



God's People  
Are Promise  
Keepers!  
Joshua 9:1-23

# Background

- As we march with Israel through the “promised land,” we come to the story of Israel and the Gibeonites, Joshua 9
- The land of Gibeon was located only about 25 miles from the camp of Gilgal, where the Israelites were at this point



- Israel had defeated the great walled city of Jericho, then Ai.
- The city of Gibeon was among the next cities to be captured.
- However, Joshua 9:3-4 tells us that the Gibeonite people had heard about Israel's triumphs over the Amorites, Jericho, and Ai, and decided to try to "trick" God's people



# What Did the Gibeonites Do?

- The Gibeonites assembled a delegation to go to the Israelite camp, dressed to “look like” they were from a far country and on a long journey (worn-out clothes and shoes, old satchels with molded food, etc.) to avoid defeat vs. 9-13
- Not only did they falsely represent themselves to Israel, but they played on the ego and pride of the Israelites, recounting the Israelite history, vs. 9-13

“We want to be your servants!”

“Your fame is noised abroad (all over Canaan)”

“We know about your God and the plagues He performed in Egypt”

“We know about the kings and cities you have already defeated”

***The Devil Will Play On Our Emotions  
and Egos Too!***

# What Did Joshua and the Israelites Do?

- They interrogated the Gibeonites, verse 7
- They ask for proofs of their claims, verse 14
- They took samples of (inspected) their food and clothing to validate the Gibeonites' position, verse 14 to see if it "looked old and dated"
- And so, after what Joshua and the Israelite leaders thought was a fair evaluation, they made a "Peace Treaty" or swore with an oath to God as their witness, that they would not harm the Gibeonite people, verse 15

# So, What Was God's Problem With Israel?

## #1 They Didn't Ask Him! Verse 14

- If a child of God is considering being responsible for someone else, they should ask God for His opinion (debt, marriage)

*"If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.*

*But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering." James 1:5,6*

- Asking in Faith means looking for a Bible answer or a scriptural principle to guide your decision, Romans 10:17
- What do we do with our major issues?
- Answer: We assume that God knows about it, and that's enough; OR, we feel we that he will bless OUR preferences (Satan knows what we like too), OR IGNORE HIM all together
- The Real Answer: We should seek God's preferences over our own, Proverbs 3:5-6; Willingness to ask God shows humility!

## #2 They Invoked God's Sacredness in Their Agreement

- Joshua and the Israelite leaders accepted their own evaluation without consulting God and swore with an Oath/Treaty to God, that they would let the Gibeonite nation live, verse 15
- Three days after they had sworn by God's name to keep the Gibeonites alive, Israel found out that they had been, "lied to!" (the Gibeonites were neighbors not weary travelers) vs.16
- But people, God takes swearing and invoking His name and integrity, SERIOUSLY and not "*flippantly!*" (ex. I swear to God or before God...)

God sees an oath as sacred; when you invoke one, keep it!

- Keeping an oath for a Christian is about the reputation and character of God! We are ambassadors for Christ, 2 Cor. 5:20

# Christians are Told Not to Swear!

***“Above all, my brothers and sisters, do not swear—not by heaven or by earth or by anything else. All you need to say is a simple “Yes” or “No.” Otherwise you will be condemned.”***

***James 5:12***

- **When you swear you may be committing God to a future that you can't determine (a future you may not even inherit)**
- **When you make a promise God expects you keep it even if it is at your cost**
- **So, Joshua, recognizing that he is a representative of God, understands even though he has made a foolish promise (a promise to God's and with God's enemy) he must keep it**
- **About 200 years later, God sent a famine to Israel (3 years), because King Saul had tried to wipe out the land of Gibeon, which thereby would break God's oath to them, 2 Samuel 21**



# #3 This Story is About God's Grace to the Unworthy!

- In verses 22-27, Joshua calls the leaders of the Gibeonites “on the carpet,” for their “made up story,” the lie they told
- They confessed their sin of lying before Joshua and the Israelite leaders
- The Israelites could have annihilated them immediately
- But, they received “undeserved grace,” and were allowed to live and work among the Israelites, God's people, verse 27
- Doesn't their story of grace sound familiar to your story

*“For by grace are ye saved through faith—and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God.” Ephesians 2:8*

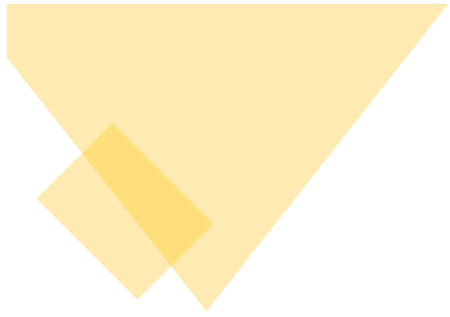
## Isaiah 64:6

***Rather Than Annihilating Us Based  
On Our Admitted Unrighteousness,  
God Chose To Purchase Us Through  
His Son's Death***

***That is Unmerited Favor!***

***That Is Grace!***

***Will You Accept His Grace?***



# The Plan of Salvation

**Hear the Gospel**

**Acts 15:7**

**Believe the Gospel**

**Acts 15:7**

**Repent of Sins**

**Acts 17:30**

**Confess Christ**

**Acts 8:37**

**Be Baptized**

**Acts 8:38**

