

## **JOSHUA 10:1-15 STUDY NOTES (5/8/22)**

**Joshua's Big Theme:** The Israelites are finally ready to enter into the land that God promised - that God is *gifting* to them - that is currently inhabited by enemy forces which need to be pushed out. Over the course of Joshua, they will learn what it means to be strong and courageous in the Lord as they follow God and trust Joshua in the scariest and most overwhelming of situations.

**Today's Context:** Due to their treaty with the Gibeonites, the Israelites get pulled into a battle that isn't actually theirs. Despite that fact, God saves the people, spares the people, and secures the battle for Israelite and Gibeonite alike.

### **Additional Study Notes:**

- While the Gibeonites are covenanted with the Israelite people, they are not yet fully covenanted with God Himself. They haven't been circumcised or dedicated themselves to Him, so they are more like "foreigners" needing protection among God's people. However, God has promised to bless those who bless Israel (Gen 12), which would include their allies. Yet as Gibeonites and Israelites journey side by side, over time, we see the Gibeonites (or at least some of them) blend in with the people of God and become true followers of YHWH (Joshua 21:17, Nehemiah 7).
- What is the *Book of Jashar* (v.13)? It was most likely a book which contained special epic events, poems, and songs (2 Sam 1:19-27; 1 Kings 8:12-13). While there have been forgeries found of this book, it has been ultimately lost to time.

### **For Additional Study (most are available to borrow from CFC):**

- NIV Study Bible
- ESV Study Bible
- Other commentaries available upon request



# Discussion Questions

## CATCHING UP ON LAST WEEK

- (1) What was most significant for you from Joshua 9? What's stuck with you as meaningful or impactful?

## TODAY'S TEXT

### **KNOWING God**

- (2) What questions do you (or members of your group) have about this passage? Discuss.
- (3) What does this passage tell us about God?
- (4) What does this passage tell us about humanity?
- (5) Alpha and Omega Question: How have you seen different "tribes" or "groups" of people (like the Gibeonites) continue to resurface in the story of Israel?
- (6) How do you see elements of "covenant" in this passage? In other words, how do you see the Gibeonite's covenant with Israel in effect? God's covenant with Israel?

### **GROWING Together**

- (7) *\*If people in your group are following the Alpha and Omega reading plan, take time to discuss/encourage their reading for 5-10 minutes.*
- (8) In this passage the Gibeonites - despite their sinfulness (ch. 9) - the Gibeonites salvation goes from an abstract treaty to a tangible salvation. How would this salvation have felt to them? How does your salvation feel to you? How can our salvation move from being abstract to being felt/real?
- (9) The Gibeonites are not just saved but *spared* from the wrath they deserve. Do you reflect much on the punishment you deserve? How does recognizing that God's *spared* us actually make our salvation more joyful?
- (10) God's will is never thwarted, meaning He guarantees all that He does (as we see in this passage). God secures our salvation, meaning, we can't lose Him or walk away from Him if He's secured us in His family. What practical implications do this create for us as believers? How would this give us peace and rest in our hearts?
- (11) What questions, ideas, or themes would you want to study further?

### ***SHOWING God to Others***

(12) What in this passage serves as good news for the world around us?

### **PREPARING FOR NEXT WEEK**

(13) For next week, spend some time reading Joshua 10:16-43. What's interesting? What questions do you have?

### **QUESTIONS FOR CHILDREN (from Children's Director Emily Reiser)**

- (14) What stood out to you in this story? What did you find interesting and what was confusing?
- (15) Do you remember who the Gibeonites are from last week's story? Why is it especially cool that God protected them? How does that make you feel knowing that even though we are sinners that God will protect us when we are His people?
- (16) During the battle who was the main protector? Did God ever leave the battle? Does God ever leave us? How can you share our faithful God with others?