

# Gleanings of Grace

## Joshua 9

### Lesson 6

Joshua begins the first of twelve historical books that end with the book of Esther. It chronicles for us the crossing of the Jordan into the promised land and the beginning battles to conquer the land, teaching God's people that their dependency on Him is crucial. Joshua 9 is a stark reminder of what happens when we lean on our own understanding and do not *consult the Lord*. May it serve as a reminder to each of us.

#### **OBSERVATION: Read Joshua 9**

1. Read Joshua 9 using the Observation Worksheet (the last page of this homework). After reading through the chapter, what would you say to someone if they asked you what it is about?
2. Key words help us to better understand the verses. We have listed below key words. Mark each one in a distinctive way (either with a symbol, highlighting, or some form of boxing, circling, or underlining). Mark each of the key words each time they are used in the text. Remember to mark any personal pronouns that refer to the *LORD*, *Joshua*, the *Gibeonites/Hivites*, and *the people of Israel*.  
**Key Words:** *LORD*, *Joshua*, *Gibeonites/Hivites*, and any references to the people of *Israel*
3. The contrasting words *but* is used six times in Joshua 9. Mark the word. Choose one instance of its use and record what is being contrasted.
4. The term of conclusion *therefore* is used six times in Joshua 9. Mark the word. Choose one instance of its use. Record the conclusion and what it was based upon.

#### **Background:**

1. Joshua was the new leader of the Israelites. They had reached the moment of time when they were to cross the Jordan and enter the promised land. According to Joshua 1:3, what did God promise Joshua?

- a. Using Joshua 1:8,9, what did God require of Joshua?
- 
2. The first city conquered by Israel was the city of Jericho. After Jericho, the children of Israel failed to defeat those in the city of Ai, because one of them, Achan, disobeyed God's instructions and took some of the spoils. After the sin was dealt with, Israel was able to defeat the people of Ai. Israel was beginning to develop a reputation of being a powerful people. Consider what you know about the battle of Jericho. What lesson is there for us as we seek to fight our own battles?

### Read Joshua 9:1-2

1. *And it came to pass...* What did the kings do when they *heard about what Joshua had done to Jericho and Ai* (Joshua 9:3)?
2. Why do you think doing something in *one accord* is easier when the goal is the same, even when it is a wrong goal?

- a. Using the following verses, record the result of people being in *one accord*:

Luke 14:18

Acts 2:46,47

Acts 4:24,31

Acts 7:57,58

- b. As believers, what lesson can we learn from these verses?
- 
3. This is not the first time people had responded to what they had heard about what God had done for His people. What did Rahab tell the spies they *had heard*? see Joshua 2:10
    - a. What was the reaction of the people of Jericho? see verse 11

b. What was Rahab's reaction? see verses 12,13

1.) What do you think Rahab believed about God that others did not?

### Read Joshua 9:3-6

1. The inhabitants of Gibeon did not respond as the other kings. We are told in Joshua 9:4 that *they worked craftily*. Using verses 4,5 describe what they did.

a. Use synonyms to define the word *craftily*.

2. Write the words they said to Joshua in verse 6.

a. Define the word *covenant*.

3. Gibeon was less than 100 miles from Israel's encampment at Gilgal. What might you have felt or done if you had heard of God's reputation with His people and you were that close to them?

a. What are some examples of foolish thoughts and choices that we make when we do not understand the character of God?

b. What attributes of God help you when you are faced with something that looks bigger or more powerful than you?

### Read Joshua 9:7-13

1. The inhabitants of Gibeon were known as *Hivites*. They wanted to make a *covenant* with Israel. What did the *men of Israel* suggest?

a. What were God's instructions to them in Numbers 33:52,53?

1.) What did God warn them would happen, if they did not obey? see verse 55

a.) Many see instructions like this as harsh and uncaring. What do you see about the heart of God here?

b.) How might this be applied in your own life when you feel like God is being unfair?

2. *Who are you, and where do you come from?* (verse 8) Using verses 9-13, summarize their response.

3. Verse 9 reveals the reason for their action. What was it?

a. *They had heard of the fame of the LORD their (Israel's) God.* What had you heard about God before you knew Him?

1.) What scared you?

2.) What drew you?

### **Read Joshua 9:14-17**

1. Using Joshua 9:14, what did the *men of Israel*:

do:

not do:

a. The LORD gave instructions to Moses to give to Joshua in Numbers 27:18-21. What were they?

1.) Why is it important to follow God's instructions, even when they don't make sense?

2. God takes not seeking His *counsel* seriously. Record the words of Isaiah 30:1.
3. Because he did not seek the *counsel of the LORD*, what does Joshua 9:15 reveal that he did?
  - a. *Making peace* seems like a good thing to do. Why was it not?
4. What did the *children of Israel* discover *after three days*?

### **Read Joshua 9:18-27**

1. Although the *Hivites* deceived the *children of Israel*, the *rulers* determined not to attack the Hivites. According to verse 18, what was their reasoning?
  - a. How did the *children of Israel* react to the decision made by their *rulers*?
    - 1.) What would be a better reaction, even though they disagreed and had even been put in harm's way?
2. What reasoning did the *rulers* give for their decision?
  - a. In what way do the words of Psalm 15:4 honor what they did?
  - b. Given that there are times when a *covenant* can be broken when one party has been deceptive, why is it sometimes important to honor a promise, even when it was made as a result of deception?
3. *This we will do to them*. What did Joshua and the rulers say in verses 20 and 21?
4. Joshua challenged the Hivites in verse 22. What did he say to them? Include verse 23.
5. Using verses 24-27 what was the final decision?

6. Joshua 10 describes the time when Israel had to make good on their covenant with the Gibeonites/Hittites. Read verses 1-6 and summarize them.

Challenge: Read and summarize the rest of Joshua 10

**REVIEW: Read Joshua 9**

1. What lessons did you learn from Joshua 9 about leaning on your own understanding when:  
you are faced with something that seems bigger than you

you are challenged to make a decision that makes sense to you

2. What did you learn about leadership from this chapter?

*Trust in the LORD with all your heart,  
And lean not on your own understanding;  
In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.  
- Proverbs 3:5,6*

## Observation Worksheet

### Joshua 9

And it came to pass when all the kings who were on this side of the Jordan, in the hills and in the lowland and in all the coasts of the Great Sea toward Lebanon--the Hittite, the Amorite, the Canaanite, the Perizzite, the Hivite, and the Jebusite--heard about it, <sup>2</sup> that they gathered together to fight with Joshua and Israel with one accord. <sup>3</sup> But when the inhabitants of Gibeon heard what Joshua had done to Jericho and Ai, <sup>4</sup> they worked craftily, and went and pretended to be ambassadors. And they took old sacks on their donkeys, old wineskins torn and mended, <sup>5</sup> old and patched sandals on their feet, and old garments on themselves; and all the bread of their provision was dry and moldy. <sup>6</sup> And they went to Joshua, to the camp at Gilgal, and said to him and to the men of Israel, "We have come from a far country; now therefore, make a covenant with us." <sup>7</sup> Then the men of Israel said to the Hivites, "Perhaps you dwell among us; so how can we make a covenant with you?" <sup>8</sup> But they said to Joshua, "We are your servants." And Joshua said to them, "Who are you, and where do you come from?" <sup>9</sup> So they said to him: "From a very far country your servants have come, because of the name of the LORD your God; for we have heard of His fame, and all that He did in Egypt, <sup>10</sup> and all that He did to the two kings of the Amorites who were beyond the Jordan--to Sihon king of Heshbon, and Og king of Bashan, who was at Ashtaroth. <sup>11</sup> Therefore our elders and all the inhabitants of our country spoke to us, saying, "Take provisions with you for the journey, and go to meet them, and say to them, "We are your servants; now therefore, make a covenant with us." ' <sup>12</sup> This bread of ours we took hot for our provision from our houses on the day we departed to come to you. But now look, it is dry and moldy. <sup>13</sup> And these wineskins which we filled were new, and see, they are torn; and these our garments and our sandals have become old because of the very long journey." <sup>14</sup> Then the men of Israel took some of their provisions; but they did not ask counsel of the LORD. <sup>15</sup> So Joshua made peace with them, and made a covenant with them to let them live; and the rulers of the congregation swore to them. <sup>16</sup> And it happened at the end of three days, after they had made a covenant with them, that they heard that they were their neighbors who dwelt near them. <sup>17</sup> Then the children of Israel journeyed and came to their cities on the third day. Now their cities were Gibeon, Chephirah, Beeroth, and Kirjath Jearim. <sup>18</sup> But the children of Israel did not attack them, because the rulers of the congregation had sworn to them by the LORD God of Israel. And all the congregation complained against the rulers. <sup>19</sup> Then all the rulers said to all the congregation, "We have sworn to them by the LORD God of Israel; now therefore, we may not touch them. <sup>20</sup> This we will do to them: We will let them live, lest wrath be upon us because of the oath which we swore to them." <sup>21</sup> And the rulers said to them, "Let them live, but let them be woodcutters and water carriers for all the congregation, as the rulers

had promised them." <sup>22</sup> Then Joshua called for them, and he spoke to them, saying, "Why have you deceived us, saying, 'We are very far from you,' when you dwell near us? <sup>23</sup> Now therefore, you are cursed, and none of you shall be freed from being slaves--woodcutters and water carriers for the house of my God." <sup>24</sup> So they answered Joshua and said, "Because your servants were clearly told that the LORD your God commanded His servant Moses to give you all the land, and to destroy all the inhabitants of the land from before you; therefore we were very much afraid for our lives because of you, and have done this thing. <sup>25</sup> And now, here we are, in your hands; do with us as it seems good and right to do to us." <sup>26</sup> So he did to them, and delivered them out of the hand of the children of Israel, so that they did not kill them. <sup>27</sup> And that day Joshua made them woodcutters and water carriers for the congregation and for the altar of the LORD, in the place which He would choose, even to this day.