

THE CENTRAL POINT FOR MANY VITAL DECISIONS ABOUT SEPARATION

- Gen 12:6 **Abram's first destination at age 75**
 Gen 33:18 **Place of Jacob's return after 40 years of exile**
 Gen 34:1 **Place of Dinah's tragic liaison with the world**
 Gen 35:4 **Place where Jacob renewed his separation**
 Acts 7:16 **Joseph was buried there with 11 Patriarchal
fathers carried from Egypt**
 Josh 8:30 **Joshua assembled Israel to renew their**
 24:15,32 **covenant with Yahweh**
 1Kg 12:1 **Rehoboam split the Kingdom & crowned King**
 Jn 4:5 **The woman of Samaria discovered the Truth**

A Godly warrior

Joshua's Victory was not etched on stone as a matter of personal pride, but became a celebration of God's power within the hearts of the people he loved...

Are we beginning again to tell you how good we are? Some people need to bring letters of recommendation with them or ask you to write letters of recommendation for them. But the only letter of recommendation we need is you yourselves!

*Your lives are a **letter written in our hearts**, and everyone can read it and recognize our good work among you. Clearly, you are a letter from Christ prepared by us. It is written not with pen and ink, but with the Spirit of the living God. **It is carved not on stone, but on human hearts.***

*We are confident of all this because of our **great trust in God** through Christ. **It is not that we think we can do anything of lasting value by ourselves. Our only power and success come from God.** NLT 2Cor 3:1-5*

River Jordan — God's POWER

Take you out of the midst of Jordan... twelve stones Josh 4:3

Gilgal Camp — God's PROVIDENCE

Those twelve stones, which they took out of Jordan, did Joshua pitch in Gilgal 4:20

Valley Achor — God's PERCEPTION

They raised over him a great heap of stones unto this day 7:26

City Ai — God's PROMISES

Joshua burnt Ai,... and raised thereon a great heap of stones, that remain unto this day. 8:29

Mt Ebal — God's PRESENCE

Joshua built an altar unto Yahweh God of Israel in mount Ebal... And he wrote there upon the stones 8:31

Cave Makkedah — God's PARTICIPATION

Joshua commanded, and they took them down off the trees, and cast them into the cave wherein they had been hid, and laid great stones in the cave's mouth, which remain until this very day 10:27

Oak Shechem — God's PERMANENCE

Joshua wrote these words in the book of the law of God, and took a great stone, and set it up there under an oak, that was by the sanctuary of Yahweh 24:26

Joshua's Memorials - Stone Recollections

A Spiritual warrior

Josh 8:33 And all Israel, and their elders, and officers, and their judges, stood on this side the ark and on that side before the priests the Levites, which bare the ark of the covenant of the LORD, as well the stranger, as he that was born among them; half of them over against mount Gerizim, and half of them over against mount Ebal; as Moses the servant of the LORD had commanded before, that they should bless the people of Israel.

34 And afterward he read all the words of the law, the blessings and cursings, according to all that is written in the book of the law.

35 There was not a word of all that Moses commanded, which Joshua read not before all the congregation of Israel, with the women, and the little ones, and the strangers that were conversant among them.

Fulfilling the command of Moses

Deut 27:11 -15 And Moses charged the people the same day, saying, These shall stand upon mount Gerizim to bless the people, when ye are come over Jordan; Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, Joseph, and Benjamin: And these shall stand upon mount Ebal to curse; Reuben, Gad, Asher, Zebulun, Dan, and Naphtali. And the Levites shall speak, and say unto all the men of Israel with a loud voice, **15** Cursed be the man that maketh any graven or molten image, an abomination unto Yahweh, the work of the hands of the craftsman, and putteth it in a secret place. And all the people shall answer and say, Amen.

Chapter 9 - Be vigilant!

Outflanked by a battle that wasn't a battle.

CONSOLIDATION v1-2

"They gathered themselves together to fight with Joshua"

CAMOUFLAGE v3-5

"They made as if they had been ambassadors"

DECEPTION v6-14

"They said, From a very far country thy servant are come..."

INFILTRATION v15

"Joshua made peace with them"

EMBARRASSMENT v16-21

"They heard that they were neighbours and dwelt among them"

COMPROMISE v23-27

"Let them be hewers of wood and drawers of water"

“Drive them out...”

I will send my fear before thee, and will destroy all the people to whom thou shalt come, and I will make all thine enemies turn their backs unto thee. And I will send hornets before thee, which shall drive out **the Hivite**, the Canaanite, and the Hittite, from before thee. I will not drive them out from before thee in one year; lest the land become desolate, and the beast of the field multiply against thee. By little and little I will drive them out from before thee, until thou be increased, and inherit the land. (Ex 23:27-30)

God's extended promise undone by a foolish statement.

“Drive them out...”

But of the cities of these people, which the LORD thy God doth give thee for an inheritance, **thou shalt save alive nothing that breathes: 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: That they teach you not to do after all their abominations, which they have done unto their gods; so should ye sin against the LORD your God. (Deut 20:16-18)

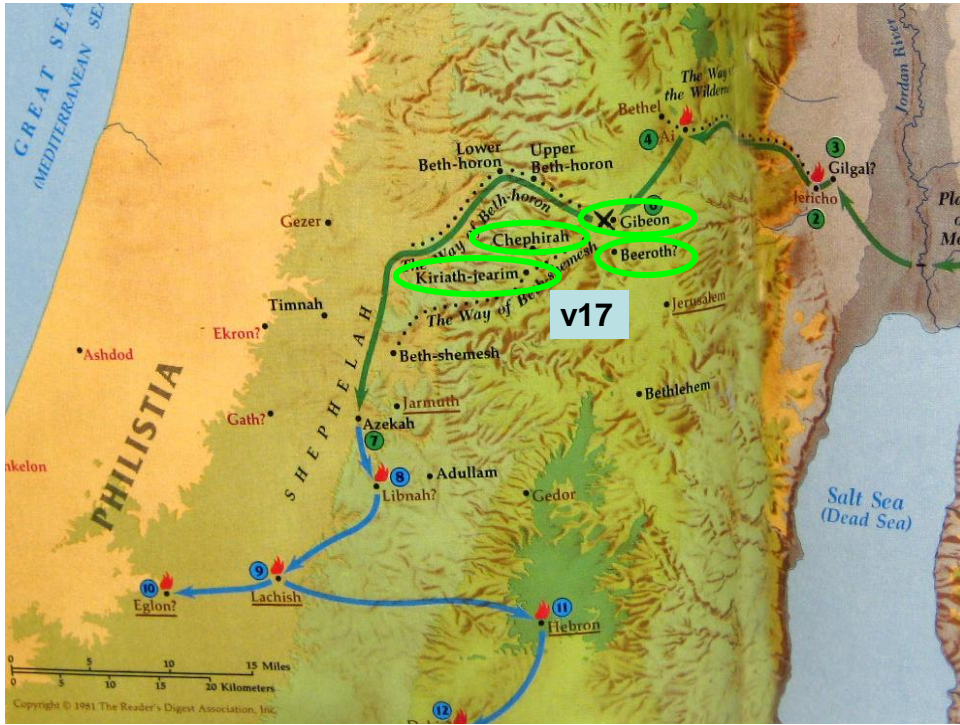
God's command negated by a single wrong action...

The result of Achan's sin

“Ultimately it was Achan’s sin that caused the kings of Canaan to unite in their resistance to Israel. Who can say what would have happened had Achan not sinned? Perhaps the battle at Ai could have been Israel’s last. The other nations of Canaan would have responded like Rahab with the belief in the one God of Israel, and Israel would have completely occupied the land.

The result of Achan's sin

It is only with these verses that the reader of Joshua begins to **realise the consequences of Achan's sin**. The following chapters introduce the transition from a victorious people of God whose occupation of the land could have been the relatively simple matter of defeating those already discouraged - **to an unending history of battle, bloodshed and idolatry that would haunt Israel through its history**.” (Richard Hess, “Joshua”)



The Gibeonites cite Deut 20!

Deut 20:10,11 When thou comest nigh unto a city to fight against it, then proclaim **peace** unto it. 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....**

Deut 20:15 Thus shalt thou do unto all the cities which are **very far off from thee**, which are not of the cities of these nations.

Jos 9:8 They said unto Joshua, **We are thy servants**. And Joshua said unto them, Who are ye? and from whence come ye?

v9 And they said unto him, From a **very far country thy servants** are come because of **the name of Yahweh thy God**

v11 Take victuals with you for the journey, and go to meet them, and say unto them, **We are your servants**: therefore now make ye a league with us.

“Make a league with us”

Jos 9:6 And they went to Joshua unto the camp at Gilgal, and said unto him, and to the men of Israel. We be come from a far country: now therefore **make ye a league with us**.

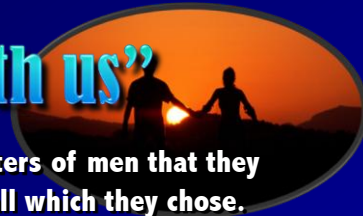
v7 And the men of Israel said unto the Hivites, **Peradventure ye dwell among us; and how shall we make a league with you?**

v11 Wherefore our elders and all the inhabitants of our country spake to us, saying, Take victuals with you for the journey, and go to meet them. and say unto them, We are your servants: therefore now **make ye a league with us**.

v15 Joshua made peace with them, and **made a league with them**, to let them live: and the princes of the congregation swore unto them.

v16 And it came to pass at the end of three days after they had made **a league with them, that they** heard that they were their neighbours, and that they dwelt among them.

“Make a league with us”



Gen 6:2 The sons of God saw the daughters of men that they were fair; and they took them wives of all which they chose.

Gen 24:3 I will make thee swear by the LORD, the God of heaven, and the God of the earth, that thou shalt not take a wife unto my son of the daughters of the Canaanites, among whom I dwell

Deut 7:3 Neither shalt thou make marriages with them; thy daughter thou shalt not give unto his son, nor his daughter shalt thou take unto thy son.

Num 36:6. This is the thing which the LORD doth command concerning the daughters of Zelophehad, saying, Let them marry to whom they think best; only to the family of the tribe of their father shall they marry.

“Make a league with us”



1Cor 7:30 “she is at liberty to be married to whom she will; only in the Lord”

1Cor 11:11 Nevertheless neither is the man without the woman, neither the woman without the man, in the Lord.

2Cor 6:14 Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?

The importance of prayer

"In all your ways acknowledge Him..."

Joshua and the princes made a distinction, which many of us make, but which clearly is not supported by Scripture. The distinction is between matters of importance, which we would never think of deciding without prayer, and comparatively unimportant matters, in which we feel it is sufficient to exercise our own judgment, without seeking resource from God.

But the truth is that **no matter is unimportant. Everything, strictly speaking, should be the subject of prayer;** not necessarily a formal and prolonged prayer, but a momentary expression to God for help.



The importance of prayer

"In all your ways acknowledge Him..."

This may be thought impossible, but it is truly the key to a Godly walk. *"Pray without ceasing"* says Paul, and he has in mind the powerful tool for a successful progression by one who has **acquired the habit of continual approach to the Father in prayer.**

Prayer should be the golden thread that binds together our whole life, consecrating every act and thought silently and secretly to God's service. **This habit is only gained by perseverance, for only he who has attained it, can be truly said to "walk with God".**



The importance of prayer

For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, powers, the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places... praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints. Eph 6:12-18

Never stop praying, especially for others. Always pray by the power of the Spirit. **Stay alert and keep praying for God's people.** (Eph 6:18 CEV)

“Continuing instant in prayer”

Rom 12:11,12

4 POSITIVE LESSONS

1

The peril of walking by human sight -but through the deception of the Gibeonites, Yahweh was able to work a greater miracle for all of them

A positive result for ISRAEL

The possibility of making further treaties with surrounding tribes was permanently eliminated...

"There was not a city that made peace with the children of Israel, save the Hivites, the inhabitants of Gibeon, all other they took in battle" 11:19,20

4 POSITIVE LESSONS

2

A positive result for the WARRIORS

The weakness of having to confront each city could eventually wear them out. Instead of having to defeat 5 cities one by one, **God helped Joshua to conquer them all at one time and accelerated the conquest of Canaan!**

"The five kings of the Amorites gathered themselves together... and Joshua ascended from Gilgal, he and all the people of war..." 10:5,6

4 POSITIVE LESSONS

3

A positive result for JOSHUA

The weakness of allowing human wisdom to make determinations was removed. Joshua regained his strategic position and **rebuilt his absolute reliance on God's counsel.**

"They feared greatly because Gibeon was a great city, greater than Ai, and all the men thereof were mighty. Yahweh said to Joshua Fear them not, for I have delivered them into your hand..." 10:2,8

4 POSITIVE LESSONS

4

A positive result for the GIBEONITES

The weakness of presuming they could easily outmaneuver Joshua and the God of Israel was a lasting lesson. They actually gained more than they asked for and were absorbed into the nation, **performing a faithful service to Yahweh for many generations.**

"The rest of the people, the priests, the Levites, the porters, the singers, the Nethinims, and all they that had separated themselves from the people of the lands unto the law of God, their wives, their sons, and their daughters, every one having knowledge, and having understanding" Neh 10:28

Covenants, vows and promises

God views them as unbreakable...

Num 30:2 If a man vow a vow unto Yahweh, or swear an oath to bind his soul with a bond; **he shall not break his word**, he shall do according to all that proceeds out of his mouth

Deut 23:21 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**.

Covenants, vows and promises

God views them as unbreakable...

God doesn't like fools. So don't be slow to keep your promises to God. It's better not to make a promise at all than to make one and not keep it. Don't let your mouth get you in trouble! And don't say to the (angel KJV), "I didn't mean what I said." God can destroy everything you have worked for, so don't say something that makes God angry. (Ecc 5:4-6)

So when God wanted to **prove for certain that his promise to his people could not be broken**, he made a vow. **God cannot tell lies!** And so his promises and vows are two things that can **never be changed**. We have run to God for safety. Now his promises should greatly encourage us to take hold of the hope that is right in front of us. (Heb 6:17-18 CEV)

Covenants, vows and promises

God views them as unbreakable...

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**. 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...) (2Sam 21:1-2)

Covenants, vows and promises

God views them as unbreakable...

Deut 29:1 These are the words of this **covenant**, which Yahweh commanded Moses to make with Israel in the land of Moab, beside the **covenant** which he made at Horeb

v9 Keep therefore the words of this **covenant**, and do them

v10 Ye stand this day all of you before the LORD your God

v11 Your little ones, your wives, and thy stranger that is in thy camp, from the hewer of thy wood unto the drawer of thy water:

v12 That thou shouldst enter into **covenant** with the LORD thy God, and into his **oath**, which the LORD thy God maketh with thee this day:

v13 That he may be unto thee a God, as he hath said unto thee, and as he hath **sworn** unto thy fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.

v14 Neither with you only do I make this **covenant** and this **oath**;

v15 But with him that standeth here with us this day before the LORD our God, and also with him that is not here with us this day:

Covenants, vows and promises

God views them as unbreakable...

- 1/ Yahweh was the God of Israel v24
- 2/ Respected Moses as the servant of God
- 3/ Yahweh had promised Israel all the land
- 4/ They believed Yahweh would certainly fulfil His promise
- 5/ They were prepared to live a life of menial service
- 6/ They accepted that this was “good and right” v25

