

## Trouble For The Gibeonites.

Joshua 10:1-9

Sunday evening, March 14, 2010.

### I. Faith under fire.

- A. No sooner have we read of the budding humility, faith and grace in the hearts of the Gibeonites, or their new found faith and submission to Israel and the God of Israel is put to the test.
- B. It appears that at this time Joshua and all the men of war had retreated back to their camp at Gilgal, where they had first crossed the Jordan. It seems likely that the women and children and all the life stock etc. were left behind at Gilgal with a sizeable force for protection, for it would have been impractical to take all these along on a military campaign.  
It would seem likely that Joshua would from time to time bring his men back to Gilgal for a visit with their wives and families. At any rate Vs. 9 plainly states that Joshua and the men of war were back in Gilgal.
- C. This had created a little breathing room for the remaining kings in the Southern region of the land. They waste no time at all but band immediately together to accomplish two things:
  - 1. They band together to form a united front against Joshua and the Israelites.
  - 2. They want to make an example out of Gibeon for making a peace-treaty with Joshua lest any other cities might get such an idea.Since Joshua and the Israelites are back in Gilgal for the time being they start immediately with moving against the Gibeonites.

#### Application:

Such developments should not at all surprise us.

- 1. When a soul has chosen its allegiance with the Lord and with His people the enemy of grace and of the work of God will not sit still for long. Soon he will move to destroy the young budding work of grace.
- 2. If such is the case on the part of the kingdom of darkness, there are reasons for these developments as well on the part of the kingdom of light:
  - Faith needs to be exercised.
  - Grace needs to grow.
  - Commitments need to be deepened, strengthened, and renewed.
  - Humility needs to grow.

There are many other examples in Scripture of this truth:

- 1. No sooner is Israel delivered out of Egypt or they find themselves pinned between the Red Sea and the Egyptian army, and later again they find themselves in a land without water and food. Will they trust God, calling on his name?
- 2. Joseph had two dreams regarding future greatness, yet the next thing he knows is enslavement and prison life in a foreign country. Will he trust God?
- 3. David is anointed as king as a youngster by Samuel. The next thing he knows is that he is being chased all over the countryside by king Saul and his armies. Will he trust God?
- 4. Moses understood that he was to guide Israel out of Egypt, yet the next thing he

knows is that he finds himself far from Israel in the land of Midian, shepherding a flock of sheep for forty years. Will he trust God?.

5. Joseph and Mary bring the little Christ-child into the world, and the next thing they know is that Herod comes down to Bethlehem to kill all baby boys. They flee to Egypt. Will they trust God?

And what about you? Have you chosen your allegiance? What are your expectations as a result of that choice? James says: "My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience (endurance). But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect (mature) and complete, lacking nothing." James 1:2-4.

## II. Choose you this day whom you will serve...

- A. To live is to make choices; it is to find ourselves in ever so many ways standing at a crossroad and making a choice. Some of these choices are more significant than others. Some are monumental.
- B. The Gibeonites had made a monumental decision to make a peace treaty with Israel, and to make themselves no more than slaves in the kingdom of the people of God. It had been an exercise in faith and humility on their part.
- C. Now that faith and humility and that faith commitment were being challenged by a mighty alliance of kings.
  1. Gibeon has once again to make a monumental decision. Will they stay the course of their allegiance to Israel and its God?
  2. There was a temptation here. Humanly speaking they had not done very well negotiating with Joshua and Israel. They had been reduced to slaves.
  3. Could they renounce their allegiance to Joshua and get a better deal from these Canaanite kings if they rejoined their cause? They sure could use the help, and the Gibeonites were known as mighty men Vs. 2.
- D. See the deepening of the work of faith and of grace and humility, and the strengthening of commitments as they re-affirm and commit themselves again to a life of slavery in the household of God. They send their delegation, not to the Canaanite kings, but to Joshua, and they appeal to him for help.

Application:

Have you stood at these crossroads? Have you chosen again to rather be a humble servant in the household of God than to dwell in the tents of wickedness?

## III. Not forsaken.

- A. Word seems to have reached Joshua, some 15 miles away in Gilgal, late in the afternoon. Joshua wastes no time; he gathers his army and marches all night so as to arrive at Gibeon by morning. Yet he does so only after seeking and receiving assurances from the Lord regarding this venture.
- B. Here we see something of the greatness of Joshua's character. He honors his treaty though it was made with pagan slaves and as a result of deceit.

Application.

Here we see that once the decision is made and the lot is cast in with the Lord and His people in humble faith, that help is not very far away. It comes with haste, even if it has to march all night.