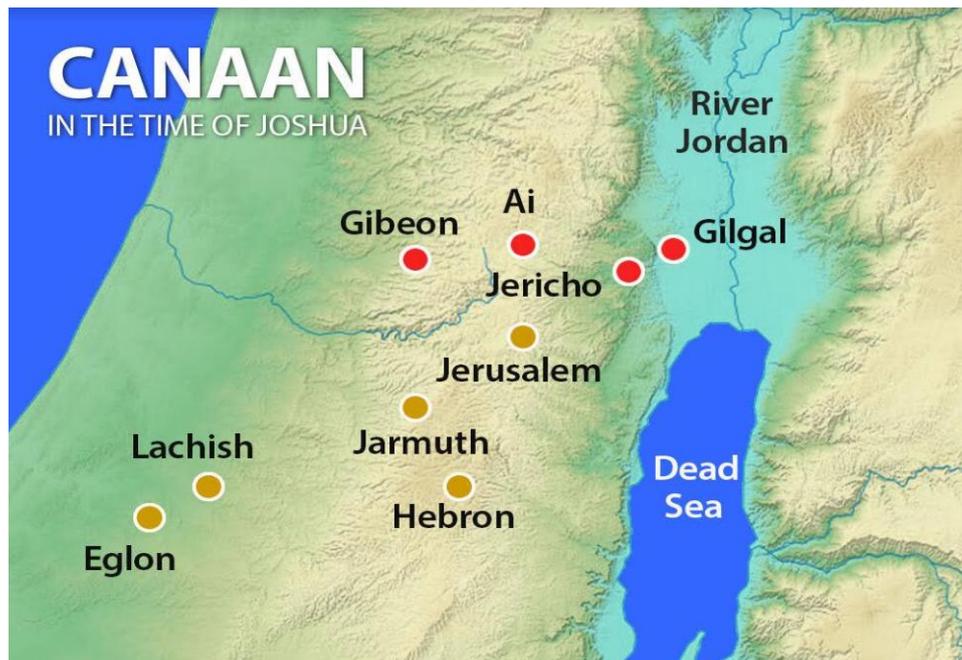
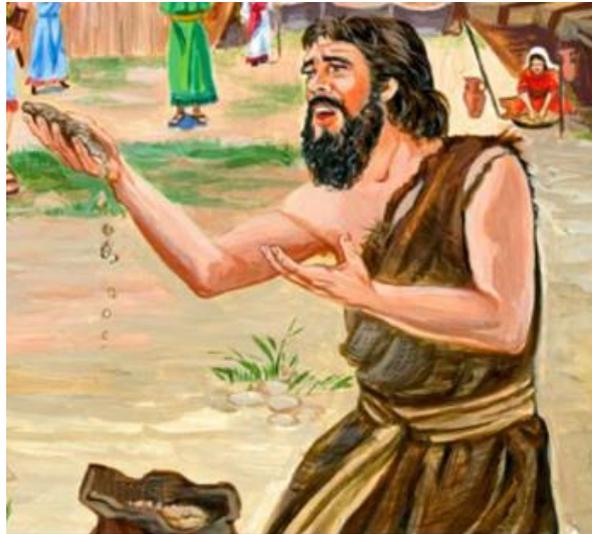
- a) **The Hittite**
- b) **The Amorite**
- c) **The Canaanite**
- d) **The Perizzite**
- e) **The Hivite**
- f) **The Jebusite**

Who are these Gibeonites? cf Judges **3:3-6**

Judges 3:4 ... **they were used to put Israel to the test...**

Judges 2:22 ... **this was TO TEST THEM by means of these nations...**

cf 2 Sam 21:1-3 ... a remnant of the Amorites...



But the names **Hivite – Horite – Hittite** are often interchanged in Bible translations: especially in Genesis, Joshua and Judges. (NB) Deut 20:18 calls them **HIVITES**.

Where did they live? - near Jerusalem!

They belonged to the **NEXT** layer of cities to be taken by Joshua and his men.

Note: On a spiritual level, this is extremely important for us. There can be something in us that we absolutely **MUST** destroy, and it can be your predominant fault, or some very bad habit, or some wrong way of thinking, or whatever it is, but something that is actually key to the way you operate; and if you don't get rid of that, you have got to live with it for the rest of your days, because 'it is going to govern how you behave in future – and that's extremely important – and I will point out how Joshua very simply could have made a different decision – he could have prayed. And it's the same with us as well. When we pray God enlightens us as to what are the things that are vital that have got to be shifted from our lives. If we don't pray, we don't get the enlightenment.

9:6-13 They knew everything that was going on for Israel!

- Israel's victory over Sihon, King of Amorites and Og, King of Basham **alarmed them.**
 - They knew **also** that Israel **would** be allowed to make a covenant of peace with any people living **OUTSIDE** of Canaan! They had done their homework!!
- } Gen 20:10,11

Focus: (NB) Temptations don't **just** come through the Devil! Human beings are good at it!

Today: Christianity has suffered greatly and is compromised by alliances with **the world.**

- Since Vatican II the world and **its ways** have invaded the House of God... in the name of Progress, Liberty and Human Rights...
- The two pillars of the Church – Priesthood and Family – are shaken to their foundations. - while Religious Life is almost gone – it has no public presence left.
- Christians are allowed no public voice and will soon be persecuted...

→ Beware of the "Gibeonites" wanting to join us!

9:7 Calls these men **Hivites**, therefore one of the groups or "nations" they were **told** to conquer!

- these people think they can avoid God's Judgement through deception!
cf Ps 139: we **cannot** hide from God!
- The leaders of Israel question these disguised Canaanites. **Perhaps you live among us?**
 - Israel is forbidden to make a covenant with **any** of the nations in **Canaan**
 - but they may do so with people **outside** of Canaan.
- Was there an historical precedent for this deception of **these** Hivites?
Unfortunately yes! **Gen 34** tells the story of how Jacob's sons deceived the men of **Shechem** in order to take revenge for the rape of their sister, **DINAH**.
Now, here, the descendants of those who deceived the Hivites are deceived **BY THEM** in turn
 - the cycle of evil is complete.

9:8 **We are your servants.** The Hivites are willing to be subservient to Israel rather than die.

But Joshua now asks: **Who are you? Where do you come from?**

- Joshua is suspicious **But** he makes another fundamental error! He does not **Pray!**
He should have got the High Priest to consult **the Lord** about it.

cf James 1:5 **If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously... it will be given to him** (NIV)

9:9 The fake story: we are from a faraway land.

- we come to you because of **your God**... His famous deeds in Egypt.





- 9:10** - Because of the Victory of Sihon and Og, the giant kings of Transjordan.
- 9:11-13** We are a delegation – worn out clothes and food!
What they **don't** say is the miracle of crossing the Jordan and the Victory of Jericho and Ai.
- this would give them away as **Locals!**
- 9:14** ... but they did **not** ask counsel of the Lord!!
- 9:15** **So Joshua made peace with them... made a covenant with them to let them live...**
If they **had** prayed then Ps 32:8 would have happened.
- Ps 32:8** **I will instruct you and teach you the way you should go;
I will counsel you and watch over you.**
- Ps 34:5** **Those who look to Him are radiant;
Their faces are never covered with shame.**
- Prov 3:5** **Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not lean on your own understanding.**
- But **here** Joshua and the leaders acted on the **Human Level** only – with consequences!
He should have taken the **TIME** to think things through **And** pray about them...
He acted too quickly! So he had to live with the results.
- Phil 4:6** **Do not be anxious about anything, But in EVERYTHING, by prayer and petition,
with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.**
- 9:16** 3 days later Joshua discovered those Hivites were living **close by!!**
- 9:17**
- It was a 3-day journey to the cities of Gibeon!
cf Joshua 10:9-10 Gibeon was **ONE NIGHT'S MARCH** away!
 - Israel took 2 days to get there by day, arriving on the 3rd day.
 - There were 4 cities represented by 'Gibeon': it was a small confederation of cities
→ these cities were the next to be conquered by Joshua.
- 9:18** But He kept his oath and did not attack...
Even though she made mistakes, Israel still honoured **her vow** and did so from that time onwards.
- but now there is **trouble** in the camp! The people complain that their leaders have done the
wrong thing... **Disunity**

Note: Once you get to this stage Satan is laughing because DISUNITY makes the people powerless. Do you remember Ai? Do you remember Achan? What makes God utterly invincible to anything outside of Himself is that there are Three Persons in Total Unity with One Will, and that's why Jesus prayed in John 17:21 "Father may they all be one just as You are in Me and I am in You". That's why Jesus promised in Matthew 18:19 that 'if two or three of you agree concerning any matter, I will ratify it in Heaven. Seemingly He thought that more than 2 people on this planet couldn't agree on anything! Look at the downfall of families today because of the disunity between the spouses, and the disunity between the parents and the children, and the disunity among the children themselves. And look at the extended families today, and the disunity there are between cousins and uncles and aunts, etc. – that's what causes the problem! And that's what causes us to be utterly powerless, not only before God, but before everything.

Punishment for the Gibeonites

9:19-23 The people of Israel went to attack and conquer Gibeon's 4 cities.
But the leaders stand on **their oath** and refuse: leadership put to the test!

Ex 20:7 **you shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain:
for the Lord will NOT hold him guiltless for taking his name in vain.**

Deut 6:13 **You shall FEAR the Lord your God, and serve Him; you shall swear by His Name.**

- The oath taken was a solemn appeal to God's great Name (Name above **all** names: Philippians 2:9) which awoke the consciousness of the Divine Presence among them, therefore calling upon the sanctity and power of the Most High.
- Therefore an **oath** was solemn and bore consequences.
 - to break the oath is to call God's Name **in vain** ... a great sin.
 - (i) an oath is to be feared: Eccles 9:2
 - (ii) it is binding: Num 30:3 eg Jephthah in Judges 11:35 – sacrificed his daughter
 - (iii) should not be taken lightly – only in great matters, eg Abraham in Gen 24:8,9 eg Matt 5:34-36, St Paul in 2 Cor 1:23 and Gal 1:20

9:20 **We will let them live LEST WRATH BE UPON US because of the oath...**
There were 12 **Princes** or **Rulers** – since they entered the Promised Land the heads of the tribes are now given titles...

9:21-23 **THE SENTENCE** on **Gibeon**: The Gibeonite leaders were summoned.

v 22 They are reminded of their deception which brought on them the curse of **SERVITUDE**

v 23 They are reduced **TO SLAVERY!** **Hewers of Wood and Drawers of Water.**



Justice: a) v21 The leaders wanted them as slaves for the whole congregation.

-v- Mercy: b) but Joshua toned it down **TO SERVICE** in the **House of God**
- therefore these men would help out in the sacrificial system - and keep some dignity!

- In **later history** these people were called **NETHINIM** (devoted persons) – that is given to help the Levites in the service of the Alter -
- Just as the Levites were given as “Oblates” to help the priests in Num 3:9
- They were given a place of honour in the service of **the Temple** later...
cf 1 Chron 9:2 Ezra 8:20 Neh 7:60

9:24-27 The Gibeonites testify to the fact that

- (i) God’s plan for Canaan was **known** to all the Nations.
- (ii) Their reaction to Israel’s arrival was **fear**: Ex 28:27 Deut 2:25 / 11:25
Ex 14:14
- (iii) Their fear and dread was due to the fact that **God’s Miracles** in Egypt, Sinai, Transjordan and now Canaan were all done in **broad daylight**, in the sight of all the Nations.

So, the Gibeonites **surrender** to the God of Israel and become part of His Chosen People
- a prophetic forecast of the acceptance of Gentiles – eventually – into the Kingdom of God.