

## Joshua 9:1-27

*All that glitters is not gold.  
All that's wrinkled is not old.*



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Artist: Jim Padgett

Now when all the kings west of the Jordan heard about these things-- those in the hill country, in the western foothills, and along the entire coast of the Great Sea as far as Lebanon (the kings of the Hittites, Amorites, Canaanites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites)-- they came together to make war against Joshua and Israel.



A North-South alliance  
Different groups united  
against a common enemy

However, when the people of Gibeon heard what Joshua had done to Jericho and Ai,



They knew they were likely to be next.

The Gibeonites were a coalition of local 'cities' Gibeon, Kephirah, Beeroth and Kiriath Jearim.

they resorted to a ruse..

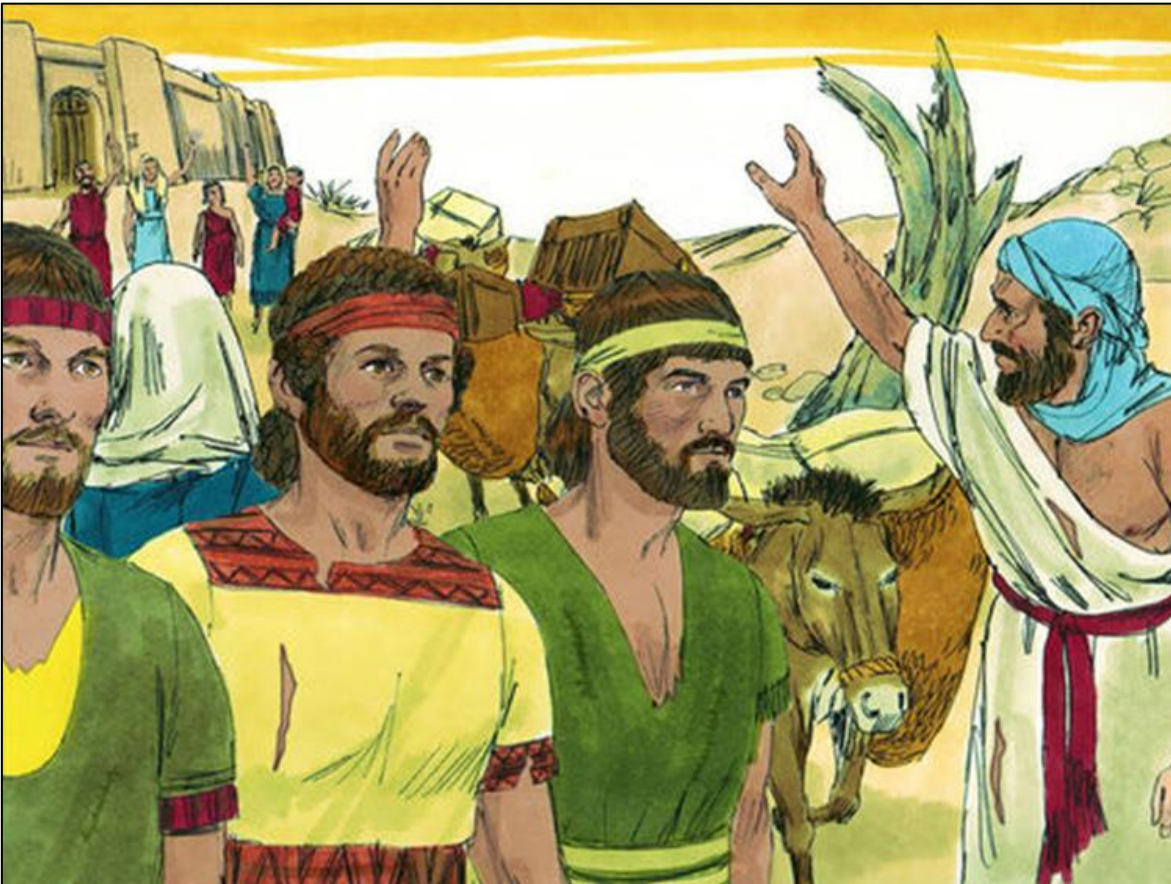


Deception -did they have any other choice?  
an alliance with God's people through lies.

But they acted in an opposite way to other cities in Canaan  
And they went to seek peace before the armies arrived.



They went as a delegation whose donkeys were loaded with worn-out sacks and old wineskins, cracked and mended. The men put worn and patched sandals on their feet and wore old clothes. All the bread of their food supply was dry and mouldy.



A delegation! – an honour to Israel's leaders.  
The perfect makeup to look like distant travellers.

Then they went to Joshua in the camp at Gilgal and said to him and the men of Israel, "We have come from a distant country; make a treaty with us."



Perhaps they had somehow heard of God's instruction to Moses ...

Deuteronomy 20:15-16 This is how you are to treat all the cities that are at a distance from you and do not belong to the nations nearby. However, in the cities of the nations the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance, do not leave alive anything that breathes.

The men of Israel said to the Hivites, "But perhaps you live near us. How then can we make a treaty with you?"

Not entirely convinced?



The Holy Spirit's warning?

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



Did you notice that they avoided answering the question?



But Joshua asked, "Who are you and where do you come from?"



They answered.. "Your servants have come from a very distant country ...



They avoid answering the question again.

They are Gibeonites from just 7 miles away.

They answered.. "Your servants have come from a very distant country because of the fame of the LORD your God. For we have heard reports of him.. all that he did in Egypt, and all that he did to the two kings of the Amorites east of the Jordan--Sihon king of Heshbon, and Og king of Bashan, who reigned in Ashtaroth.



These words are very similar to Rahab's statement about God (Joshua 2:10-11)

Notice they didn't mention the "new" news about Jericho and Ai

*Deception by omission!*

And our elders and all those living in our country said to us, `Take provisions for your journey; go and meet them and say to them, "We are your servants; make a treaty with us."

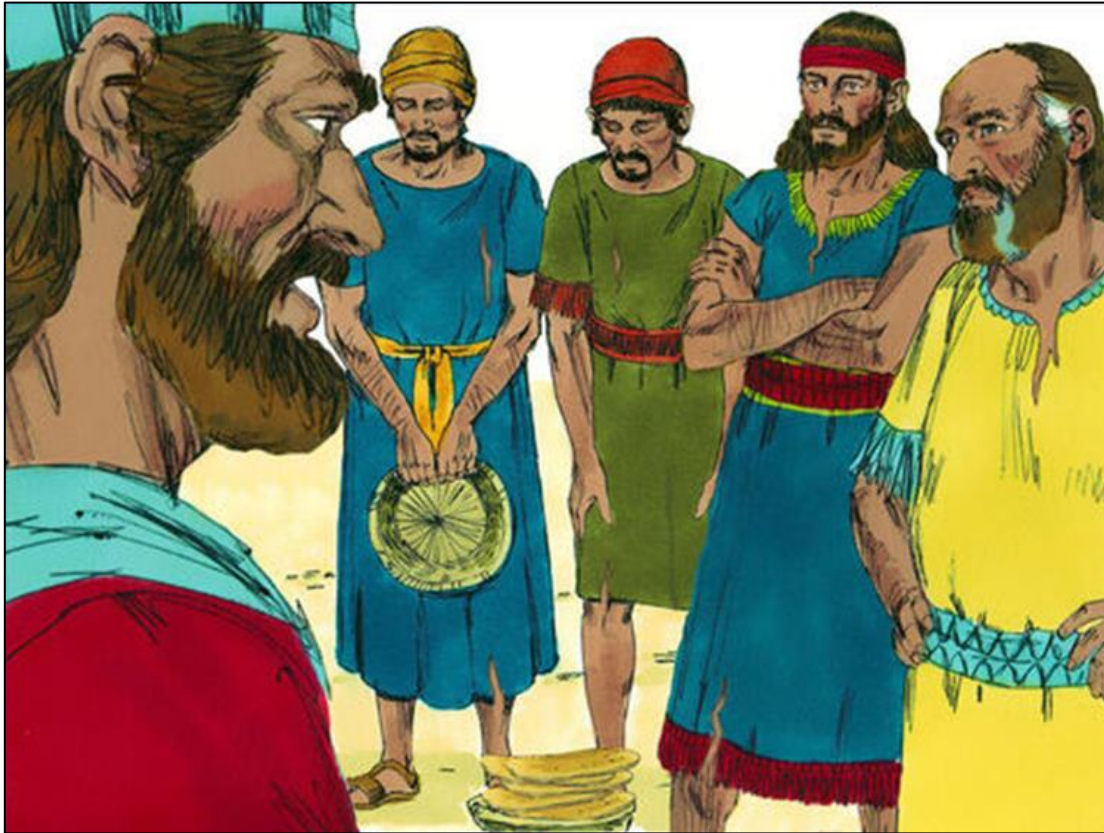
This bit is true. – deception works better with a mix!

**FALSE**  
**true**

make a treaty with us – we will accept any terms you make!



This bread of ours was warm when we packed it at home on the day we left to come to you. But now see how dry and mouldy it is. And these wineskins that we filled were new, but see how cracked they are. And our clothes and sandals are worn out by the very long journey.



Three pieces of “EVIDENCE”



The men of Israel sampled their provisions

The 'evidence' is 'genuine' but the inference is wrong.

This is old stuff - their story must be true!



The men of Israel sampled their provisions  
but did not inquire of the LORD.

They went by their natural senses only.

*The fatal mistake!*

**With the LORD**

Prayer

The Word

At this time the High Priest was  
available

Discernment is vital for God's people  
Ephesians 6:11-12





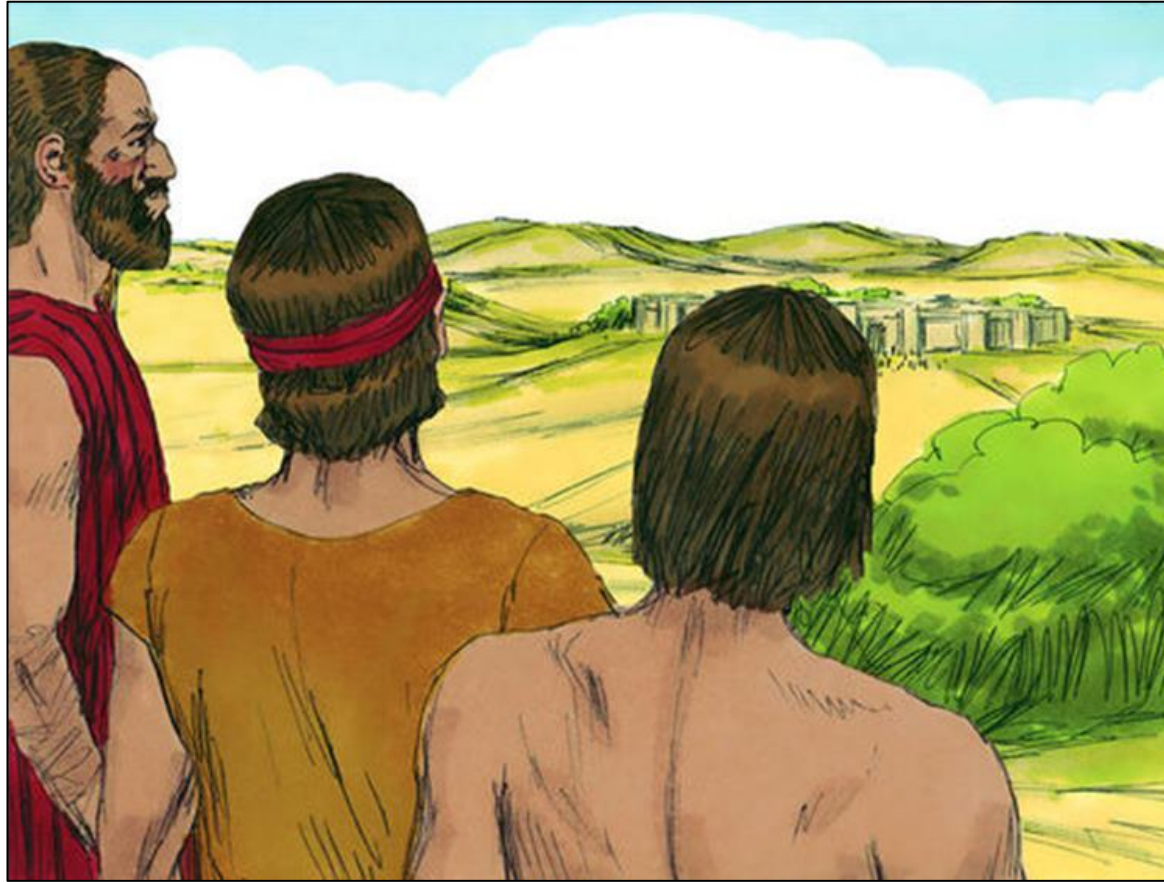
Then Joshua made a treaty of peace with them to let them live, and the leaders of the assembly ratified it by oath.

Smiles all around





Three days after they made the treaty with the Gibeonites, the Israelites heard that they were neighbours, living near them.



They had to find out sometime. Why did it take 3 days?

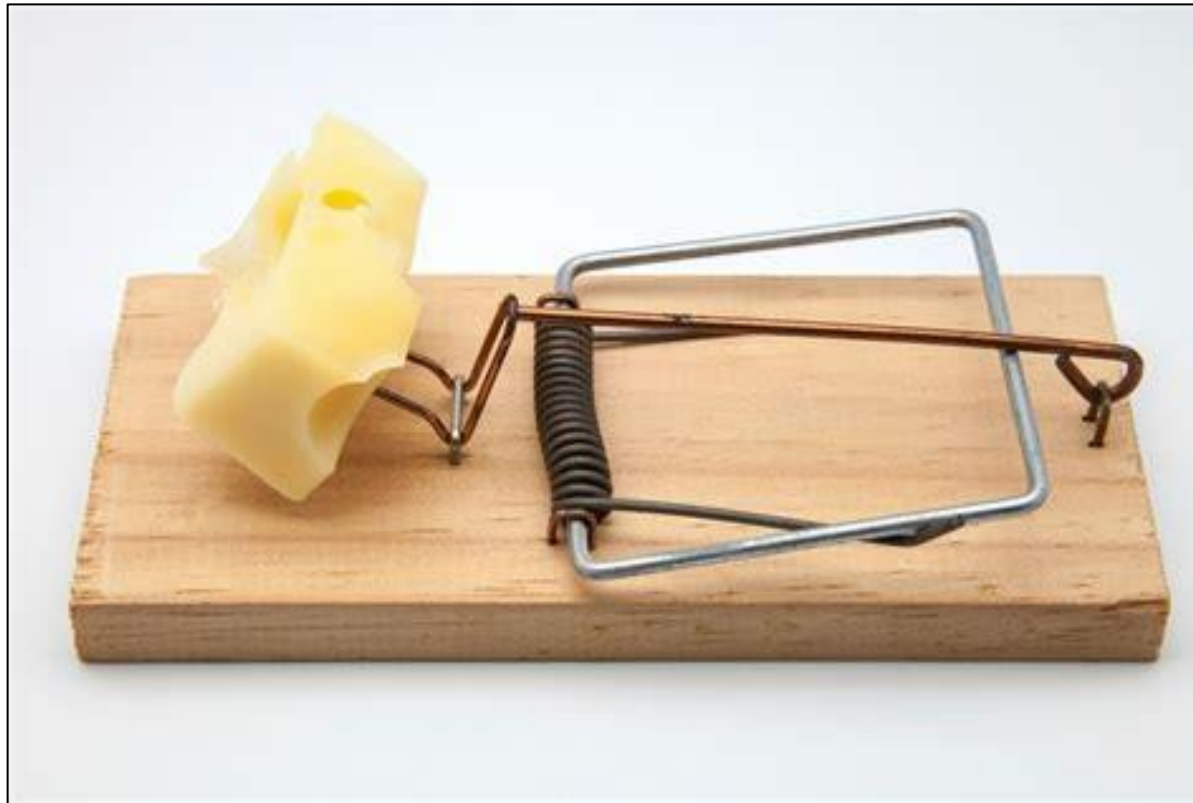
So the Israelites set out and on the third day came to their cities..  
Gibeon, Kephirah, Beeroth and Kiriath Jearim.  
But the Israelites did not attack them, because the leaders of the  
assembly had sworn an oath to them by the LORD, the God of Israel.



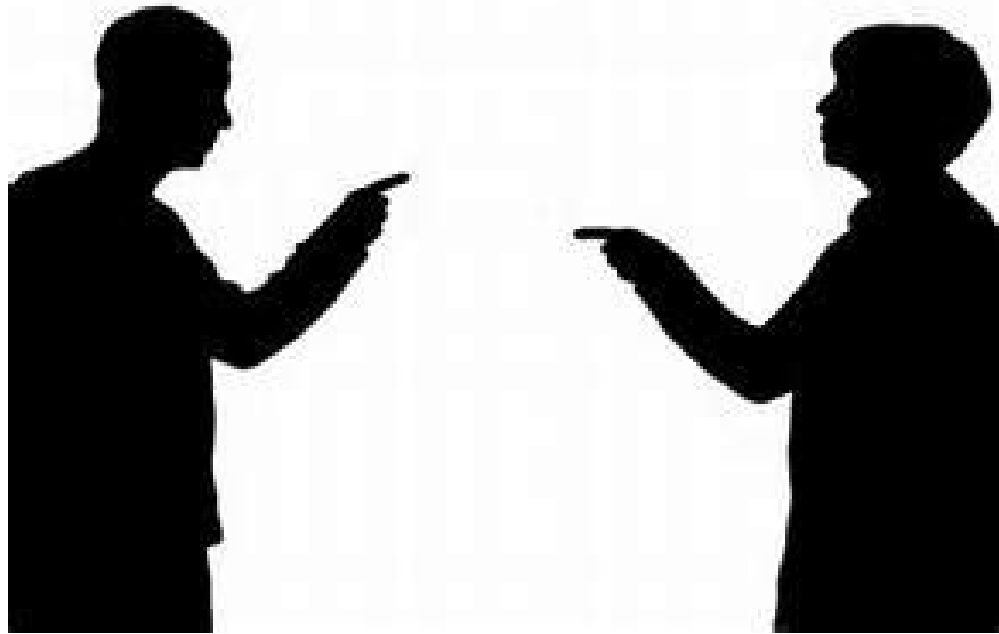
Psalm 15:4 *the righteous* who keep an oath even when it hurts, and do not change their mind;

The danger of Canaanites in Israel.  
One of Satan's tactics

Deuteronomy 7:16 You must destroy all the peoples the LORD your God gives over to you. Do not look on them with pity and do not serve their gods, for that will be a **snare** to you.



The whole assembly grumbled against the leaders, but all the leaders answered, "We have given them our oath by the LORD, the God of Israel, and we cannot touch them now.

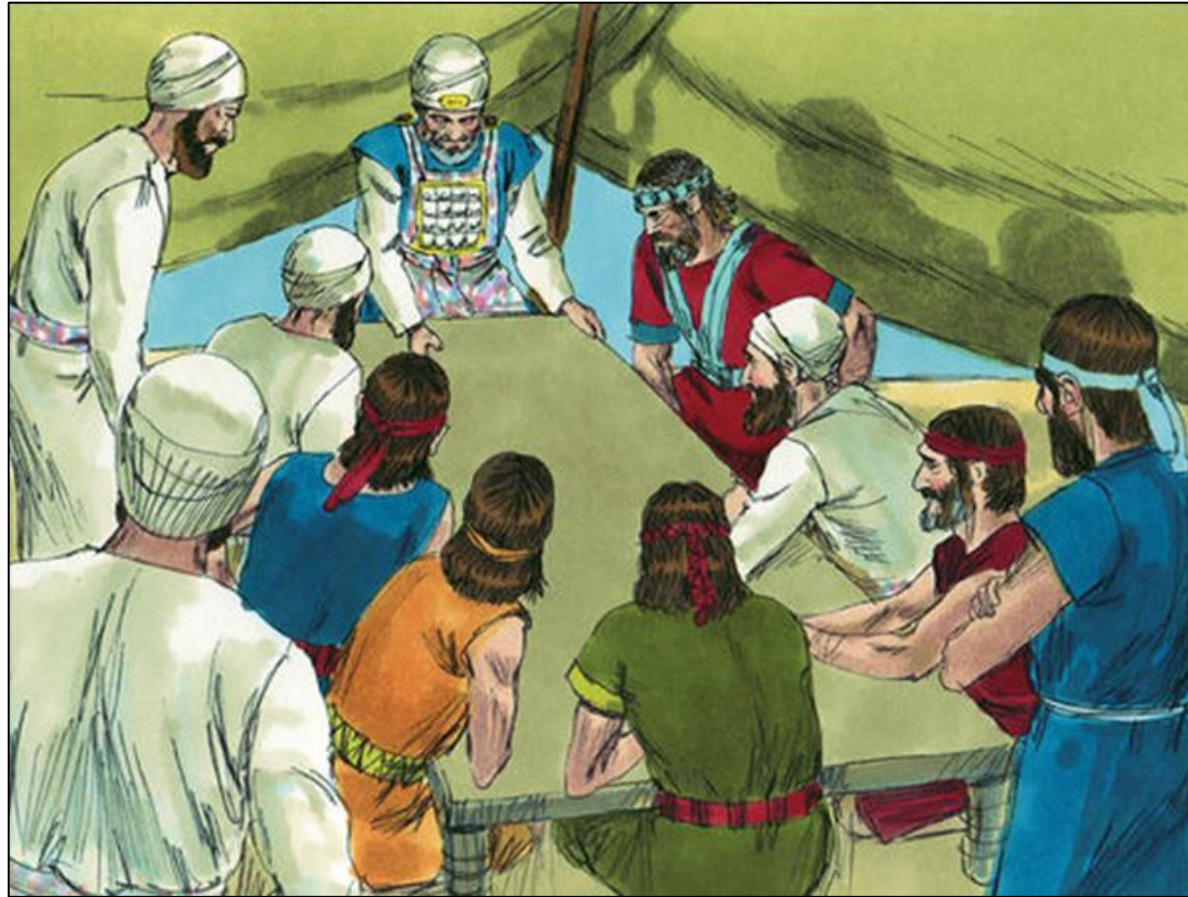


Divisions!  
One of Satan's tactics

One sin is bad  
Two sins won't make things right



This is what we will do to them.. We will let them live, so that wrath will not fall on us for breaking the oath we swore to them."

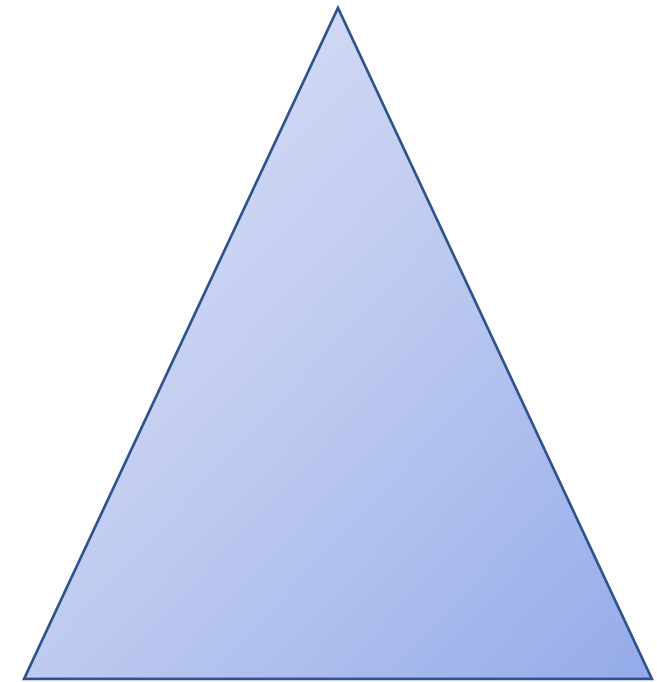


Dealing with the consequences ... (and living with the mistake)

They continued, "Let them live, but let them be woodcutters and water carriers for the entire community."

So the leaders` promise to them was kept.

Deuteronomy 29:10-11 All of you are standing today in the presence of the LORD your God--your leaders and chief men, your elders and officials, and all the other men of Israel, together with your children and your wives, and the foreigners living in your camps who chop your wood and carry your water.



The menial tasks  
at the bottom of the pile

Then Joshua summoned the Gibeonites and said, "Why did you deceive us by saying, `We live a long way from you,` while actually you live near us? You are now under a curse.. You will never cease to serve as woodcutters and water carriers for the house of my God."



“Why?”

The answer is obvious

This is your  
'punishment'

They answered Joshua, "Your servants were clearly told how the LORD your God had commanded his servant Moses to give you the whole land and to wipe out all its inhabitants from before you. So we feared for our lives because of you, and that is why we did this.



No excuses, just an honest admission

Proverbs 9:10 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.



We are now in your hands.

Do to us whatever seems good and right to you."

So Joshua saved them from the Israelites, and they did not kill them.

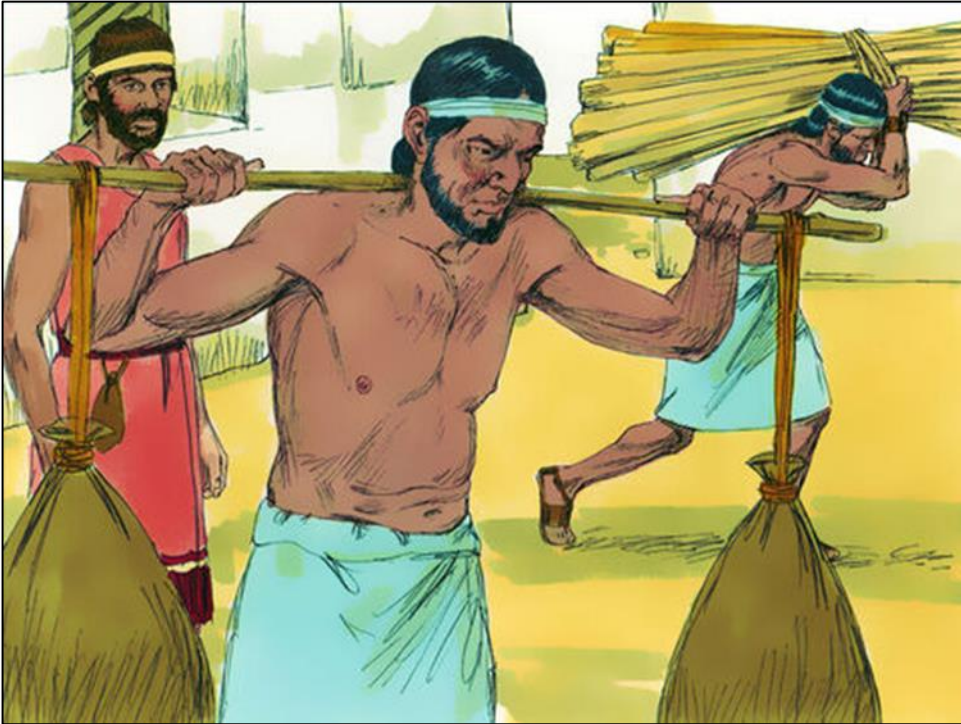
They submitted and put themselves at Joshua's mercy

They feared God's justice and wrath

They looked to God's mercy and it still applies...

Ephesians 2:3 All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath.

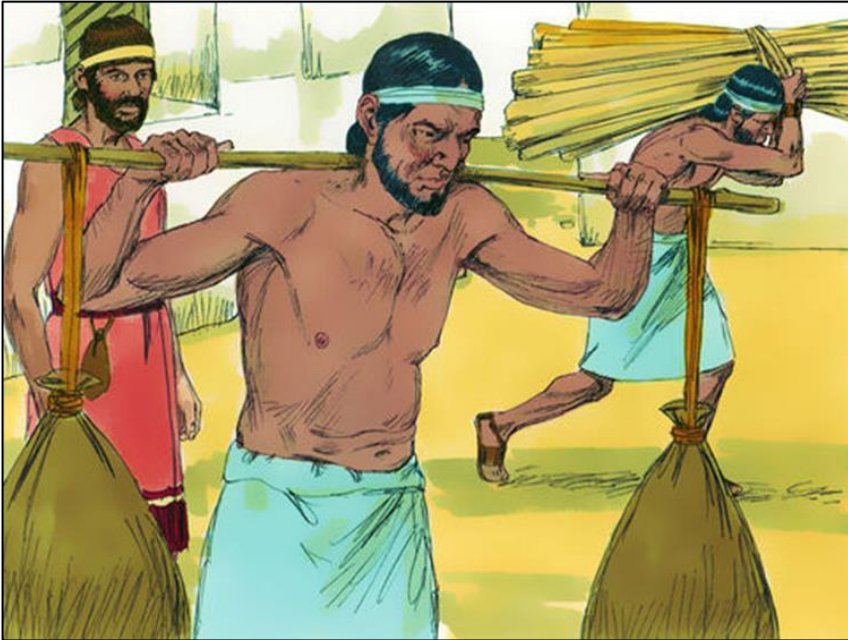
That day he made the Gibeonites woodcutters and water carriers for the community and for the altar of the LORD at the place the LORD would choose. And that is what they are to this day.



A prophecy fulfilled !

Genesis 9:25 he said, "Cursed be Canaan! The lowest of slaves will he be to his brothers."

That day he made the Gibeonites woodcutters and water carriers for the community and for the altar of the LORD at the place the LORD would choose. And that is what they are to this day.



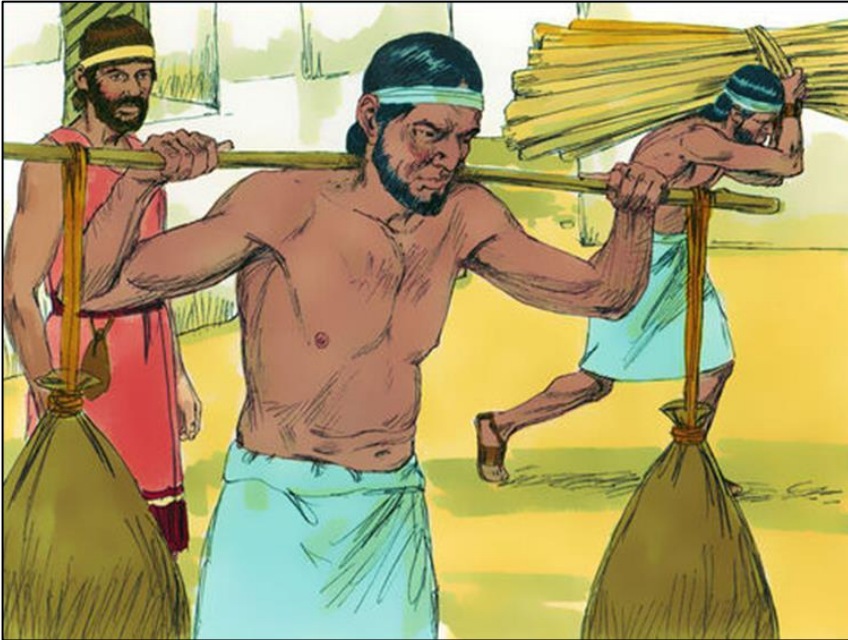
Was it such a bad job?

**God honoured that oath made to the Gibeonites: -**

1. God protected them in the next battle
2. They forsook their idolatry.
3. God judged King Saul for breaking the oath (2 Samuel 21)

And King David said ...

That day he made the Gibeonites woodcutters and water carriers for the ..... altar of the LORD at the place the LORD would choose. And that is what they are to this day.



And King David said ...

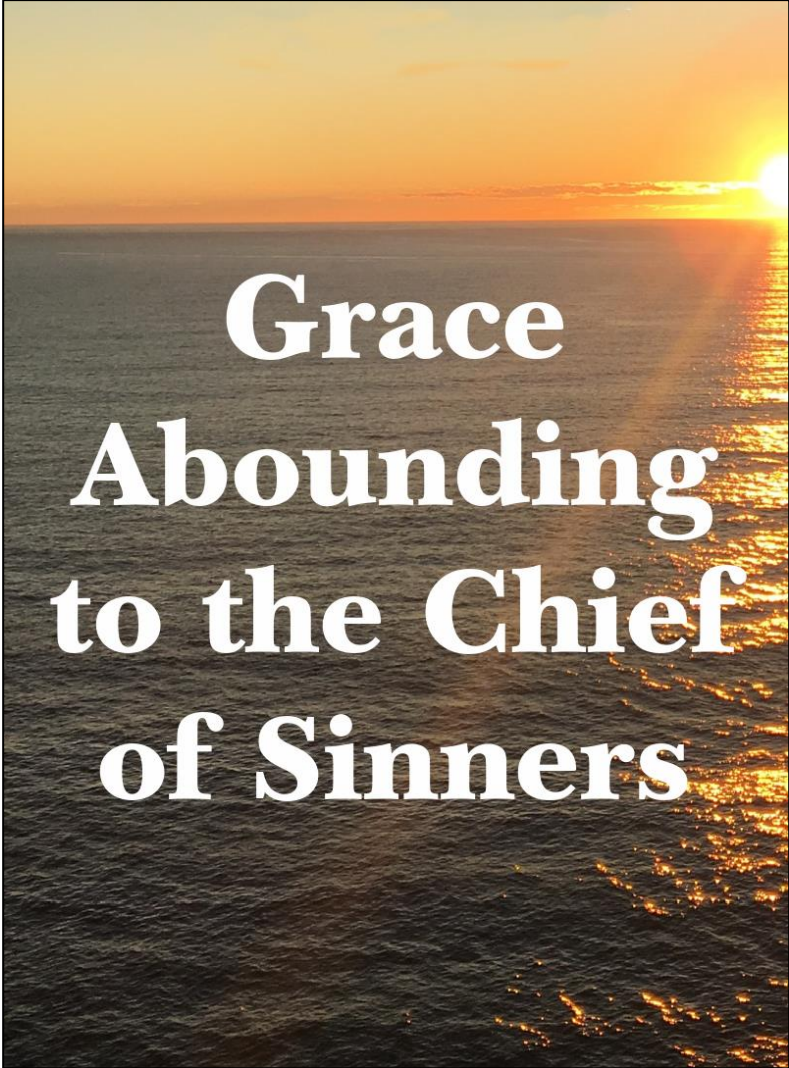
Psalm 84:10 Better is one day in your courts than a thousand elsewhere; I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of the wicked.



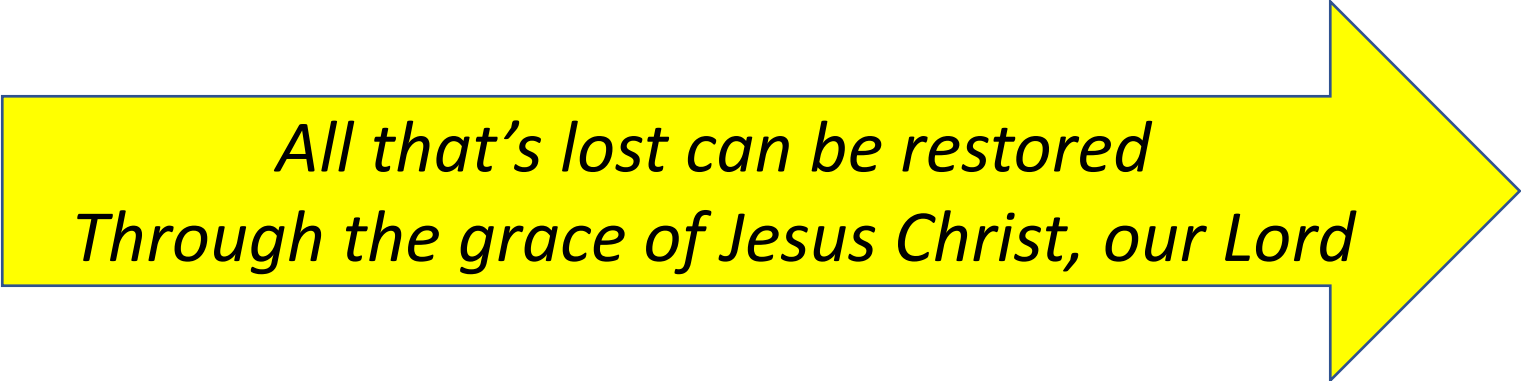
1 Timothy 1:15-16

Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance:

**Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners--**of whom I am the worst. But for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display his immense patience as an example for those who would believe in him and receive eternal life.



**Grace  
Abounding  
to the Chief  
of Sinners**



*All that's lost can be restored  
Through the grace of Jesus Christ, our Lord*