

BOOK OF JOSHUA
THE WILES OF THE ENEMY
JOSHUA 9:1-27

Introduction

We saw last time that the people of **ISRAEL** had just defeated the city of **AI**. Now we see where they were preparing to march deeper into **CANAAN** as they were claiming the **PROMISED LAND** the **LORD** had given to them.

With **JERICHO** and **AI** behind them, they had a couple of **VICTORIES** under their belts. But they had to **LEARN** a difficult **LESSON** before they were allowed to defeat **AI**! We're going to see there were more **LESSONS** for them to **LEARN** as they moved forward to possess the land that **GOD** had **PROMISED** them.

That is the way it is with the **CHRISTIAN** life a lot of times too. We seem to have to **LEARN** some **LESSONS** the hard way at times. And right after we **LEARN** one **LESSON** there always seems to be another **LESSON** that we have to **LEARN** as we continue to grow in our **WALK** with the **LORD**.

The next **LESSON** that the **CHILDREN OF ISRAEL** had to **LEARN** deals with **THE WILES OF THE ENEMY**! And we will see how this story should be one that we that we all need to take heed of as well!

The **BIBLE** tells us in *1 Peter 5:8* that our "**ADVERSARY, THE DEVIL, as a roaring lion, walketh about seeking whom he may devour.**" He is a very effective **ADVERSARY** or **ENEMY**! **PAUL WARNED** that we must **PUT ON THE WHOLE ARMOR OF GOD** to be able to **STAND AGAINST HIS WILES** and **PETER** told us to **RESIST** him **STEDFAST** in the **FAITH**!

As we study this passage, let's **LEARN** the **LESSON** that **ISRAEL** had to **LEARN**. There is danger in falling for the **WILES OF THE ENEMY**!

Read: vs 1-13

I. WE NEED TO KNOW THAT OUR ENEMY CAN DECEIVE US!
(Vs 1-13)

When all the kings of **CANAAN** heard what had happened to **AI** and to **JERICHO**, they joined forces to seek to defeat **ISRAEL**! *(Vs 1-2)*

BOOK OF JOSHUA
THE WILES OF THE ENEMY
JOSHUA 9:1-27

The kings of the **Hittites, the Amorites, the Canaanites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites**, were sworn **ENEMIES** of each other, nevertheless, they formed an alliance to fight together against the **ISRAELITES**!

Isn't it amazing how the **DEVIL'S CROWD** will join up to fight **GOD'S** people? That is how our **ENEMY** works!

A1. ISRAEL'S Enemy Used DECEPTIVE WILES! *(Vs 3-5)*
When the **GIBEONITES** heard that the **ISRAELITES** were headed in their direction, they devised a **SCHEME** to **TRICK ISRAEL** into making a peace treaty with them.

They dressed in old clothes, carried old bread and wine and pretended that they were from far away.

They did everything in their power to **TRICK ISRAEL**.

A2. Our Enemy Also Uses DECEPTIVE WILES!
Ephesians 6:11 warns us to "*Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.*"

The word "**WILES**" refers to "*deceit, trickery, cunning arts.*"

We can trace **SATAN'S WILES** all the way back to the **GARDEN OF EDEN** as he engaged **EVE** in conversation at the **TREE OF KNOWLEDGE OF GOOD AND EVIL**!

Remember how **SATAN** got her to question the **COMMANDMENT OF GOD** and what would happen to her if she ate of the tree? **Through his SUBTLETIES he caused her to FOCUS on the TREE instead of on the LORD!**

Remember what she told the LORD when HE questioned her about what she had done? Genesis 3:13b— "...The serpent beguiled me , and I did eat."

BOOK OF JOSHUA
THE WILES OF THE ENEMY
JOSHUA 9:1-27

“beguiled” means *“to lead astray, i.e. (mentally) to delude.”*

SATAN likes nothing better than to trip us up and cause us to fall into one of his **traps**. The APOSTLE PAUL, in giving TIMOTHY the qualifications for bishop, elder, or pastor said: *1 Timothy 3:7*—*“Moreover he must have a good report of them which are without; lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.”*

The word *‘snare’* refers to a **trap set** by a hunter in order that he might capture his prey.

So, SATAN loves to use **DECEPTIVE WILES** against us, just like the people of GIBEON did against ISRAEL.

B. Note The DECEPTIVE TACTICS! (Vs 3-6)

The GIBEONITES had taken every step possible to **DECEIVE ISRAEL** into believing that they were from a far away country.

They carried old sacks on their donkeys, broken and bound up wine skins, patched shoes shabby clothing and even some moldy bread.

Things are not always as they may appear, are they?

When SATAN comes against us it usually isn't openly, it is with **TOOLS OF DECEPTION**. Note that the APOSTLE PAUL warns us about this in *2 Corinthians 11:13-15*

C. Note The DECEPTIVE WORDS! (Vs 6-13)

We see that these men from GIBEON outright **LIED!** They claimed to be something they were not! They didn't mention anything that had happened since ISRAEL had crossed JORDAN, giving the impression that they had indeed been traveling for quiet some time.

BOOK OF JOSHUA
THE WILES OF THE ENEMY
JOSHUA 9:1-27

Again, this is a picture of our **ENEMY, THE DEVIL!**
(Look at what JESUS said about him in *John 8:44!*)

He will use his **SLICK LIES** and **ENTICING SPEECH** to get us to yield to his plans for our life.

Colossians 2:8—*“Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.”*

Satan and those that are his will give us every reason in the world to justify in our minds the things he wants us to do.

e.g. He **DECEIVES** us into thinking someone doesn't deserve our **FORGIVENESS** so that he can get us to hold **BITTERNESS** and **UNFORGIVENESS** in our hearts toward them!

Hebrews 12:14-15—*“14 Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord: 15 Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled;”*

2 Corinthians 2:10-11—*To whom ye forgive any thing, I forgive also: for if I forgave any thing, to whom I forgave it, for your sakes forgave I it in the person of Christ; Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices.*

**II. WE NEED TO KNOW THAT OUR ENEMY CAN DECEIVE!
WE NEED TO KNOW THAT OUR ENEMY CAN DIVERT!
(Vs 14-21)**

We see that **JOSHUA** and **ISRAEL** were **DIVERTED** away from being **OBEDIENT** to **GOD'S COMMAND** here! But it didn't have to be that way!

In *verse 7*, **JOSHUA** initially was rightfully a little skeptical of these so-called ambassadors.

He questioned them about their origin again in *verse 8*.

**BOOK OF JOSHUA
THE WILES OF THE ENEMY
JOSHUA 9:1-27**

One might even commend **JOSHUA** for his **CAUTION** here except for the fact that he gave up that **CAUTION** just a little too soon! He allowed himself to get **DIVERTED** from his **CAUTION** by their **DECEPTION!**

When the **GIBEONITES** showed him their clothes, their food and the broken wineskins, **JOSHUA** dropped his caution and believed their story!

What should **JOSHUA** and the **ELDERS** have done that they did not do here? *Hint: This is one of the lessons they apparently did not learn after their failure at AI!* They didn't take this to the **LORD!**

Do you think that **PRAYING** and **SEEKING COUNSEL** of the **LORD** might have helped them here?

Well, they didn't seek the **LORD** and as a result, they stepped out of the **WILL OF GOD** and **SUFFERED THE CONSEQUENCES!**

JOSHUA and ISRAEL were DIVERTED from GOD'S COUNSEL! (Vs 15-21)

GOD had told them to utterly destroy the inhabitants and to make no covenants with them.

Deuteronomy 7:2—"And when the LORD thy God shall deliver them before thee; thou shalt smite them, and utterly destroy them; thou shalt make no covenant with them, nor shew mercy unto them."

However, **ISRAEL DISOBEYED** this **COMMAND** and as a result they **SINNED** before the **LORD!**

How many times has this been true in our lives? When we don't take the time to **PRAY** or consider the **WORD OF GOD**, we too jump headlong into things and don't realize that we have made a mistake until it's too late!

**BOOK OF JOSHUA
THE WILES OF THE ENEMY
JOSHUA 9:1-27**

When our **SPIRITUAL VISION** gets dim through neglect of the **WORD OF GOD** and **PRAYER**, we too become very susceptible to the **TRICKS** and **TRAPS** and **DIVERSIONS** of the **ENEMY!**

The only way that we can see things clearly when **SATAN** is trying to muddy the waters so that we can't see is through **PRAYER** and **THE WORD OF GOD!**

Matthew 7:7-8—"7 Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: 8 For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened."

Psalms 119:105—"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path."

GOD will **LEAD** us in our decisions when we **SEEK HIS WILL** through **HIS WORD** and in **PRAYER!** But **GOD** is not going to force us to seek **HIS COUNSEL!**

III. WHEN WE MESS UP WE SOMETIMES HAVE TO LIVE WITH SEVERE CONSEQUENCES OF WHAT WE'VE DONE! (Vs 22-27)

When **JOSHUA** found out what the **GIBEONITES** had done, he rebuked them and confronted them about their **DECEPTION.**

There is no question that **JOSHUA** and **ISRAEL** made a mistake when they dealt with the **GIBEONITES.** There were **CONSEQUENCES** for having made a league with them.

JOSHUA realized the seriousness of what they had done and he immediately took the necessary steps to try to minimize the damage! They couldn't kill them, because they have given them their word, but they could control the situation as best they could! So they made them their servants!

BOOK OF JOSHUA
THE WILES OF THE ENEMY
JOSHUA 9:1-27

Listen, there are going to be times when we will step out of the **LORD'S WILL** and commit **SIN**.

But thankfully **GOD** has a way for us to deal with **SIN**, through **CONFESSION, REPENTANCE, and FORGIVENESS!**

But we must face the fact that our **SINS** can bring forth some **CONSEQUENCES** that we have to live with that we'd rather not have. Nevertheless, we can and should get right with the **LORD** and get back to serving **HIM FAITHFULLY!**

We must **LEARN** from our **SINS** and our **FAILURES** so that we do not fall into those same **TRAPS** again!