

No fooling! Joshua 9

March 6, 2022

A story of how some Canaanites escaped destruction/judgment and came under the protection/blessing of God's covenant people.

Of any biblical narrative we should ask two questions:

- Why is this here? (other stories were *not* told, why this?)
- Why is this here? (context, placement, takeaways, etc.)

Preface: an enemy coalition gathers against Israel (9:1-2)

1) God's covenant relationship is with real people (9:3-15)

Covenant is more than rules to obey, not less
(see also Deut. 6:1-4)

Check with God. Where was Eleazar, the priest ?
(see also Numbers 27:18-21)

Once you're in a covenant relationship, you're in !
(see also John 6:37; 10:28)

2) God's purposes stand even when we get it wrong (9:16-27)

Noah had cursed Canaan's descendants to serve Shem's
(see also Gen. 9:26**)

Canaanites are included in the Abrahamic covenant
(see also Gen. 12:3; Luke 24:47; Acts 1:8; Rev. 7:9-10)

Jesus was impressed with the faith of a Canaanite woman
(see also Matt. 15:22-28)

On Your Own (better with others)

1. COMPARE Rahab (Josh 2) and the Gibeonites (Josh. 9)

What did they each say about YHWH?

What does the inclusion of Canaanites, Rahab (a prostitute) and some people from Gibeon (liars), tell you about God's heart for all?

Does God save any good people? (Rom. 3:9-18)

2. Tell of a time when you kept your word, or promise (Psa. 15:4), even though it caused you to miss out on something.

3. The people of Israel forgot what they just heard (Exod. 34:11-12 and Deut. 7:1-2; 20:16-17)? How can this be prevented?

4. READ James 2:22-25. What is the key to not forgetting what we read in the Bible?

5. The Gibeonites were cursed to serve near the tabernacle. How might that have been a blessing, after all? (see Psalm 84:10)

6. Discuss the following and suggest a personal application to your own life.

The Gibeonites came under the covenantal blessings of God by trickery. They were perpetual servants of the Israelites, on the fringes of the community. We get into the covenantal blessings of God by the perfect obedience and sinless sacrifice of the Son. All who are in Christ are a new creation, the old has gone, behold the new is come. There are no second class citizens among true followers of Christ.

** <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/damn-curse-ham/>