

Joshua Chapter 09 Commentary

1 ¶ And it came to pass, when all the kings which were on this side Jordan, in the hills, and in the valleys, and in all the coasts of the great sea over against Lebanon, the Hittite, and the Amorite, the Canaanite, the Perizzite, the Hivite, and the Jebusite, heard thereof; 2 That they gathered themselves together, to fight with Joshua and with Israel, with one accord.

Notice, all these kings, who possibly are enemies to one another, now make league to fight together against Israel, and therefore against God. Why? They know that they cannot stand before the God of Israel individually, because they know what God has done to Egypt. They know what God has done to the kings of Amorites, Sihon and Og, on the other side of Jordan river. They know what has happened to Jericho, and to Ai, whose kings fell before Israel. Therefore, all these kings join forces to fight the God of Israel with their combined strength. These kings and their cities represent about one-half of the remainder of the land of promise.

We see this same scenario happening in the world today. In almost all countries of the world there is a combined attack upon the name of Christ Jesus, who is "**The**" God of all the heavens and earth, and the Christian world. In many places you can talk about God, and no one pays a lot of attention, however, you mention the name of Jesus Christ, as the one and only Saviour of the souls of men, and you will soon have a fight on your hands.

Now, let's bring this down to a personal level. When you are born again, you make your open confession of Christ as Saviour, and you join the organized church body, the whole of your adamic nature is gathered to war against you. Satan knows that he cannot win against Christ, but he will be trying until he is finally cast into the eternal lake of fire forever. Our sinful flesh nature will be waring against our new Christian nature, as long as we live in time. After all, we are told in scripture what the devil is doing on earth, seen in: **1Pe 5:8-9; 8 "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: 9 Whom resist steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world."**

The great consolation, that the born-again sinner has, is Christ has already won the war, seen in: **Joh 16:33 "These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world."** and has given us eternal life and occupation in the eternal heaven.

Yes, we, like Israel here in time, will have to fight every day to maintain our habitation in the land of promise. Yes, we, like we see Israel in this chapter, will fail to seek God's council and fall into the snares of satan. But we serve a God, who has provided the propitiation of our sins and failures. Thank you, Lord Jesus, for the eternal forgiveness of our sins.

3 ¶ And when the inhabitants of Gibeon heard what Joshua had done unto Jericho and to Ai, 4 They did work wilily, and went and made as if they had been ambassadors, and took old sacks upon their asses, and wine bottles, old, and rent, and bound up; 5 And old shoes and clouted upon their feet, and old garments upon them; and all the bread of their provision was dry and mouldy.

Dear Christian friends, know; as soon as you make your declaration of faith in Christ Jesus as your Saviour and Lord, the devil will begin to scheme and plot against you. Know; he understands the weakness of the flesh nature, and its tendency to sin and the pleasures thereof. Know; the devil will be tempting you in every way imaginable, and ways that aren't imaginable, to disobey your Saviour and God. Consider these truths:

- The devil is busy falsifying the word of God by changing it, even as he did in the garden of Eden. How many different versions of the bible are there in the world today? Notice, I said versions, not translations; because we believe the King James translation is the only pure, and true, translation in existence today. The devil often changes wording in the bible under the guise of making the bible easier for men to understand, and it accomplishes just that. What do you mean? I mean, the perverted word of the bible is easy to understand, because it changes the true Word of God, from the will and word of God, to what the flesh of man likes to hear, as we see described in: ***2Ti 4:3-4; 3 "For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; 4 And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.*** This is the reason there are so many versions of the bible, in the stead of the one true bible.
- How many different religious orders are there in the world today? Understand, Christ Jesus only established one true church. However, the devil has worked in disguise, to separate people from the way which Christ prepared for his people to walk, and live, in Christian fellowship.
- How many organized church bodies have been infiltrated, by satan getting them to introduce worldly means into the church order, under the guise of; this is a means to eternally save people. We know that eternal salvation is of the Lord only.
- And on goes the list, of innumerable means, which the devil uses to disguise his infiltration into the lives of God's people, and true worship of God.

6 And they went to Joshua unto the camp at Gilgal, and said unto him, and to the men of Israel, We be come from a far country: now therefore make ye a league with us. 7 And the men of Israel said unto the Hivites, Peradventure ye dwell among us; and how shall we make a league with you?

Israel knows; God has proclaimed; they are to kill all the inhabitants, of the land that he has given them, and destroy all their idols and idolatrous things. This is God's way of purging the land of promise, of the " ***iniquity of the Amorites.***" We know this because of the covenant God made with Abraham in: ***Ge 15:13-16; 13 "And he said unto Abram, Know of a surety that thy seed shall be a stranger in a land that is not theirs, and shall serve them; and they shall afflict them four hundred years; 14 And also that nation, whom they shall serve, will I judge: and afterward shall they come out with great substance. 15 And thou shalt go to thy fathers in peace; thou shalt be buried in a good old age. 16 But in the fourth generation they shall come hither again: for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet full.***" We know the iniquity of the Amorites is full; because, God has brought Israel into the land of promise.

8 And they said unto Joshua, We are thy servants. And Joshua said unto them, Who are ye? and from whence come ye? 9 And they said unto him, From a very far country thy servants are come because of the name of the LORD thy God: for we have heard the fame of him, and all that he did in Egypt, 10 And all that he did to the two kings of the Amorites, that were beyond Jordan, to Sihon king of Heshbon, and to Og king of Bashan, which was at Ashtaroth. 11 Wherefore our elders and all the inhabitants of our country spake to us, saying, Take victuals with you for the journey, and go to

meet them, and say unto them, We are your servants: therefore now make ye a league with us. 12 This our bread we took hot *for* our provision out of our houses on the day we came forth to go unto you; but now, behold, it is dry, and it is mouldy: 13 And these bottles of wine, which we filled, *were* new; and, behold, they be rent: and these our garments and our shoes are become old by reason of the very long journey.

Did you notice that everything the inhabitants of Gibeon told Israel is a lie? We remember that scripture teaches us about lies in:

- ***Joh 8:44 "Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it."*** We understand that lying is of the devil, not of Christ who is truth.
- ***1Jo 2:22 "Who is a liar but he that denieth that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist, that denieth the Father and the Son."*** If anyone attempts to tell you, or get you to believe, that Jesus was not the Christ, the virgin born Son of God, you can know that they are in the clutches of satan and sin.

This proposal should have made Israel wary of a trap. If these people lived that far away, why would they want to be servants to Israel? Secondly, if they were that far away, how did they know about the kings of the Amorites, Sihon and Og, who had very recently been overcome? After all, Israel had one destination and they are now in it. Thus, we in hindsight can say; no other nation, outside of the land of promise, was to be destroyed for Israel to inhabit; therefore, no other nation had any reason to be distressed, and no need to make league with Israel. Israel should have remembered; their promise of a land which they were to inherit is just this one place, to which God has already given them the boundaries.

The devil will use any ruse he can, to deceive God's people, and through lies and deceit, he will get them to trip themselves into the traps he has set. Satan uses lies and deceit to infiltrate the individual Christians, the individual church congregations, individual religious orders, and the affiliated bodies of believers in Christ that commune and fellowship together, seen in: ***1Pe 5:6-9; 6 "Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time: 7 Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you. 8 ¶ Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: 9 Whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world."***

Understand, the goal of satan is to foil the plan of God, which is for his people to inhabit the land of promise, which is the visible church established by Jesus, the Christ. This can only be accomplished in time; Why? Because Christ Jesus has eternally secured our place of habitation in eternity, and everyone that is chosen by God to be an occupant thereof.

14 And the men took of their victuals, and asked not *counsel* at the mouth of the LORD. 15 ¶ And Joshua made peace with them, and made a league with them, to let them live: and the princes of the congregation sware unto them.

Oh, how much sorrow, grief, and distress of mind, we could save ourselves, if we always sought the council of God first, and then made our decisions. This demonstrates another ploy of the devil. How

often, do we see evidence put before us that seems to be the truth, and we fall for the deception? Oh, the wiles of the devil, and temptation, are very subtle and easily swallowed. How often do we hear one side of a story, forgetting we haven't heard both sides.

Don't you reckon that is why Christ told his disciples in: ***Mr 14:38 Watch ye and pray, lest ye enter into temptation. The spirit truly is ready, but the flesh is weak.***" And why, we are further commanded in: ***1Jo 4:1 "Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.***" Don't you suppose; there are more false prophets, antichrists, and their followers, today, than there were when this was written?

Understand, I cast no stones at Joshua and Israel, I have often fallen into the snare of satan myself. Why? Because I didn't watch and pray, and I didn't try the spirit to see if it was of God.

16 And it came to pass at the end of three days after they had made a league with them, that they heard that they were their neighbours, and that they dwelt among them. 17 And the children of Israel journeyed, and came unto their cities on the third day. Now their cities were Gibeon, and Cephirah, and Beeroth, and Kirjathjearim. 18 And the children of Israel smote them not, because the princes of the congregation had sworn unto them by the LORD God of Israel. And all the congregation murmured against the princes. 19 But all the princes said unto all the congregation, We have sworn unto them by the LORD God of Israel: now therefore we may not touch them.

We see that as Israel makes her approach to take the cities of these deceivers, the deceivers suddenly make it known; this is our home; and you covenanted to not destroy us. This now puts Israel in a dilemma. What shall we do? God has told us to kill all the inhabitants of the land, but we have given our word of life to them.

Apply this to your own Christian life. Do you see how the devil will ensnare you to give your word about something that is against the will of God? When you go to remove that snare out of your life, the devil is right back reminding you; you gave your word of promise, and if you break it; you will disgrace the name of your God. Oh, the need; to live our lives in carefulness is so great. May God, always, enlighten our hearts, and minds, to seek after him first, and keep our fleshly sin nature in check.

20 This we will do to them; we will even let them live, lest wrath be upon us, because of the oath which we sware unto them. 21 And the princes said unto them, Let them live; but let them be hewers of wood and drawers of water unto all the congregation; as the princes had promised them. 22 ¶ And Joshua called for them, and he spake unto them, saying, Wherefore have ye beguiled us, saying, We are very far from you; when ye dwell among us? 23 Now therefore ye are cursed, and there shall none of you be freed from being bondmen, and hewers of wood and drawers of water for the house of my God.

Finding out they have been deceived; Israel realizes they cannot break their word of oath and bring shame upon the name of God. Joshua admonishes them for their deceit, and declares they are cursed for their deceitfulness. He also reminds them, when you came to us, you declared you were our servants. Therefore, your curse is that you will be our servants, and you will live your lives laboring under the yoke of providing wood, for the fires of sacrifices to our God, and providing the water needed to carry out the rituals, of our sacrifice and worship of God and for all Israel.

24 And they answered Joshua, and said, Because it was certainly told thy servants, how that the LORD thy God commanded his servant Moses to give you all the land, and to destroy all the inhabitants of the land from before you, therefore we were sore afraid of our lives because of you, and have done this thing. 25 And now, behold, we are in thine hand: as it seemeth good and right unto thee to do unto us, do. 26 And so did he unto them, and delivered them out of the hand of the children of Israel, that they slew them not. 27 And Joshua made them that day hewers of wood and drawers of water for the congregation, and for the altar of the LORD, even unto this day, in the place which he should choose.

Now, they see the answer, of the question I put forth in my comments between verses 13 and 14. They knew they were the next stop for Israel to annihilate. They knew that God had given them to be slain. Therefore, they used deceit to save their lives. They are glad to be servants, after all, the alternative would have been death.

I do think it is quite appropriate, since they knew that their death sentence had been pronounced by God, that Joshua made them servants to serve the altar of God. Certainly, this would be a continual punishment for them to provide the needs for Israel to worship God, instead of worshipping their own gods.

We, God's chosen people, like Israel was God's chosen people, know that in the end, all those who have not been saved by the grace of God will spend eternity in the lake of fire, suffering forever under the burden of the lies and deceit they lived by in time.

Our heavenly Father, we give you thanks, and praise, for the finished work of Christ, which has wrought our eternal salvation, and has secured us an eternal habitation in your presence. Hallelujah! Amen!