

Joshua 9-10 – 29 July 2021

“Reacting In The Lord’s Will”

Introduction

*The theme of the Book of Joshua could be “*Will Israel have faith and believe God?*”

*The prosperity of Israel’s future life will be directly proportional to:

*How well (or not) they exterminate the evil, sinful lifestyles of the Canaanites

*How well they act on implementing God’s ways

*As Joshua 9 opens, Israel just conquered 1st 2 cities

*So they’ve been learning lessons on acting in faith...but what about reacting in faith?

*We’re often more prepared to act in a way that honors God, but what about reacting to a situation thrust upon us?

***Today we’ll see 3 keys for reacting properly in the Lord’s will**

1st Key to reacting properly in the Lord's will is to bring God into it from the beginning (Chap 9:1-27)

Read Chap 9:1-2

1. Most all Canaanite people joined in an alliance agreeing to defeat Israel
2. We'll see that the Gibeonites, from the royal city of Gibeon, have a different plan in mind
 - a. They have the "if you can't beat 'em, join 'em" mentality

Read Chap 9:3-8

1. Gibeonites ask for a pact/covenant w/ Israel
2. Deut 7 says no pact is allowed w/ Canaanites from within the land – God's already told His will

Read Chap 9:9-13

1. We have no reason to doubt why they wanted a pact or covenant with Israel
2. They say they have a real reverence for God

Read Chap 9:14-17

1. They didn't ask the Lord of the situation before reacting to the Gibeonites
2. Why?
 - a. Were they tired or lazy?
 - b. Were they just wanting peace?
3. The mind of God here wasn't peace, but war.
 - a. God had determined their time of judgement and it's wrong to withhold it
 - b. Within our realms of authority, there's a time for peace / agreeance, & there's a time for conflict /punishment

Read Chap 9:18-21

1. Israel had to honor their word but will live with the wicked consequences
2. Gibeonites become servants (Were a great city)
3. No win situations are typically the result of getting into a situation we never should have been in had we just prayed & asked God first

Read Chap 9:22-27

1. Gibeonites, who were appointed to death, didn't come to God...they came to Israel
 - a. Repentance would have been to come **to God** seeking mercy & grace
 - i. This would result in life
 - b. Fear of death, instead, had them come to Israel seeking a deceptive deal
 - i. This led to servitude & bondage

APPLICATION

1. At Ai, Israel didn't pray before **acting** & suffered for it. With the Gibeonites, Israel didn't pray before **reacting** & suffered for it.
2. Prayer will keep us from ungodly alliances
3. This pact, thought to be good, was bad for both
 - a. Gibeonites wanted freedom, got slavery
 - b. Israel wanted more economy, got less
(Gibeonites kept their cities)
4. All lose when we don't pause for God's lead

2nd Key to reacting properly in the Lord's will is to believe that God will fight your battles (Chap 10:1-11)

Read Chap 10:1-5

1. The 5 kings of the south decided to take on their Gibeon problem first at Gibeah
2. Traitors (Gibeon) are worse than enemies

Read Chap 10:6-7

1. Israel has to now live with the consequences of not initially reacting in the Lord's will
 - a. They're now responsible to help Gibeon
2. Many of us today live with the consequences of past sinful actions.
 - a. Know that God can lead you into how best to react and handle the situation

Read Chap 10:8-11

1. At the Lord's command, Israel helps Gibeon & the Lord destroys the 5 kings with hailstones

- a. Isn't it great to know that God isn't just willing to help us when we're shiny & new, but He's willing to help us even AFTER our sins & mistakes?
2. We should have times when we know that "God took over"
 - a. When we're reacting in the Lord's will, it will be evident that God's is with you
 - b. Paul & Silas sang in prison – God was w/ them
 - c. David was bold before Goliath – God was w/ him
 - d. Paul & Silas nor David asked for the situation they were in, but they reacted well b/c they knew they were doing the God-honoring thing and the Lord would fight for them

3rd Key to reacting properly in the Lord's will is to push forward for complete victory (Chap 10:12-39)

Intro

1. Shows acknowledgement that God is the one who allowed this unexpected thing to come upon us
2. Also shows obedience to ALL that God wants

Read Chap 10:12-15

1. Joshua asked the Lord for the ability to finish what the Lord asked him to start. Do I?
2. People w/ man-sized God have problem w/ miracles
 - a. Don't know how, but God did it
3. The Book of Jasher
 - a. Mentioned twice in Bible was a book of poetry regarding famous historical events
 - i. Joshua's poetic address to the sun
 - ii. David's lament over the death of K. Saul
 - b. Remember, all we need for life & godliness is recorded in these 66 books, they're lots more history books out there

Read Chap 10:16-27

1. They made examples of these 5 kings
2. Completely eradicated problem so they wouldn't have to deal w/ effects of these Canaanites sin later
3. Would have been inhumane to have them slowly starve to death in the caves

Don't Read Chap 10:28-39

1. Shows Israel taking all the cities in the south but Jerusalem
2. Vs 28-34 – They took Mekkedah (vs 28), Libnah (vs 29), Lachish (vs 31), Gezer (vs 33)
3. Vs 34 – They took Eglon
4. Vs 36 – They took Hebron
 - a. This is where the Cave of the Patriarchs is
 - b. For Abraham, Isaac, Jacob & more's body
5. Vs 38 – They took Debir
 - a. The Joint Expedition of Xenia Seminary & the American School at Jerusalem, in 1926-28, found deep layers of ashes, charcoal & lime w/ indications of a terrible fire & cultural markings from Joshua's time
 - b. Everything under fire line was Canaanite & everything above fire line was Israelite
6. These Canaanites represent sin
 - a. You keep sin around w/o eradicating it and it will come back to bite you

Chap 10:40-43 – is a beautiful summary of the points that we’ve just made

1. When reacting to an unexpected situation...
 - a. Bring God into situation from the beginning
 - b. Believe that God will fight your battles
 - c. Push forward for complete victory

Read Chap 10:40-43 (This is the Conclusion of Msg)

1. End of Vs 40 – “as the Lord God of Israel commanded” – Point #1
 - a. They asked God for direction & help
 - b. Even in less than perfect situations, God wants to be our guide
2. End of Vs 42 – “b/c the Lord God of Israel fought for Israel” – Point #2
 - a. Miraculous crossing of the Jordan, miraculous fall of Jericho’s walls, now the standing still of the sun
 - b. Is there evidence God is doing things for u?

3. Start of Vs 40 – “So Joshua smote” – point #3
 - a. Don’t settle for ridding your life of some of the sin, tear it out

Concluding Statements:

Joshua fought – as the Lord commanded – therefore the Lord fought for them

They fought b/c the Lord commanded it, they won b/c the Lord fought for them