

Finishing Well

Lesson #24 Enemies That War In My Soul - HIVITES In Disguise July 7, 2021

II Cor. 5:7 Paul declares "we walk by faith, not by sight."

James 1:5 If anyone of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God.

In James 4:13-17 James warns us against the sin of presuming on the Lord or against pursuing our own dreams and objectives apart from seeking God's leading and will.

Prov. 14:12 There is a way which seems right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.

Danger: We will presume on God's grace and strike out in our own wisdom without really seeking and searching His heart and blessing even though we realize our total inadequacy and need of His grace.

Danger of Presumption & Walking By Sight: Amplified greatly when we consider we are in an age old conflict with supernatural forces that are extremely cunning and much more powerful than we are.

We see the material world and the physical evidence and think...I can handle this... it is not so difficult. We are not just dealing with flesh and blood, but an insidious enemy who uses people to promote his schemes.

In Joshua 9, we see the danger of failing to commit our way to the Lord, the peril of prayerlessness and the peril of walking by sight.

Lesson: The Enemy Knows The Bible & Will Use It To His Advantage

- Gen. 3:1 He is more crafty.
- Eph. 6:12 He operates with mighty power.
- Luke 4:10-11 He knows the Bible.
- Luke 4:13 He waits for a more opportune time.

Joshua 9:1-2 And it came to pass, when ALL the kings who were beyond the Jordan, in the hill country, the lowland, and on all the coast of the Great Sea toward Lebanon, the Hittite and the Amorite, the Canaanite, the Perizzite, the Hivite, and the Jebusite, heard about it, [?] that they met together with one purpose, to fight with Joshua and with Israel.

Background: Joshua and the Israelites have conquered Jericho and Ai. [2nd attempt]

- Then Joshua built an altar to the Lord at Shechem between Mt. Ebal and Mt. Gerizim.
- They celebrated their victories and offered burnt offerings to the LORD.
- Joshua inscribed God's Law on stones- which would henceforth be the Law of the Land.
- Joshua read aloud and magnified all the words of the Law to entire assembly of Israel.
- The new generation of Israel renewed the Mosaic covenant.
- It appears they were in a good place in their relationship with God.

After an experience of great blessing, God's people must be especially prepared to confront the enemy. Just like Canaan, the Christian life is "a land of hills and valleys" [Deut. 11:11].

Consider: 2 Enemies 2 Different Reactions & Methods Of Attack

A. Enemy #1 Direct Attack Joshua 9:1-2

Act 1. All the kings of Canaan put aside their differences.

- With a common hatred for the enemy, they unite with a common purpose
 - ❖ to destroy the people of God.
- They did not surrender themselves to Israel nor ask for mercy.

In resisting Israel, they were resisting God. Their stubborn rebellion against God was eloquent testimony that the sin of the Amorites had reached its full measure [Gen 15:16]

Consider: When righteousness becomes aggressive and bent on an objective, it has a way of uniting the forces of righteousness and the enemies of righteousness.

- When Jesus launched His earthly ministry, His aggressive ministry of healing, preaching and the confrontation of sin galvanized His own followers, but it welded together 3 groups which had formerly been enemies.
 - Pharisees, Sadducees and the Herodians

Scripture predicts His future return will have a similar effect.

Ps. 2:2-3 The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against Jehovah and against His Christ, saying, Let us break their bands asunder and cast away their cords from us." They refuse subjection to the Divine authority.

Rev. 19:19 And I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against him that sat on the horse, and against his army.

Consider: These kings had not shown hostility until now.

The enemies now plan an offensive attack after God had shown Himself strong on behalf of His people. When we have renewed our commitment to Christ and fully surrendered to Him, the ire of Satan breaks out "as a roaring lion" against us. [I Pet. 5:8]

- Don't ever conclude the worst of the fight is over. Satan is in "perpetual motion."
He doesn't accept defeat, nor does our flesh with its evil lusts.

Truth: Indwelling sin never surrenders to the new nature, nor ceases its attacks upon it.

Our own evil lusts are varied and numerous: self-will, pride, unbelief, slothfulness, cowardice, impatience, discontent, and a host of others, must be resisted and mortified [put to death] through surrender to the Holy Spirit.

Pink: "The farther a Christian advances into an experiential entrance into the abundant life, the fiercer the conflict becomes and the more determined and concentrated the efforts of his enemies to thwart him."

Consider: 2 Enemies 2 Different Reactions & Methods Of Attack

A. Enemy #1 Direct Attack Joshua 9:1-2

B. Enemy #2 Uses Deceit Joshua 9:3-13

Act 1: Deception Of The Gibeonites To Secure Their Place In Israelite Society

- Scene 1: Fear Gives Birth To Deception Joshua 9:3-6

But when the inhabitants of Gibeon [Josh. 10:2 "Gibeon was a great city...greater than Ai, and all the men were mighty] heard what Joshua had done to Jericho and Ai, they worked craftily, and went and pretended to be ambassadors. And they took old sacks on their donkeys, [Very thorough in their deceit-even conforming to Israel's peculiar ways by using "donkeys" rather than horses] old wineskins torn and mended, old and patched sandals on their feet, and old garments on themselves; and all the bread of their provision was dry and moldy. And they went to Joshua, to the CAMP AT GILGAL, and said to him and to the men of Israel, "We have come from a far country; now therefore, make a covenant with us."

Gilgal, ~18.6 miles from Gibeon, was the place where "the reproach of Egypt" was rolled away,

- the place of memorial stones and consecration
- They circumcised the males as an outward mark they were separated unto Jehovah.
 - ❖ OT figure of mortifying the lusts of the flesh [Jer. 4:4; Deut. 10:16]

Satan hates and opposes our separation unto God and mortification of our flesh.

These 2 things distinguish us from the world and promote God's glory.

Satan's goal is to destroy the testimony of believers as a people devoted to God and walking with Him in separation from the ungodly. [Rom. 12:1-2]

Note: Through the Gibeonites, the enemy was making an attack upon Israel's consecration, inducing them to ignore God's command of separation by a union with the heathen.

Lesson: A vital aspect of my spiritual warfare: maintain my consecration to God and

- persevere with the work of mortification,
- always on the alert against the wiles of the Devil to hinder me.

Note: At Gilgal, they kept the Passover for the 1st time since Mt. Sinai. [14th day; 1st month]

Israel's greatest danger wasn't the confederation of the armies of Canaan.

It was a group of men from Gibeon who entered the camp to deceive Joshua and the princes of Israel.

Truth: Satan sometimes comes as a devouring lion I Peter 5:8
sometimes as a deceiving serpent II Cor. 11:14

Devouring Lion: uses force and seeks to terrorize; acts openly; assaults from without

Deceiving Serpent: uses cunning and endeavors to poison and corrupt; works secretly; defile within

Satan stirred up the kings of Canaan to fight with Joshua: Relied upon the use of arms.

- Roaring Lion = direct attack

Satan moved the Gibeonites to disguise themselves before Joshua so Israel would be deceived and make a covenant with them.

- Satan's craftiness: Purpose > to introduce his "leaven into the meal."
- Satan uses human instruments [his "ministers;" II Cor. 11:14-15]

- The enemy made an attack upon Israel's consecration and separation to God.
- Ignore God's command of separation by a union with the heathen.

Truth: If one plan or method fails, he always has another in reserve. Alters his tactics:

1. He tried to slay Jesus as a baby.
2. Posing like an angel of light to tempt Jesus.
3. As the dragon of darkness, he bruised His heel. [Luke 22:53]

With Christ's followers: 1. openly and directly persecutes

2. Uses flattery
3. Corrupts by unholy alliances

Example: The opposition and cruelty of Nero and other Roman emperors failed. [Lion]

Constantine making Christianity the state religion succeeded in accomplishing Satan's design.

- Destroy the church's distinctive testimony and set-apart character by an unholy alliance with the state.

II Cor. 11:3 But I am afraid that, as the serpent deceived Eve by his trickery, your minds will be led astray from sincere and pure devotion to Christ.

- We must be alert and protected by our spiritual armor God. [Eph. 6:10-18].

The dishonest Gibeonites gives us a typical picture of "graceless professors" seeking to join the people of God. They knew there was no likelihood of their desire being realized if they presented themselves before Israel in their true character, so they resorted to deceit.

Consider: The flesh is skillful in using deceit to achieve its purpose.

- Jacob covered himself with a hairy skin to masquerade as Esau and deceive Isaac.
- King Saul disguised himself when he went to the witch of Endor [I Samuel 28:8].
- Jeroboam's wife pretended to be another when she visited the prophet Ahijah, whose eyes were dim [I Kings 14:1-6].
- The wolves in sheep's clothing of Christ's day. Continues in our day!

II Cor. 11:13 Paul warned them against "false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ."

Jude 1:4 warned that ungodly men had "crept in unawares" into the assemblies of the saints.

Act 1: Deception Of The Gibeonites To Secure Their Place In Israelite Society

- Scene 1: Fear Gives Birth To Deception Joshua 9:3-6
- Scene 2: Putting Deception Into Action Joshua 9:7-13

Joshua 9:7-13 Then the men of Israel said to the Hivites, [signifies serpents"]

Question: Why tell us now [v.7] the Gibeonites are Hivites?

Gen. 34: The sons of Jacob answered Shechem and his father, a "Hivite", "deceitfully."

By using deceit, they succeeded in slaying the Hivites and spoiling their city.

Now, the descendants of those who had so wickedly deceived the Hivites were now being deceived by them!

"Perhaps you dwell among us; so how can we make a covenant with you?"

But they said to Joshua, "We are your servants."

And Joshua said to them, "Who are you, and where do you come from?" So they said to him: "From a very far country your servants have come, because of the name of the LORD your God; for we have heard of His fame, and all that He did in Egypt, and all that He did to the two kings of the Amorites who were beyond the Jordan—to Sihon king of Heshbon, and Og king of Bashan, who was at Ashtaroath.

Therefore, our elders and all the inhabitants of our country spoke to us, saying, 'Take provisions with you for the journey, and go to meet them, and say to them, "We are your servants; now therefore, make a covenant with us.'" This bread of ours we took hot for our provision from our houses on the day we departed to come to you. But now look, it is dry and moldy. And these wineskins which we filled were new, and see, they are torn; and these our garments and our sandals have become old because of the very long journey."

Deut. 7:1-6 God intended ALL of the nations of the Promised Land to be destroyed.

Deut. 20:10-11, 15 "When you approach a city to fight against it, you shall offer it terms of peace. ¹¹ And if it agrees to make peace with you and opens to you, then all the people who are found in it shall become your forced labor and serve you. 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.

- God allows for peace with other nations OUTSIDE the land He is giving Israel as an inheritance.
- Joshua knows he must first offer peace with those outside of the land.

Gibeonites' Knowledge

- Somehow, the Gibeonites also knew of this law. As a result, they used it to their advantage to achieve protection. Their only hope was to convince the Israelites they were from outside of the land of inheritance and were therefore eligible for peace.
- Use DECEIT to achieve their goal.

Consider: After their arduous journey to Mt. Ebal and full obedience to God there, they returned to Gilgal.

➤ It was here they suffered themselves to be deceived by the craft of Satan! Deceptive Lies designed specifically to flatter them and puff up their pride. This lessened their ability to have true discernment.

- We are "from a very far country." - Lived only 18.6 miles away
 - ❖ Flatter Joshua that he was being courted by those from so great a distance.

Note: This was part of the temptation which fanned the egotism of Hezekiah and led to his undoing, for he was "glad" when the king of Babylon made friendly overtures unto him, and showed his messengers all his treasures, for when God's servant took him to task, he said: "They are come from a far country unto me, even Babylon." [Isaiah 39:3].

- Come from a long distance because of the fame of your God. [blasphemous]
- Heard of the great work your God did in delivering you from Egypt and how He gave you victory over the 2 kings of the Amorites. [Rahab put her faith in God.]

- ❖ Purpose: Ingratiate themselves with Joshua, as though they too desired to come under Jehovah's protection.

Note: They appeared to be deeply impressed by the wonders which God had wrought, and therefore sought friendship with Israel. For this purpose, they had undertaken a very fatiguing journey, which evidenced their willingness to be tributary unto them.

Their story had been carefully thought out. They made reference to their knowledge of what Jehovah had done in Egypt and to the kings of the Amorites,

They were careful to make no mention, of the supernatural crossing of the Jordan, nor of Israel's recent victories at Jericho and Ai. That news would not yet have reached "a very far country"! How far hypocrites will go in order to gain the friendship of God's people.

- Lied about their clothing and food
- Lied about themselves - gave the impression they were important envoys on an official peace mission from the elders of their city
- Called themselves "your servants" - they were the enemies of Israel.

This signifies inferiority and expressing their willingness to take an inferior and subordinate place. That was the bait to entrap Israel: We can be useful and do the rough work for you.

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- Scene 3: Why The Enemy Succeeded Joshua 9:14

"Then the men of Israel took some of their provisions; but they did not ask counsel of the LORD." [relied on own judgment > Hivite spirit]

Consider: They were initially skeptical of the Gibeonites. It was carelessness!

They did not follow up on the "red flags" that were going off in their minds.

- They walked by sight and not by faith.

Problem: They lowered their defenses and considered the outward appearance as evidence.

- Because the Israelites judged by appearances, everything appeared legitimate.

It was doubly inexcusable that Israel was deceived in "the camp at Gilgal." [Joshua 9:6]

- The Ark of the Covenant was here.
- Tabernacle of the priesthood > therefore the place where the mind of the LORD could be obtained if they sought Him in the way He directed.

Ps. 33:11 The counsel of the LORD stands forever, the thoughts of His heart to all generations. God delights to make His will known to His children when He knows they are humble and willing to obey. We don't seek God's will like customers who look at options but like servants who listen for orders.

We must heed the warning of Proverbs 3:5-6 and not lean on our own understanding.

- They knew His will overall, which was to drive the people completely out of the land. But Israel's leaders failed to check in with God when this decision came before them.

- That failure cost them dearly.
- The lingering effects of this failure will be seen in subsequent generations.

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- Scene 4: Success Of Deception Joshua 9:15

Joshua 9:15 So Joshua made peace with them, and made a covenant with them to let them live [showed them mercy]; and the rulers of the congregation swore to them.

Note: They blindly followed their leader.

Mission Accomplished: God's people entered into a covenant which will keep them from "God's best for them." They will live with the consequences of a decision they made when outside of God's will for them.

There is a vivid picture painted by God to warn man to flee from the ways of the world.

Heb. 11:24-27 Moses chose to suffer with his people rather than enjoy the temporary pleasures of sin in Egypt. He saw greater wealth in the unseen, invisible things of God than in all the treasures of Egypt.

If a believer is not looking for His Blessed Hope at the Rapture...

If a believer is not looking forward to serving with Christ in His Millennial Kingdom...

If a believer loses sight of Eternity, he will be limited to his activities here on Earth.

When the believer is laying up treasures in Heaven, knowing that he will have to give an account for every idle word he speaks and everything he does, it puts his priorities into perspective.

Truth: Each of us will face the Hivite Viper in the Land of Resurrection which will try to poison you and keep you living below your glorious calling in Christ.

Question: How can I slay and drive out this seducing giant?

The ability of the believer to live in the world but not to be of it depends on how much of the Word of God lives in him. The more the believer reads the Word of God, the more the Word of God will influence his life and shape his character.

As you become more like Jesus, you will be attracted less by the ways of the world.

It is a step-by-step and day-by-day experience. Gradually the ways of the world lose their attraction and grow strangely dim.

John 10:10 The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy:

I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.

When you fall at the feet of Jesus, you will never be the same again.

SCRIPTURES TO FIGHT THIS DEMONIC GIANT

Psalms 148:1-14

Psalms 149:1-9

Psalms 150:1-6

Psalms 146:1-10

Psalms 147:1-20

Psalms 138:1-8

Psalms 136:1-26

Psalms 135:1-21

Psalms 119:1-176

Ways of the World

God's Way

As you do to me, I'll do to you.	Do good unto your enemies
Take my money - enjoy myself - retire early	No word of retirement in the Bible
Don't lose face.	Humility is God's way
Spend now, pay later - Retail therapy	The rich rule over the poor; borrower is the slave of the lender
Seek the praise of men - What a good boy!	When you give, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing.
Something for nothing - lottery, free hand out	Salvation is costly - Following Jesus= personal sacrifice
Brainwashes a man to think its way.	I am the way - follow me
Sale - get it for less than cost	Reward in Heaven for personal endeavor without self-sacrifice

Hivite Spirit's Lures of Deceit

God's Word of Truth

World= fountain of life-This is the life.	I am the way, truth and life
Satisfy your soul with wrong "food"	Feast on the Word of God
Fulfillment in this life	Fulfillment comes through Abundant Life
Make your own assessments about the world Undermine authority of God's Word	Love not the world or things in it
Fulfill carnal desires & appetites; gratify flesh	Come out from among them; touch NOT unclean
Focus on pleasure & happiness;	Focus on Jesus; Eternal Rewards; works of value
Lifestyle of man's ways - Be happy	God's way - Be Holy; Humble yourself; servant
Focus on self	Seek Me with all your heart
Live for yourself now	Things of the world will pass away