

File No. 42

JOSHUA 9:1 – 10:27

THE MEN OF GIBEON / WHEN THE SUN STOOD STILL

(SBS Bk 2 Story No.6 & 7)

Story Notes

The Gibeonites were as surely defeated as Jericho and Ai were, but preserved their lives by craftiness. Israel's leaders, including Joshua, were remiss in not seeking the will of God about the Gibeonites. but they made the best of their situation by gaining some slaves for menial tasks. So Israel's life thereafter included conditions that were the result of their failures, as always happens, but these were made to serve the worship of God and the welfare of his people.

Israel's new obligation, because of their covenant with the, Gibeonites, now became part of the program of God for the defeat of other surrounding cities. It must have been comforting to Israel to hear the Lord say: 'Do not fear for I have given them into your hand'. They did not have any less of God or his gracious reign because of the alien element in their borders. In fact, God assisted the warriors with hail, and Joshua was bold to ask God for extra time in which to defeat their enemies, and all this, at Gibeon. The five kings were trapped for later treatment while Israel pursued their prey.

The discipline of Ai and Gibeon had served Israel well and now, they simply carried out what God had given them to do. The wickedness of the Amorites was full (Gen. 15:16) and their end had come. This was no mere conquest but a judgment.

God has promised an inheritance to all who turn to him, and he will destroy every power that resists his preparing that inheritance (I Pet. 1:3-5). In the mean time, as Paul demonstrated, the church is to take every thought captive to Christ (II Cor. 10:3-6).

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