**Joshua**

*Chapter 9*

* Amazing that enemies were able to be “with one accord” in their hatred and battle against Israel.
* Just as the priests, scribes, Pharisees and Sadducees united in opposing Jesus Christ.
* 27 ¶ And they come again to Jerusalem: and as he was walking in the temple, there come to him the chief priests, and the scribes, and the elders, 28 And say unto him, By what authority doest thou these things? and who gave thee this authority to do these things? (Mark 11:27-28)
* And they send unto him certain of the Pharisees and of the Herodians, to catch him in *his* words. (Mark 12:13)
* Then come unto him the Sadducees, which say there is no resurrection; and they asked him, saying, (Mark 12:18)
* And one of the scribes came, and having heard them reasoning together, and perceiving that he had answered them well, asked him, Which is the first commandment of all? (Mark 12:28)
* Modern Day Similarity – United Nations
* LEARNING
  + AW Pink – “No matter how marked or extensive the victory God grants us, we must not conclude that the worst of the fight is over.”
  + For Hope Baptist Church – the battle has just begun! Our enemy is the devil!
    - For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high *places*. (Eph 6:12)

World’s Response to Judgment – Part I

1. Strike Back
2. Strike A Deal
   * Make no covenant with the Canaanites
     + Thou shalt make no covenant with them, nor with their gods. (Exodus 23:32)
     + And when the LORD thy God shall deliver them before thee; thou shalt smite them, *and* utterly destroy them; thou shalt make no covenant with them, nor shew mercy unto them: (Deuteronomy 7:2)
   * Make no covenant nor have friendship with the world
     + Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God. (James 4:4)
     + 14 Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? 15 And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? (2 Corinthians 6:14-15)
   * No deal was necessary – God already had a plan
     + 10 ¶ When thou comest nigh unto a city to fight against it, then proclaim peace unto it. 11 And it shall be, if it make thee answer of peace, and open unto thee, then it shall be, *that* all the people *that is* found therein shall be tributaries unto thee, and they shall serve thee. 12 And if it will make no peace with thee, but will make war against thee, then thou shalt besiege it: 13 And when the LORD thy God hath delivered it into thine hands, thou shalt smite every male thereof with the edge of the sword: 14 But the women, and the little ones, and the cattle, and all that is in the city, *even* all the spoil thereof, shalt thou take unto thyself; and thou shalt eat the spoil of thine enemies, which the LORD thy God hath given thee. 15 Thus shalt thou do unto all the cities *which are* very far off from thee, which *are* not of the cities of these nations. 16 But of the cities of these people, which the LORD thy God doth give thee *for* an inheritance, thou shalt save alive nothing that breatheth: 17 But thou shalt utterly destroy them; *namely*, the Hittites, and the Amorites, the Canaanites, and the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites; as the LORD thy God hath commanded thee: (Deuteronomy 20:10-17)

The Right Gibeonite Response – Repentance

* 6 For word came unto the king of Nineveh, and he arose from his throne, and he laid his robe from him, and covered *him* with sackcloth, and sat in ashes. 7 And he caused *it* to be proclaimed and published through Nineveh by the decree of the king and his nobles, saying, Let neither man nor beast, herd nor flock, taste any thing: let them not feed, nor drink water: 8 But let man and beast be covered with sackcloth, and cry mightily unto God: yea, let them turn every one from his evil way, and from the violence that *is* in their hands. 9 Who can tell *if* God will turn and repent, and turn away from his fierce anger, that we perish not? 10 And God saw their works, that they turned from their evil way; and God repented of the evil, that he had said that he would do unto them; and he did *it* not. (Jonah 3:6-10)

World’s Response to Judgment – Part II (Starring the Gibeonites)

1. Lying
   * Hint to lies or deceit – They give an answer, but not to the question asked!
   * A false witness shall not be unpunished, and *he that* speaketh lies shall perish. (Proverbs 19:9)
   * And some of them would have taken him; but no man laid hands on him. (John 7:44)
   * Remove from me the way of lying: and grant me thy law graciously. (Psalms 119:29)
2. Patronizing Leadership (Pride)
   * Joshua – Was his love language acts of service?
     + “….thy servants….”
       - But ye shall destroy their altars, break their images, and cut down their groves: (Exodus 34:13)
   * Claimed to be from a “very far country”
     + The LORD shall cut off all flattering lips, *and* the tongue that speaketh proud things: (Psalms 12:3)
3. Spiritual Talk

* …because of the name of the LORD thye God; for we have heard the fame of him.”

Devil’s Tactics

* Like a Roaring Lion
  + Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: (1 Peter 5:8)
* Like a Subtle Serpent
  + But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ. (2 Corinthians 11:3)
* Like an Angel of Light (Religious)
  + For if he that cometh preacheth another Jesus, whom we have not preached, or *if* ye receive another spirit, which ye have not received, or another gospel, which ye have not accepted, ye might well bear with *him*. (2 Corinthians 11:4)

Letting Our Guard Down

* AW Pink – “If we are gratified with our consecration, pleased with our self-denial, puffed up with our obedience, or proud of our prayerfulness and increasing dependence upon God, we are headed for disaster.”
  + Pride *goeth* before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall. (Proverbs 16:18)
  + Well; because of unbelief they were broken off, and thou standest by faith. Be not highminded, but fear: (Romans 11:20)
  + Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall. (1 Corinthians 10:12)
  + Happy *is* the man that feareth alway: but he that hardeneth his heart shall fall into mischief. (Proverbs 28:14)
  + Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked: (Revelation 3:17) – Church at Laodicea

Living by Sight and Not by Faith

* Joshua based his decision on his physical sight and did not ask counsel of the Lord
  + Not seeking counsel of God is the consistent thread of the two failures of Israel – Ai and Gibeonites
* Faith
  + And the LORD said unto Joshua, See, I have given into thine hand Jericho, and the king thereof, *and* the mighty men of valour. (Joshua 6:2)
  + And the LORD said unto Joshua, Fear not, neither be thou dismayed: take all the people of war with thee, and arise, go up to Ai: see, I have given into thy hand the king of Ai, and his people, and his city, and his land: (Joshua 8:1)
  + (For we walk by faith, not by sight:) (2 Corinthians 5:7)
  + 24 For we are saved by hope: but hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for? 25 But if we hope for that we see not, *then* do we with patience wait for *it*. (Romans 8:24-25)
  + Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. (Hebrews 11:1)

Repeatedly Failing the Same Way ….as demonstrated by SEASONED Christians!

* Not seeking counsel of God is the consistent thread of the two failures of Israel – Ai and Gibeonites
* Examples
  + Abraham – Fear of men
    - 12 Therefore it shall come to pass, when the Egyptians shall see thee, that they shall say, This *is* his wife: and they will kill me, but they will save thee alive. 13 Say, I pray thee, thou *art* my sister: that it may be well with me for thy sake; and my soul shall live because of thee.
    - 2 And Abraham said of Sarah his wife, She *is* my sister: and Abimelech king of Gerar sent, and took Sarah. (Gen 20:1-2)
  + Peter – Fear of men
    - And the second time the cock crew. And Peter called to mind the word that Jesus said unto him, Before the cock crow twice, thou shalt deny me thrice. And when he thought thereon, he wept. (Mark 14:72)
    - For before that certain came from James, he did eat with the Gentiles: but when they were come, he withdrew and separated himself, fearing them which were of the circumcision. (Gal 2:12)

We Reap What We Sow

* Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. (Galatians 6:7)
* 1 ¶ And Dinah the daughter of Leah, which she bare unto Jacob, went out to see the daughters of the land. 2 And when Shechem the son of Hamor the Hivite, prince of the country, saw her, he took her, and lay with her, and defiled her. (Genesis 34:1-2)
* And the sons of Jacob answered Shechem and Hamor his father deceitfully, and said, because he had defiled Dinah their sister: (Genesis 34:13)
* And the men of Israel said unto the Hivites, Peradventure ye dwell among us; and how shall we make a league with you? (Joshua 9:7)
* NOTE: The name Hivites signifies serpents, according to John Gill.

Leadership failure can be the cause of murmuring.

* Repentance must be the response!

Israel Honored God by Honoring Their Oath

* Thomas Scott – “Though we have been imposed upon, we must not think ourselves at liberty to retaliate: solemn engagements made, even to our own hurt, must be conscientiously adhered to.”
* How did they honor God?
  1. The oath was in the name of the Lord
     + And ye shall not swear by my name falsely, neither shalt thou profane the name of thy God: I *am* the LORD. (Lev 19:12 )
     + Thou shalt fear the LORD thy God, and serve him, and shalt swear by his name. (Deut 6:13)
  2. Breaking of a vow unto the Lord was forbidden
     + If a man vow a vow unto the LORD, or swear an oath to bind his soul with a bond; he shall not break his word, he shall do according to all that proceedeth out of his mouth. (Numbers 30:2)
     + When thou shalt vow a vow unto the LORD thy God, thou shalt not slack to pay it: for the LORD thy God will surely require it of thee; and it would be sin in thee. (Deuteronomy 23:21)

Israel was held accountable for violation of this treaty over 300 years later!

* + - 1 ¶ Then there was a famine in the days of David three years, year after year; and David enquired of the LORD. And the LORD answered, *It is* for Saul, and for *his* bloody house, because he slew the Gibeonites. 2 And the king called the Gibeonites, and said unto them; (now the Gibeonites *were* not of the children of Israel, but of the remnant of the Amorites; and the children of Israel had sworn unto them: and Saul sought to slay them in his zeal to the children of Israel and Judah.) 3 Wherefore David said unto the Gibeonites, What shall I do for you? and wherewith shall I make the atonement, that ye may bless the inheritance of the LORD? 4 And the Gibeonites said unto him, We will have no silver nor gold of Saul, nor of his house; neither for us shalt thou kill any man in Israel. And he said, What ye shall say, *that* will I do for you. 5 And they answered the king, The man that consumed us, and that devised against us *that* we should be destroyed from remaining in any of the coasts of Israel, 6 Let seven men of his sons be delivered unto us, and we will hang them up unto the LORD in Gibeah of Saul, *whom* the LORD did choose. And the king said, I will give *them*. (2 Samuel 21:1-6)

LESSON - DON’T SWEAR!!

* + - 33 ¶ Again, ye have heard that it hath been said by them of old time, Thou shalt not forswear thyself, but shalt perform unto the Lord thine oaths: 34 But I say unto you, Swear not at all; neither by heaven; for it is God’s throne: 35 Nor by the earth; for it is his footstool: neither by Jerusalem; for it is the city of the great King. 36 Neither shalt thou swear by thy head, because thou canst not make one hair white or black. 37 But let your communication be, Yea, yea; Nay, nay: for whatsoever is more than these cometh of evil. (Matthew 5:33-37)
    - But above all things, my brethren, swear not, neither by heaven, neither by the earth, neither by any other oath: but let your yea be yea; and *your* nay, nay; lest ye fall into condemnation. (James 5:12)

Love Language Warnings

* Giving of Gifts
  + And thou shalt take no gift: for the gift blindeth the wise, and perverteth the words of the righteous. (Exodus 23:8)
  + He that is greedy of gain troubleth his own house; but he that hateth gifts shall live. (Proverbs 15:27)
  + A wicked *man* taketh a gift out of the bosom to pervert the ways of judgment. (Proverbs 17:23)
  + Surely oppression maketh a wise man mad; and a gift destroyeth the heart. (Ecclesiastes 7:7)
* Words of Affirmation - FLATTERY
  + A man that flattereth his neighbour spreadeth a net for his feet. (Proverbs 29:5)
  + 2 They speak vanity every one with his neighbour: *with* flattering lips *and* with a double heart do they speak. 3 The LORD shall cut off all flattering lips, *and* the tongue that speaketh proud things: (Psalms 12:2-3)
  + 21 Let me not, I pray you, accept any man’s person, neither let me give flattering titles unto man. 22 For I know not to give flattering titles; *in so doing* my maker would soon take me away. (Job 32:21-22)
  + 23 For the commandment *is* a lamp; and the law *is* light; and reproofs of instruction *are* the way of life: 24 To keep thee from the evil woman, from the flattery of the tongue of a strange woman. (Proverbs 6:23-24)
* Physical Touch
  + Now concerning the things whereof ye wrote unto me: *It is* good for a man not to touch a woman. (1 Corinthians 7:1)
* Quality Time
* Acts of Service