

Joshua, Judges & Ruth

In Those Days There
Was No King in Israel

Lesson 3 • May 1 • Joshua 9-14 • Tricky Gibeonites, the Sun Stands Still & Courageous Caleb

As soon as all the kings who were beyond the Jordan in the hill country and in the lowland all along the coast of the Great Sea toward Lebanon, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Canaanites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites, heard of this, they gathered together as _____ to _____ against Joshua and Israel. (Josh 9:1-2)

But one group of people—the inhabitants of Gibeon—“acted with cunning,” approaching the Israelites with worn-out sacks, wineskins, clothes, and sandals (9:3-5). They fooled Joshua, convincing him that they were “from a very distant country,” having heard of the name of “the LORD your God” and a report of what he had done to Egypt and the kings beyond the Jordan River.

So the men [of Israel] took some of their provisions, but did not ask _____ from the LORD. (9:14)

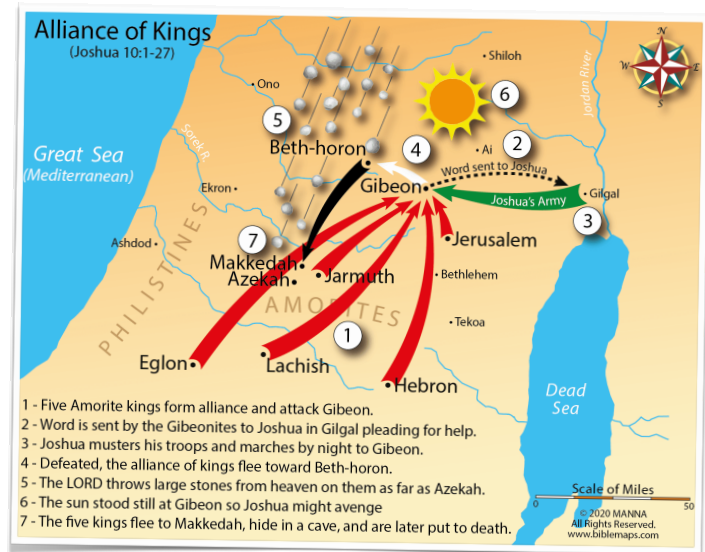
When Joshua discovered that he had been tricked, he kept his word and allowed the Gibeonites to live, making them cutters of wood and drawers of water for the congregation.

In **Joshua 10**, five Canaanite kings decide to attack Gibeon for making peace with Israel, and Joshua continued to keep his word by coming to their defense. The LORD “threw” the Canaanite armies “into a panic before Israel, even causing large _____ to fall on them. As Joshua continued the fight, he prayed that the sun would stand still and incredibly, “the sun _____ in the midst of heaven and did not hurry to set for about a whole day” (10:12-14), allowing the Israelites to completely conquer that alliance of Canaanite kings.

Joshua 10:29-12:24 describes the rest of the conquest of Canaan, summarizing the many victories of Joshua, “because the LORD God of Israel fought _____ Israel” (10:42).

So Joshua took the whole land, according to all that the LORD had spoken to Moses. And Joshua gave it for an _____ to Israel according to their tribal allotments. And the land had _____ from war. (11:23)

When Joshua was “old and advanced in years” (13:1), the land began to be divided for an inheritance to the tribes of Israel. At the end of **Joshua 14**, we are reintroduced to Joshua’s fellow spy, _____, now _____ years old. Unlike so many others, Caleb had “_____ the LORD” his God (14:8-9, 14). Hebron became his inheritance as Caleb continued to walk by faith.



For Class & Family Discussion:

- Let's take a moment to remind ourselves that what we are reading in *Joshua* is the fulfillment of a promise God made to Abram more than 400 years earlier. Let's go back and read [Genesis 15:12-21](#) together...
 - Where were Abraham's descendants afflicted servants for four hundred years?
 - How did God describe "the Amorites" who lived in the land of Canaan?
 - In your own words, when the LORD made "a covenant" with Abram, what was he doing?
 - In the grand scheme of things, why did all of this happen? Where was it all ultimately leading? [Genesis 12:1-3](#) might also be good to visit at this point...
- Is there anything we can learn from the summary in [Joshua 9:14](#)? How can we "ask counsel from the LORD" today?
- When we hear in [Joshua 10:14](#) and [10:42](#) that the LORD "fought for Israel," what are we being told?
- As the LORD begins to describe the inheritance of each tribe, take a look at [Joshua 13:14](#). Why didn't Levi get a land inheritance? How were they going to live and thrive?
- When Caleb is described as a man who "wholly followed the LORD, the God of Israel" ([14:8-9, 14](#)), what are we being told? What sort of man was Caleb? What might it look like for me and you to "wholly follow the LORD" today?
- Is there anything we can learn from the way Caleb talked as an eighty-five year old man in [Joshua 14:10-12](#)?