

Marching to Victory: God's Grace amid Man's Weakness- Josh 9

Scene 1 – Kings of Canaan Collaborate to Fight Israel [1-2]

(Tension Created but not resolved until 10:42-43)

1. Why did all these kings unite to fight against God's people?
 - a. Realized Israel's battle plan from Jericho and Ai
 - b. Significance of 8:30-35 – Law in Stone, Law of the Land
 - Ungodly always rebels in concerted effort, Rom 8:7

Paul Harvey's comment on prayer; Push of Homosexuals, Abortionists, ACLU (Christmas, evolution) against anything from Bible

- They will eventually take the offensive

What happened when* forces of evil will not stay on the defensive

God became flesh? * forces of evil will never quit They killed Him!

Biblical Truth: the flesh never surrenders to the new nature

"The farther a Christian advances into an experiential entrance into and enjoyment of the spiritual heritage, the fiercer the conflict becomes, and the more determined and concentrated the efforts of his enemies to thwart him." *A. W. Pink*

2. Why did all the kings not fear Israel, yet Gibeon did?
 - a. God was working out His plan, the defeat of Canaanites
 - b. Israel would be tested; God would show His power to deliver

Scene 2 – Gibeonite's Plan of Deception [3-6]

(Subplot – tension created: what will Gibeon do to Israel?)

("Craftily/Cunningly" - can be pos. (Prov 1:4; 8:5, 12) or neg. (Ex 21:14)

1. Occurred at Gilgal – place where reproach rolled away, victory, rededication (circumcision and Passover)

Biblical Truth: pride returns if not constantly putting off the flesh

2. Israel needed to heed warnings: Ex 34:12; Deut 7:2; 20:15-16
3. NT warnings: 1 Cor 10:12; 15:33; Gal 6:7; _____

Biblical Truth: Satan's 2 ploys to destroy believers attack or deceive

Scene 3 – Israel Duped by Gibeonites [7-15]

1. Joshua and elders suspicious because asked questions
2. They acknowledge God's name and power and being their servants but nothing on this side of Jordan
3. Why didn't Joshua and elders ask God? Self-sufficient Ja 1:5
4. Not deliberate disobedience but "overtaken in a fault" Gal 6:1

Biblical Truth: man's perceptions are faulty; God's counsel is always true – Proverbs 3:5-6 admire Gibeonites, saved themselves from destruction; Israel b/c humanitarian – seeking peace: Wrong view

Scene 4 – Israel Uncovers Deception [16-17]

It only took 3 days to uncover their error but a lifetime to live with it!

Scene 5 – Israel's Leaders Assume Responsibility [18-20]

1. Israel upset with leadership – wanted spoils, “journeyed”
2. Gibeon had to live and be protected, see 2 Sam 21:1-14

Biblical Truth: live with __consequences__ of wrong decisions when fail to consult the Lord on all matters

3. Examples: Abuse body; Marriage; Finances
4. Elders spared Gibeon from destruction, remembered God’s wrath

Biblical Truth: disobedience is never the __solution__ to bad consequences from previous disobedience

Scene 6 – Israel Punishes Gibeonites [21- 27]
(Subplot tension resolved)

1. They became woodcutters and water carriers for Israel
2. They served near the altar of the Lord

Biblical Truth: obedience provides __conditions__ in which God works the unexpected, His grace

3. Gibeonites were liars, deceivers, under judgment, and exposed to God’s wrath, but God placed them where they could learn of the true God and His sacrifice for sin. There is no record of rebellion. In fact at least one of David’s mighty men was a Gibeonite. Their descendants were termed devoted persons or Nethinim and had a place of honored service in the temple. 1 Chron 9:2; Ezra 8:20; Nehemiah 7:60 They were also included in the genealogies of the Jews who returned from Babylon and helped rebuild the Temple.