



August 9, 2026
Be Sure To Pray About It!
Joshua 9:1-21



1. **Sermon Outline:**

- a. Joshua Was Tricked Into Making Peace With People Under Condemnation
 - i. While most cities prepared for war, Gibeon tried to make peace with Israel
 - ii. Flattery and an appeal to reason overcame Israel's suspicions
 - iii. Joshua made a binding covenant that violated Israel's covenant with God
- b. Practice Godly Discernment Whenever a Door Opens
 - i. The Gibeonites offered a great opportunity that Joshua didn't take to the Lord
 - ii. Not every open door is intended for you to go through
 - iii. Use all of God's resources to discern His will, don't just "go with your gut"

2. **Sunday** – As soon as possible after the sermon, consider:

- a. What stood out to you the most in this sermon?
- b. What new truth did you learn, or what truth were you reminded of?
- c. Is there a particular Scripture passage you feel God is leading you to meditate on or commit to memory?
- d. What is one thing God is leading you to do after hearing this message?
- e. Did God convict you of a need to make any changes in your life and walk with Him?

3. **Monday:**

- a. Read Joshua 9.
- b. What are your first impressions after reading this chapter?
 - i. Before studying the chapter in more detail, why do you think God included the events recorded in this chapter in the Bible?
 - ii. What are the two main sections of the chapter?
 1. What title would you give to verses 1-15?
 2. What title would you give to verses 16-27?
 3. In your opinion, which section has the most relevance to our lives as Christians today?
- c. Locate Gibeon on a good Bible map (about 25 miles west of the Israelites' camp at Gilgal). What does its location suggest about how important this city may have been? [Note: Archaeological evidence places it at modern-day el-Jib and shows that it was a center for wine production. Sixty-three bell-shaped vats capable of holding 25,000 gallons of wine have been unearthed.]
- d. Read Deuteronomy 7:1-2 and 20:10-18.

- i. What did Moses tell the people was to be done to the Hivites? What did he specifically say must not be done?
- ii. Why did the provision for making an offer of peace (Deuteronomy 20:10) not apply to the Hivites?

4. ***Tuesday:***

- a. Read and meditate on Joshua 9:1-6.
- b. What were “these things” that the kings west of the Jordan heard about?
 - i. Why would “all the kings” have agreed to join together to fight against Joshua and Israel?
 - ii. According to Deuteronomy 7:1, how would this combined force have compared with Joshua’s army?
 - iii. In our age, we tend to think about things happening quickly. Consider the size of the Promised Land as described in verse 1. How long do you think it might have taken to meet, agree, and assemble? How do you think the reports they were hearing about Jericho and Ai would have changed this extended period?
- c. Although the people of Gibeon were Hivites, what is notably different about this city from the rest of the people listed in verse 1?
 - i. Who seems to have made the decision to resort to the ruse?
 - ii. Why would a king have been less inclined to take such an approach?
 - iii. What were the kings fighting to protect? The people of Gibeon?
- d. How reasonable do you think the Gibeonites’ plan was? What assumptions were they making when they prepared the plan?

5. ***Wednesday:***

- a. Read and meditate on Joshua 9:6-15.
- b. What did the Gibeonites do as they began their meeting with Joshua and the Israelites?
 - i. What other lies did they tell the Israelites in this passage? How does this demonstrate the truth of Mark Twain’s quotation: “A lie is like a snowball: the further you roll it, the bigger it becomes” or the old proverb (not from the Bible) “One lie calls for many”?
 - ii. Is there any other way they could have carried out their ruse? Does that justify the lies they tell?
 - iii. What would (should) have happened if they had told the truth?
 - iv. What do you think they hoped would happen by trying to get the Israelites to focus on the terms of a treaty immediately?
- c. How does the response in verse 8 by the men of Israel show that they are well aware of the Lord’s command through Moses?
- d. Why do you think the Gibeonites avoided a direct answer to Joshua’s question, “Who are you”?

- i. Instead of answering, what did they say in an attempt to endear themselves to Joshua?
 - ii. When they recounted the reports they had heard, what victories did they not mention? Why would they have wisely left those out?
 - iii. Compare the Gibeonites' claim with that of the Magi (Wise Men) who actually traveled from a distant country (Matthew 2:2). What did the Gibeonites not say/do that one might expect if they were truly impressed by God's actions?
- e. Who made the covenant with Gibeon? Who ratified it? Who bears the responsibility for this mistake (sin)?
- f. Verse 14 might be considered the low point of the chapter. What did Joshua and the other Israelite leaders fail to do? Why is this surprising given the events of the earlier chapters of Joshua?

6. **Thursday:**

- a. Read and meditate on Joshua 9:16-21 and 2 Samuel 21:1-6.
- b. How long did it take for the Israelites to learn the truth about whom they had made a treaty with?
 - i. Why do you think their initial reaction was to make a three-day journey to Gibeon?
 - ii. What do you think the Gibeonite delegation would have been thinking was going to happen during those 3 days? What do you think the people in Gibeon would have thought was about to happen as they saw the Israelites approaching?
 - iii. Why did it not happen?
 - iv. What was the reaction of the people? How did the leaders respond? What did the leaders obviously consider to be most important in this situation?
 - v. What did the leaders decide to do with the Gibeonites? What does the passage not tell us that the leaders did in reaching this decision that might have been expected after verse 14?
- c. How does 2 Samuel 21:1-6 show us that the leaders were right in their decision to let the Gibeonites live despite having erred in swearing to the treaty in the first place? Occurring hundreds of years later, how do the Gibeonites' responses show that they are still living by the terms of the treaty?

7. **Friday:**

- a. Read and meditate on Joshua 9:22-27.
- b. While the Israelite leaders had made their decision, what does Joshua do in this passage?
 - i. How does the curse Joshua announces differ in one detail (compare verses 21 and 23)?
 - ii. How does the curse found in Genesis 9:24 continue? Since the Bible presents curses as expressions of God's justice, what can we learn about His justice from these passages?

- c. What additional knowledge did the Gibeonites admit to having after Joshua informed them of their fate? What did they do in the end?
 - d. Where were the Gibeonites told that they would have to serve? Read 1 Chronicles 21:29 and 2 Chronicles 1:3. What would have been one of the most unexpected places?
8. **Saturday:**
- a. The story of Gibeon doesn't end in chapter 9. Finish the week by reading Joshua 10:1-15.
 - b. What was the reaction of the Amorite kings to the Israelite victories at Jericho and Ai?
 - c. How did they respond to the fact that Gibeon had made a peace treaty with Israel?
 - d. What was the outcome, and what makes it one of the most amazing battles reported in the Bible (or anywhere else)?
 - e. How did God use Joshua's mistake in making the treaty with Gibeon to benefit Joshua and the Israelites ultimately? If they had not defeated these five kings in a single battle, what would they have had to do later?
9. **Application:** Three applications we can take away from Israel's encounter with Gibeon are:
- a. Always go to the Lord in prayer and listen carefully for His guidance when making decisions. Even when the answer may seem obvious, we need to always seek His will before making a decision.
 - b. God can use our greatest mistakes to accomplish His will. In those areas where we feel we have failed most, God can turn them around and use them for His honor and glory while simultaneously blessing us. Of course, our greatest mistakes are always the sins we commit, but He has promised that "if we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive."
 - c. As Christians, we have an obligation to question what we are told. Jesus told us to "Watch out for false prophets " (Matthew 7:15), and 1 John 4:1 tells us, "Do not believe every spirit, but test the spirit to see whether they are from God." The Israelites started to do so but then seem to have just accepted what the leaders decided. While we have an obligation to obey leaders, we must remain vigilant that false teaching (lies) doesn't creep in.
10. **Pray:** The second in our tour of countries not often considered when praying for unreached people groups is Germany. One of the centers for the Protestant Reformation, Christianity has been declining steadily. Today, less than half of Germany's population claims to be Christian, and worse, only 2% are Evangelical – a number that decreases every year. Part of the percentage decline is due to the massive influx of immigrants over the past 40 years, yet some of these groups bring the most vibrant Christianity Germany has seen in decades. As in most other Western countries, those claiming "no religion" are growing the fastest, but New Age, the occult, Satanism, and new forms of old pagan religions are also increasing. Sadly, in view of this decline, the over 4 million members of Unreached Frontier People Groups (those with less than 0.1% Christians) can have little hope of learning about Christ in Germany.