

/I will now begin the ninth lecture on the book of Joshua. / The word of God comes from chapter 9. / In this chapter, the account of people of Gibeon making a peace treaty with the Israelites is recorded./ In verses 1-2,the Canaanite kings are about to wage war against Israel.

/They have heard of the news about Israel. / They were afraid of the Israelites because / they have heard the news of crossing the Jordan/ and conquering the town of Jericho and Ai. / That is why in verse 2, they have united to wage war against Joshua.

/Read verse 2. / They came together to make war against Joshua and Israel.

/It is written, “they came together to make war against Joshua and Israel.”/ The Christianity today is combative. /One victory over Satan is not enough. / We must constantly fight our spiritual battle until we enter the kingdom of God.

/If we are not prayerful, it is highly possible to be defeated by the devil. / Satan is relentlessly challenging us. / The people of Canaan once again waged war against Joshua after he triumphed in one battle.

/In verses 3-6, the people of Gibeon disguised themselves and asked for a treaty. / They were afraid of Joshua. / They knew that they couldn't win against Israel.

/That is why they requested to make a peace treaty with Israel instead of uniting with other Canaan kings. / In verse 3, it is written, “However, when the people of Gibeon heard what Joshua had done to Jericho and Ai.”

/They were trembling in fear after they have heard about the news of God's power. / So they realized that they could never win against Israel. / They then disguised themselves and sent delegates to make a peace treaty.

/These people used trickery. / They disguised themselves as people from a distant land. / In verse 4 it is written that they acted with cunning. / Today, people of this world act with cunning to take benefits.

/Hence the people of Gibeon has disguised themselves and/ loaded their donkeys with worn-out sacks and old wineskins, cracked and mended. / Then in verse 5, they have put worn and patched sandals on their feet / and wore old clothes. / They also brought moldy and dry breads as their food supply.

/They have fooled Joshua by showing these rugged materials. /Although it is good that they came to make a peace treaty with the people of Israel, / it is incorrect to deceive Joshua.

/The believers must resort to a right method if the purpose is good. / Using human method instead of trusting in the guidance of God will all be exposed in time. / No disguise can fool God.

/Since God is omnipotent and omniscience, He knows our heart. /And a man can trick another person but he cannot trick his own conscience. / The truth about the people of Gibeon will all be exposed later on.

/Lying is a great sin today. / If they wanted a peace treaty, they should have done it honestly instead of lying. / In verse 6, it is written, "We have come from a distant country; make a treaty with us."/

/Verse 6. / Then they went to Joshua in the camp at Gilgal and said to him and the men of Israel, "We have come from a distant country; make a treaty with us."

/These people disguised themselves as people from distant land and fooled Joshua. / Today, it is not guaranteed for people to be fooled because of disguise. / And some people trick others for their benefit and greed.

/We must understand that lying and deceiving others belong to the works of the devil. / Who would God help? / God helps the truthful people. / And the outcome of war is in the hands of God.

/If the people of Gibeon truthfully offered a peace treaty by relying on God, / He would have helped them / even if they were enemies of Joshua. / But God despises the lies of a man.

/Lying is the nature of Satan / and being truthful is the nature of God. / Today, in these end times, the truth and deception are in battle. / Even though it is possible for a person to lie and temporarily gain benefit, / in the end, the truth will triumph.

/That is why Apostle Paul urged Timothy / to possess faith and good conscience. / God only helps us if our purpose and methods are good. /We must constantly be aware of God and act according to our conscience.

/Why did God precious use Apostle Paul? / It is because he strictly lived according to his conscience before God. / But in the text today, the people of Gibeon deceived Joshua / and their conscience, / and tried to trick God /to preserve their life.

/We can see in the text the delegations of Gibeon officially offering peace treaty to Joshua. / In verses 7-13, they are saying that they have come to make a peace treaty after they have heard the news about Israel. / At first, Joshua was skeptical about their offer.

/Read verse 7. / The men of Israel said to the Hivites, "But perhaps you live near us. How then can we make a treaty with you?"

/He first declined and said, "Did you not come from the land of Canaan?"/ Then these people have humbly offered peace treaty. /How did they offer a peace treaty?

/In verse 8, / they humbly said, "We are your servants."/ And Joshua once again said, "Who are you and where do you come from?"/ How do they reply in verse 9?

/Verse 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,

/They replied, "Your servants have come from a very distant country because of the fame of the LORD your God." / These people have used God and claimed that they have come from a distant country.

/And they have heard of the news about what God has done in Egypt. / "Joshua is truly used by God!" / Moreover, they knew that God has led the people of Israel from Egypt.

/These people have heard of God's power and they came to fear God and Joshua. / That is why they tricked Israel to make a peace treaty. / How did they trick the Israelites in verse 11?

/Verse 11. / 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." '

/They said, "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." /These people humbled themselves and offered a peace treaty.

/In verse 12, the account of those people tricking Israelites is recorded. / "And these wineskins that we filled were new, / but they have been cracked because we came from a long journey." / In verse 13, they are lying and said, "And these wineskins that we filled were new, but see how cracked they are."

/In verse 13, they also lied that their clothes and sandals have been worn out because of long journey. / Even the people today trick others like the people of Gibeon for their benefits. / But no one can always fool everyone through one's disguise and tricks.

/Although the idea of offering a peace treaty is okay, / it is wrong to lie and trick others. / God helps us when we are sincere and truthful. / If we honestly rely on God, He will surely help us.

/People seem to think they would be harmed if they are honest. / But God helps the sincere people. / In verses 14-15, Joshua was fooled and made a peace treaty with the people of Gibeon. / How did he come to make a peace treaty?

/Verse 14. / The men of Israel sampled their provisions but did not inquire of the LORD.

/It is written, "The men of Israel sampled their provisions but did not inquire of the LORD." / Even though they were fooled by the people of Gibeon, / Joshua should have asked instruction from God.

/We saints must always pray and follow the guidance of God. / Those who are awake in prayers will not be fooled / by tricks and disguise from other people. / Today's world is terribly evil.

/People trick and deceive others. / But we must not deceive others or be fooled by others. / Then what should we do to avoid being deceived? / We must be awake and pray to God.

/And we must possess wisdom. / We also need discernment. /People with such discernment will not be deceived. / We must discern whether it is the work of the devil or God.

/Israelites should have wondered, “why did they come here to claim that they are servants?” / So many people today are deceived because they lack understanding. / Since Joshua did not inquire of the LORD, he was deceived and made a peace treaty. / How did they make a peace treaty?

/Verse 15. / Then Joshua made a treaty of peace with them to let them live, and the leaders of the assembly ratified it by oath.

/They made an oath while making the peace treaty. / They promised in front of the people. / They also made an oath. / Unlike them, we must be careful in making an oath.

/Due to the oath, / they were not able to destroy the Canaanites. / And they have become the object of fear and blame to the Israelites.

/We can avoid these kinds of harm only if we first inquire of the LORD. / It was a grave mistake for Joshua not to do so. / And making a covenant with them / and ratifying it by oath was another mistake.

/We must simply follow the guidance of God instead of making an oath in front of Him. / In whatever decision we make we must pray to God and follow His guidance. /It is easy for us to decide without God’s instruction / and make choices on our own

/So, we must learn from the mistake of Joshua and be able to discern everything. / And to do that, our spiritual eyes must be opened. / We must firmly stand on the Word of God as well.

/In addition, we must always pray to discern good and evil. /If we are not awake it is easy to be tricked by the devil and other people.

/In verses 16-19, the Israelite’s failure to destroy the people of Gibeon is recorded. / What was the reason? /Because Joshua has sworn an oath with them. / When the people of Israel marched little further, they realized that the people of Gibeon lived nearby.

/Verses 16-17. / Three days after they made the treaty with the Gibeonites, the Israelites heard that they were neighbors, living near them. So the Israelites set out and on the third day came to their cities: Gibeon, Kephirah, Beeroth and Kiriath Jearim.

/It took three days for them to realize that the people of Gibeon lived nearby. / Many people today believe that their lies will be concealed forever. / But lies and truths will all be exposed ultimately. / God personally exposes them.

/We do not prosper when we deceive others. / We must not deceive God and our neighbors no matter what. / God exposes the lies that other people are not aware of. / Everything is revealed naked before God.

/And He understands our situations. / He knows what we think, / what we say, / and what kind of life we live. /Although other people may not know our situation, God knows everything.

/Hence, we must be conscious of God / and honestly live our life. / If we deceive others we are deceiving ourselves /and God will judge us when He exposes everything to the surface.

/Then we will not only be humiliated but / be humbled through the judgment of God. / We must learn from the people of Gibeon. / We must remember that all things will be revealed in the near future.

/God will surely judge all people according to their actions. / So, those who think of God and live according to their conscience will not lie. / Lies will all be revealed by God.

/Here, the people of Israel blamed the leaders because of the oath they have made. /They were blaming because the people of Gibeon could not be destroyed. / If the leaders had not sworn the oath, / their enemies could have been destroyed.

/Therefore, Joshua was blamed by the people because he made the oath without discernment in the beginning. / And because the oath cannot be undone, they cannot break it. / Now that they have sworn it, / they must strictly repent before God and fix it.

/However, the people of Gibeon had fear for God. /Why did they want a peace treaty to the extent of deceiving the Israelites? / They feared God. / And they knew that God has given the land of Canaan to the Israelites.

/They were aware that they are doomed to fall in war. / So they tried to make a peace treaty with Israel because they were aware of God's work. / They knew that they could not defeat Israel.

/Also, they feared the work of God / and understood that the land of Canaan was given to the Israelites. / Although it was wrong for them to lie, / they understood God in their heart.

/If they had faith, they would have prayed to God / by believing in His promise/ and relying in His goodness. / That is why a mere knowledge of God does not lead to any actions.

/But why did the people of Israel blame the elders and Joshua? / They did so because without the oath of the leaders, they would have been able to destroy the people of Gibeon.

/Verse 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,

/The people blamed their leaders because they were not able to attack the Gibeonites. / That is why the role of a leader is important even today. / It is easy to be blamed in just one wrong decision.

/Even in the church today the leaders must wisely decide in everything. / Then the leaders replied to people:

/Verse 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.

/They are saying that / they cannot touch the enemy because they have sworn an oath by the God of Israel. / Without this oath they could have attacked the enemies / but they have to keep the oath because they have made it before God.

/If we have sworn an oath in something that is against the truth, / we must not keep it even if others curse us and we must repent before God. / We should learn from the Israelites / and not make a covenant / or an oath without discernment.

/And we must follow the instruction of God no matter what we do. / Now, we can see Joshua rebuking the people of Gibeon. / It is written in verses 20-23.

/Verse 20. / This is what we will do to them: We will let them live, so that wrath will not fall on us for breaking the oath we swore to them."

/It is written, "This is what we will do to them: / We will let them live, so that wrath will not fall on us for breaking the oath we swore to them." / Joshua feared that the wrath of God will be upon them if they do not keep their oath.

/So, they did not kill them to keep their oath. / We must always fear God in whatever we do. / As they have promised, the people of Gibeon were spared from death.

/We must always fear for not obeying the Word of God. / People who fear God do not walk in the path of sin. /That is why God commanded the Israelites to appoint those who fear God as their leaders.

/Today, a lot of people do not fear God. / And they accomplish their tasks without consulting God. / But the leaders and members of the church should fear God.

/Will my actions cause the wrath God? / Would I not be punished by God for this decision? / People who fear God do not sin or become corrupt. / And they always strive to be proper before God.

/How many of leaders fear God today? / There are countless people who are not aware of God and live their life. / So many church leaders who fear God must be raised in churches today.

/They would not make a decision on their own. / They are aware that they would stand on the judgment seat of God one day. / Thus they try not to commit sin.

/And they would not walk the path of evil. / The churches today must be led by people who fear God to avoid corruption. / The Israelites today had to keep their oath because they feared God.

/However, the people of Gibeon were punished for their deception. /Although their life was spared, what did God do to them? / They became slaves for their sin. / What did God do to them?

/Verse 21. / They continued, "Let them live, but let them be woodcutters and water carriers for the entire community." So the promise of the leaders to them was kept.

/Although they were alive, they have become woodcutters and water carriers for the entire community. / They then became slaves of the Israelites.

/In verse 22 they were publicly rebuked. / Why have you deceived us? / If we sin against God and deceive others, He would rebuke us. / And when we receive His rebuke we must repent and turn from sin.

/Why does God rebuke us? / It is to correct us from our sins. / We must be attentive to the rebuking of God and repent of our sins.

/God sometimes uses the Word to rebuke us / and other times through the powerful working of the Holy Spirit.

/He also uses our conscience to rebuke us. / Environments and circumstances are used as tools to correct us. / And those who listens to the rebuke of God are blessed by God.

/He punishes us because He loves us. / But if we do not repent of our sins, / we would be destroyed by God. / So it is a blessing for us to return to God after He has corrected us.

/In verse 23, we can see how dreadful it is to deceive others.

/Verse 23. / You are now under a curse: You will never cease to serve as woodcutters and water carriers for the house of my God."

/It tells us how grave it is to deceive the people of God. /It is stated, "You are now under a curse" / We would be blessed if we faithfully keep our faith / but we would be cursed if we lie and deceive others.

/So what happened to the people of Gibeon? / It is written, "You will never cease to serve" / The people of Gibeon cannot escape from slavery under Israel. / They have become slaves forever.

/What were their tasks? / They have to cut woods / and carry water for Israelites.
/They have to serve the household of God without their rights. / We must remember this Word and fear God.

/We are failures if we are cursed by God/ even though we are in a good condition. /
On the other hand, if we are blessed by God, we are noble /even though we may be in a difficult situation.

/Moreover, our life can be restored when we receive the blessing of God. / Even if we are excellent in our studies and wealthy, / we will fail if we are cursed by God.

/That is why the people of Gibeon were doomed to eternal slavery / even though they were spared from death. / But of course, their life was spared because they believed and knew God in their heart.

/How did they know God? / It is written in verse 24.

/Verse 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.

/They knew through Moses what God would do to them. / They believed that the land of Canaan was given to Israel. / They knew very well through the rumors they have heard.

/Verse 25. / We are now in your hands. Do to us whatever seems good and right to you."

/"We are now in your hands. / Do to us whatever seems good / and right to you." /
"It doesn't matter what you do to us if you spare us from death." / They begged that
"they would receive any kind of punishment." /Then what was the response of Joshua?

/Verse 26. / So Joshua saved them from the Israelites, and they did not kill them.

/He did not kill them as he has promised to do so. /He promised and / saved their life as he promised. / But what kind of life did they live?

/Verse 27. / That day he made the Gibeonites woodcutters and water carriers for the community and for the altar of the LORD at the place the LORD would choose. And that is what they are to this day.

/They were doomed to eternal slavery although Joshua saved the people of Gibeon from death.

/This is the end of the ninth lecture on the book of Joshua. / Thank you.