

Trust God's Promises

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Joshua 9:1-4 Now when all the kings west of the Jordan heard about these things—the kings in the hill country, in the western foothills, and along the entire coast of the Mediterranean Sea as far as Lebanon (the kings of the Hittites, Amorites, Canaanites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites)— **2** they came together to wage war against Joshua and Israel. **3** However, when the people of Gibeon heard what Joshua had done to Jericho and Ai, **4** they resorted to a ruse...

1 Peter 5:8 the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour

2 Corinthians 11:3 (NKJV) the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness

2 Corinthians 11:14 Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light.

Joshua 9:4-6 They went as a delegation whose donkeys were loaded with worn-out sacks and old wineskins, cracked and mended. **5** They put worn and patched sandals on their feet and wore old clothes. All the bread of their food supply was dry and moldy. **6** Then they went to Joshua in the camp at Gilgal and said to him and the Israelites, “We have come from a distant country; make a treaty with us.”

- We must know THE SCRIPTURES to Guide us so the Enemy can't use them to deceive us.

Joshua 9:7-10 The Israelites said to the Hivites, “But perhaps you live near us, so how can we make a treaty with you?” **8** “We are your servants,” they said to Joshua. But Joshua asked, “Who are you and where do you come from?” **9** They answered: “Your servants have come from a very distant country because of the fame of the Lord your God. For we have heard reports of him: all that he did in Egypt, **10** and all that he did to the two kings of the Amorites east of the Jordan—Sihon king of Heshbon, and Og king of Bashan, who reigned in Ashtaroth.

- **Adlai Stevenson:** “A lie is an abomination unto the Lord- and a very present help in trouble.”

Joshua 9:11-15 And our elders and all those living in our country said to us, “Take provisions for your journey; go and meet them and say to them, “We are your servants; make a treaty with us.” **12** This bread of ours was warm when we packed it at home on the day we left to come to you. But now see how dry and moldy it is. **13** And these wineskins that we filled were new, but see how cracked they are. And our clothes and sandals are worn out by the very long journey.” **14** The Israelites sampled their provisions but did not inquire of the Lord. **15** Then Joshua made a treaty of peace with them to let them live, and the leaders of the assembly ratified it by oath.

- In 2021 ask God for direction and wisdom- TRUST Him to give it

Proverbs 2:6-8 For the Lord gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding.

He holds success in store for the upright, he is a shield to those whose walk is blameless, for he guards the course of the just and protects the way of his faithful ones.

- When we do our own thing- sin is likely to follow- brining consequences that can't be undone.

***Joshua 9:16-37** Three days after they made the treaty with the Gibeonites, the Israelites heard that they were neighbors, living near them. **17** So the Israelites set out and on the third day came to their cities: Gibeon, Kephirah, Beeroth and Kiriath Jearim. **18** But the Israelites did not attack them, because the leaders of the assembly had sworn an oath to them by the Lord, the God of Israel. The whole assembly grumbled against the leaders, **19** but all the leaders answered, "We have given them our oath by the Lord, the God of Israel, and we cannot touch them now. **20** This is what we will do to them: We will let them live, so that God's wrath will not fall on us for breaking the oath we swore to them." **21** They continued, "Let them live, but let them be woodcutters and water carriers in the service of the whole assembly." So the leaders' promise to them was kept. **22** Then Joshua summoned the Gibeonites and said, "Why did you deceive us by saying, 'We live a long way from you,' while actually you live near us? **23** You are now under a curse: You will never be released from service as woodcutters and water carriers for the house of my God." **24** They answered Joshua, "Your servants were clearly told how the Lord your God had commanded his servant Moses to give you the whole land and to wipe out all its inhabitants from before you. So we feared for our lives because of you, and that is why we did this. **25** We are now in your hands. Do to us whatever seems good and right to you." **26** So Joshua saved them from the Israelites, and they did not kill them. **27** That day he made the Gibeonites woodcutters and water carriers for the assembly, to provide for the needs of the altar of the Lord at the place the Lord would choose. And that is what they are to this day.*

***Joshua 10:2-8** He and his people were very much alarmed at this, because Gibeon was an important city, like one of the royal cities; it was larger than Ai, and all its men were good fighters. **3** So Adoni-Zedek king of Jerusalem appealed to Hoham king of Hebron, Piram king of Jarmuth, Japhia king of Lachish and Debir king of Eglon. **4** "Come up and help me attack Gibeon," he said, "because it has made peace with Joshua and the Israelites." **5** Then the five kings of the Amorites—the kings of Jerusalem, Hebron, Jarmuth, Lachish and Eglon—joined forces. They moved up with all their troops and took up positions against Gibeon and attacked it. **6** The Gibeonites then sent word to Joshua in the camp at Gilgal: "Do not abandon your servants. Come up to us quickly and save us! Help us, because all the Amorite kings from the hill country have joined forces against us." **7** So Joshua marched up from Gilgal with his entire army, including all the best fighting men. **8** The Lord said to Joshua, "Do not be afraid of them; I have given them into your hand. Not one of them will be able to withstand you."*

- In 2021 ask God for His strength- TRUST Him to give it

***Isaiah 41:10** do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.*

***Joshua 10:9-15** After an all-night march from Gilgal, Joshua took them by surprise. **10** The Lord*

threw them into confusion before Israel, so Joshua and the Israelites defeated them completely at Gibeon. Israel pursued them along the road going up to Beth Horon and cut them down all the way to Azekah and Makkedah. **11** As they fled before Israel on the road down from Beth Horon to Azekah, the Lord hurled large hailstones down on them, and more of them died from the hail than were killed by the swords of the Israelites. **12** On the day the Lord gave the Amorites over to Israel, Joshua said to the Lord in the presence of Israel: "Sun, stand still over Gibeon, and you, moon, over the Valley of Aijalon." (i-ha-lon) **13** So the sun stood still, and the moon stopped, till the nation avenged itself on its enemies, as it is written in the Book of Jashar. (ha-shar) The sun stopped in the middle of the sky and delayed going down about a full day. **14** There has never been a day like it before or since, a day when the Lord listened to a human being. Surely the Lord was fighting for Israel! **15** Then Joshua returned with all Israel to the camp at Gilgal.

- God often uses mistakes as opportunities to demonstrate His great love for His people
- In 2021 ask God for hope- TRUST Him to give it

Psalm 126:5 Those who sow with tears will reap with songs of joy.

All Bible references are from the New International Version (NIV) unless otherwise noted. NLT = New Living Translation.