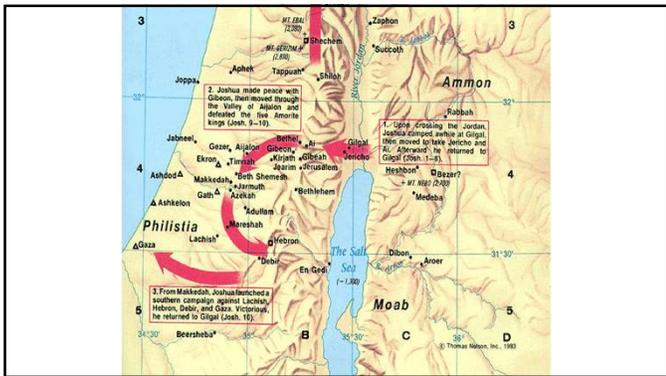
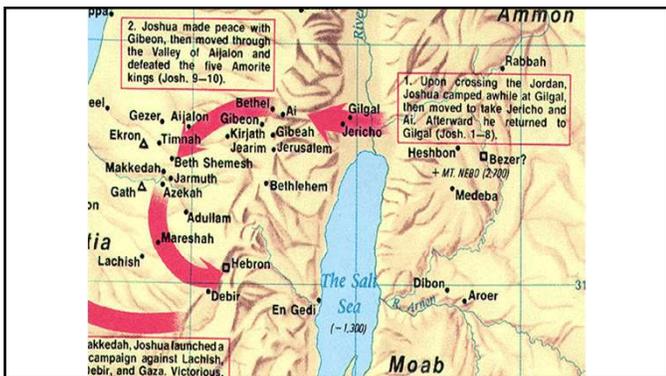




1



2



3

Plans by the people of the land to stop the Israelites. 9:1-15

- Several of the kings of the land formed a coalition to unite and fight against Joshua and Israel. 9:1-2
- The Gibeonites devise a deception to trick the Israelites into a binding covenant of peace. 9:3-15
 - Although they were Hivites who lived a few miles from the Israelite camp they devised an elaborate ruse in which they would appear that they had traveled from a far country.
 - They were intent on the Israelites entering into a binding covenant of peace with them.
 - Joshua and the leaders were suspicious and challenged their claims.

4

Plans by the people of the land to stop the Israelites. 9:1-15

- The Gibeonites devise a deception to trick the Israelites into a binding covenant of peace. 9:3-15
 - Those claims were met with the “evidence” of their long journey.
 - Joshua and the leaders of Israel examined the “evidence” but missed an important step by not seeking counsel from Yahweh.
 - Based on their observations and conclusions Joshua and the Israelites made peace with them and entered into a covenant that they would let them live.

5

The aftermath 9:16-27

- The cities of the of the Gibeonites encompassed the four cities of Gibeon, Chephirah, Beeroth and Kiriath-jearim.
- These cities were the next cities that the Israelites were to encounter in their conquest.
- When they arrived at these cities, they were met with by the people with whom Joshua and the leaders had made the covenant and therefore they did not attack them.

6

The aftermath 9:16-27

- The people of Israel murmured against the leaders because of the promise made by them to these people.
- The leaders stood by the covenant they had made with the Gibeonites and their allies "lest [God's] wrath be upon us."
- The recourse was to subjugate the people as cutters of wood and drawers of water for all the congregation. Much, if not all, of this work would center around the Tabernacle, supporting the sacrifices and offerings. This would be fitting for them to be used in this way since they had been devoted to God. (See 1 Kings 9:20-21)

7

The aftermath 9:16-27

- Their response to Joshua when he asked why they had deceived the Israelites in this way reflects knowledge of the command given by God to Moses to destroy the people of the land.
- It further reveals the conviction that they would be powerless to stop this decree. The victories at Jericho and Ai would have only strengthened this conviction.

8

The Law related to making an oath.

- ¹² You shall not swear by my name falsely, and so profane the name of your God: I am the LORD. Leviticus 19:12 (ESV)
- ¹ Moses spoke to the heads of the tribes of the people of Israel, saying, "This is what the LORD has commanded.² If a man vows a vow to the LORD, or swears an oath to bind himself by a pledge, he shall not break his word. He shall do according to all that proceeds out of his mouth. Numbers 30:1-2 (ESV)
- ⁴ in whose eyes a vile person is despised, but who honors those who fear the LORD; who swears to his own hurt and does not change; Psalm 15:4 (ESV)

9

Lessons

- Deception is a powerful and often effective weapon against God's people.
- We never have a complete picture of any situation until we have heard from God.
- We need to be reminded of the serious nature of making and keeping commitments.
