

A DEEPER DIVE

May 17, 2026
Joshua 9:1-10

Prayer Focus– Each day this week as you meet with your savior, lift up in prayer the places in the world where there is war, destruction, and little hope. Also pray for the missionaries that you know of and support. Pray for our nation and our leaders, and also your local church and community. Pray daily for our Pastors and Elders. Finally, follow the instruction in Philippians 4:4-7 make your prayer personal. Remember 1 Peter 5:7.

Monday: Reading– Joshua 9:1-2

Consider this– The non-war

Chapter 9 opens naming all of the kings and armies that have struck an alliance to fight against Joshua and Israel. One might expect that chapter 9 would be another chapter about the next battle. But this doesn't happen. The NKJV notes say that we do not know if this "coalition ever actually fought Israel. It disappears from the scene in verse 2." Read the whole of chapter 9 in one sitting, and try to come up with the reason the chapter opens up with this information, but does not follow it up.

Tuesday: Reading– Joshua 9:1-2; Exodus 23:28-33; Deuteronomy 7:1-15.

Consider this– Who are those guys?

The groups listed in this chapter are first mentioned in 3:10. What does God want to happen to these people? What has he forbidden the Israelites to do when they encounter these people? Read the two other sections mentioned above. What blessings and warnings are given to Israel in those two sections?

Wednesday: Reading– Joshua 9:3-6

Consider this– A deception

Fight, Flight, or...? The hearts of the people of Jericho, according to Rahab, when they heard of the deeds of the Lord were filled with fear. This same thing happened with the Amorite kings and the Canaanite kings in chapter 5. Here in chapter 9 the kings come together and are planning on a fight. But the Gibeonites decide that they don't want to fight so they make an elaborate ruse in order to strike a bargain with Joshua and the Israelites. Why don't they want to join the coalition and fight the Israelites? What story do they tell, and how do they make sure the story seems to be true?

Thursday: Reading– Joshua 9:7-8

Consider this– You shouldn't look a gift horse in the mouth.

The Israelites seemed suspicious at first. Note what they say in verse 7. What gives the indication that they were suspicious? What does the saying about the gift horse above (something my mom used to say) mean? How does the opposite apply to this story?

The Gibeonites deflected the question that is asked in verse 7 (they must have been politicians). What was the question, and what was the deflection? Instead of giving a straight answer, what did they tell the Israelites? How was this response clever? What does this little part of the story tell us about taking people at face value? Does this story mean that we should always be suspicious of people no matter what?

Friday: Reading– Joshua 9:8-13

Consider this– A truth and a partial truth.

Joshua remains cautious. What does he ask the Gibeonites? Read their answer. What proofs do they provide to support their story? In verse 9, what do they say that might have put the Israelites off their guard? Wiersbe notes that the Gibeonites do not mention Israel's victories at Jericho and Ai. What do they mention? Why did they leave those two battles out? How do we know that they knew of Jericho and Ai? What would have happened (do you think) if they had mentioned those two battles?

Saturday: Reading– Joshua 9:1-13; 2:10-13

Consider this– Wisdom needed!

Compare the story that Rahab tells the spies and the story that the Gibeonites tell Joshua and the Israelites. What are the similarities and what are the differences? I have heard people provide moving and seemingly heartfelt spiritual testimonies which have later been revealed to be nothing but lies. Davis provides this warning about these kinds of testimonies. He says, "How difficult to tell the difference between faith (like Rahab's) and flattery (like Gibeon's), especially when that flattery is so spiritual and pious. It is all very subtle because there is always something heartwarming." What sorts of precautions and safeguards have you employed, and have counselled others to employ to avoid being taken in by these kinds of spiritual con games?

From the Henri Nouwen Society–

Jesus has to be and to become evermore the center of my life. It is not enough that Jesus is my teacher, my guide, my source of inspiration. It is not even enough that he is my companion on the journey, my friend, and my brother.

Jesus must become the heart of my heart, the fire of my life, the lover of my soul, the bridegroom of my spirit. He must become my only thought, my only concern, my only desire. The thousands of people, events, ideas, and plans that occupy my inner life must become all one in the one and only name: Jesus.

Sunday- Go to church with the anticipation of hearing from the Lord.

Questions? Comments? Email me, Steve Callaway, at stvc13@gmail.com.