



BEWARE OF DECEPTION

Joshua 9:1-27

The conquest of Jericho and Ai brought fear in the land. All the Canaanite kings, except the Gibeonites, consolidated their forces to fight Israel. The Gibeonites heard what God did in Egypt and the two Amorite kings. They also knew God instructed Israel to destroy all the cities inside the Promised Land, but for those outside, they can enter peace treaties. (9:1-2, 9b-10; cf. Deuteronomy 20:10-18)

The Gibeonites went to Israel's camp at Gilgal. And deceived them by pretending to be from a distant land. The Israelites failed to seek counsel from the Lord and entered a covenant with the Gibeonites. (9:3-9a, 11-15; cf. Numbers 27:18-21)

After three days, the Israelites discovered the Gibeonites' deception. They faced a dilemma for they cannot break an oath made in the name of the Lord. Thus, instead of destroying the Gibeonites, they designated them to be servants at the house of God. (9:16-21)

Joshua summoned the Gibeonites. The Gibeonites' response reflected a change of heart and complete surrender to the Lord. At the risk of death, they responded to Joshua, "Whatever seems good and right in your sight to do to us, do it" (9:25). As a result, the Gibeonites received mercy and were spared from death. They also received grace and were given the privilege to serve at house of God. (9:22-27).

Guard your heart from deception. Beware of people who appear to be sincere and truthful yet have ulterior motives and spread lies. Deception can be discerned through divine insight. Strive to have a growing communion with God (Philippians 1:9-11), ask wisdom from God (James 1:5; 3:17), and validate such insights from spiritually mature people (Proverbs 11:14; 15:22).

reminders

Kindly turn off or mute your mobile phone during the service

We have a Sunday School for children ages 4 through 13

Our services start on time. Please go inside 5 minutes before the service.

NOTES

Handwritten notes area with horizontal lines.

worship schedule

Prelude
Worship through Songs
Worship through Prayer
Announcements
Worship Through the Word
Pastor Erwin Amador

Giving
Welcoming of Guests
Benediction
Closing Song

DO NOT FEAR

last week's sermon

Joshua 8:1-35

After the judgment of Achan, Joshua needed to receive encouragement from God. He was assured that God will keep His promise of giving the land to Israel. God then directed Joshua to attack Ai once again. But this time, He authorized Israel to take the spoils of war. (8:1-2)

God instructed Joshua on how to conquer Ai. He employed an effective military tactic of ambush. All the inhabitants of Ai were destroyed, and the king was hanged on a tree. (8:3-29)

The conquest of Ai gave the Israelites clear access to the heart of the Promised Land. It gave them a military advantage as they divided the northern and southern cities. But in spite of this advantage Israel needed to be reminded of whose they were and where they needed to stand. Joshua built an altar at Mount Ebal which was directly across Mount Gerizim. In between these two mountains, Joshua gathered all the people of Israel before the Ark of the Covenant and read all that was written in the Book of the Law as commanded by Moses. (8:30-35; Deuteronomy 27:1-8)

Before and after any battle, win or lose, we must always be in a posture of worship and obedience (Joshua 5:2-15). God surely provides for those who wait upon Him (1 John 2:15-17; Matthew 6:33; Psalm 84:11-12). God's surpassing power assures one that divine help comes in our time of need (2 Corinthians 4:7; Hebrews 4:16).



THIS TIME LAST WEEK

STEWARDSHIP REPORT

gracious giving share a chair total share a chair pledge

89,380 150,220 128,000

overall project noah

project noah

7,795,668.75 15,350

ATTENDANCE

155 adults 16 kids