

Armed for Battle 8:

Careless Assumptions, Costly Consequences

Joshua Chapter 9

1. The Battle that Victory Brings

Joshua 9:1 (NIV)

1 Now when all the kings west of the Jordan heard about these things—the kings in the hill country, in the western foothills, and along the entire coast of the Mediterranean Sea as far as Lebanon (the kings of the Hittites, Amorites, Canaanites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites) — 2 they came together to wage war against Joshua and Israel.

The battles after our breakthrough are often bigger than the battles before it.

Don't be surprised when victory attracts opposition—it often provokes it.

The battle they prepared for... is not the battle they lost.

They were ready for war.

But the enemy doesn't fight fair.

He doesn't follow your rules.

And if he can't defeat you in confrontational battle...

he will use other means.

1 Peter 5:8 (NIV)

“Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.”

The enemy is not passive.

He is watching.

He is looking for opportunity.

1 Corinthians 10:12 (AMP)

12 Therefore let the one who thinks he stands firm [immune to temptation, being overconfident and self-righteous], take care that he does not fall [into sin and condemnation].

2. The Consequences of Agreements

Josh 9:3-16 NIV

3 However, when the people of Gibeon heard what Joshua had done to Jericho and Ai, 4 they resorted to a ruse: They went as a delegation whose donkeys were loaded with worn-out sacks and old wineskins, cracked and mended. 5 They put worn and patched sandals on their feet and wore old clothes. All the bread of their food supply was dry and mouldy. 6 Then they went to Joshua in the camp at Gilgal and said to him and the Israelites, "We have come from a distant country; make a treaty with us." 7 The Israelites said to the Hivites, "But perhaps you live near us, so how can we make a treaty with you?" 8 "We are your servants, " they said to Joshua. But Joshua asked, "Who are you and where do you come from?" 9 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, 10 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. 11 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."' 12 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 moldy it is. 13 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." 14 **The Israelites sampled their provisions but did not inquire of the LORD.** 15 Then Joshua made a treaty of peace with them to let them live, and the leaders of the assembly ratified it by oath. 16 Three days after they made the treaty with the Gibeonites, the Israelites heard that they were neighbours, living near them.

They prepare an appearance.

They build a case that looks believable.

This is intentional deception.

And here is what makes deception effective:

It always carries enough truth to look convincing.

They knew that distant nations could be shown mercy according to the Israelites' Law.

They knew that proximity meant destruction.

**And the goal is not just to deceive—
the goal is to gain agreement.**

Because once agreement is formed, access is given.

It begins with a suggestion.

The enemy doesn't need you to deny God's Word—
he only needs you to agree with something different.

He doesn't replace truth outright—
he adjusts it just enough for you to accept it.

**They made a decision...
that was not measured against His voice.**

Colossians 2:8 (NLT)

Don't let anyone capture you with empty philosophies and high-sounding nonsense that come from human thinking and from the spiritual powers of this world, rather than from Christ.

a. The voice that affirms what you want to hear

b. The formation of forbidden alliances

c. Agreements with internal lies

They did not inquire of the Lord.

Josh 9:14-15 NIV

14 The Israelites sampled their provisions but did not inquire of the LORD. 15 Then Joshua made a treaty of peace with them to let them live, and the leaders of the assembly ratified it by oath.

James 1:5 (NIV)

5 If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you.

**The issue was not that wisdom was unavailable.
It was that it was not sought.**

**Deception doesn't need to be obvious—
it only needs to be believable.**

And once you agree with something God never led you into...
you may have to live with the consequences of the decision.

3. The Necessity of Faithfulness in Consequences

Josh 9:17-26 NIV

17 So the Israelites set out and on the third day came to their cities: Gibeon, Kephirah, Beeroth and Kiriath Jearim. 18 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. The whole assembly grumbled against the leaders, 19 but all the leaders answered, "We have given them our oath by the LORD, the God of Israel, and we cannot touch them now. 20 This is what we will do to them: We will let them live, so that God's wrath will not fall on us for breaking the oath we swore to them." 21 They continued, "Let them live, but let them be woodcutters and water carriers in the service of the whole assembly." So the leaders' promise to them was kept. 22 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? 23 You are now under a curse: You will never be released from service as woodcutters and water carriers for the house of my God." 24 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. 25 We are now in your hands. Do to us whatever seems good and right to you." 26 So Joshua saved them from the Israelites, and they did not kill them. 27 That day he made the Gibeonites woodcutters and water carriers for the assembly, to provide for the needs of the altar of the LORD at the place the LORD would choose. And that is what they are to this day.

And now a new responsibility emerges.

To remain faithful...

even in the consequences of a decision that should never have been made.

Even though the Israelites did the right thing by keeping their commitment, they still had to live with some consequences of their foolishness.

Two wrong decisions will not restore righteousness.

2 Samuel 21:1-6 (NLT)

1 There was a famine during David's reign that lasted for three years, so David asked the LORD about it. And the LORD said, "The famine has come because Saul and his family are guilty of murdering the Gibeonites." 2 So the king summoned the Gibeonites. They were not part of Israel but were all that was left of the nation of the Amorites. The people of Israel had sworn not to kill them, but Saul, in his zeal for Israel and Judah, had tried to wipe them out. 3 David asked them, "What can I do for you? How can I make amends so that you will bless the LORD's people again?" 4 "Well, money can't settle this matter between us and the family of Saul," the Gibeonites replied. "Neither can we demand the life of anyone in Israel." "What can I do then?" David asked. "Just tell me and I will do it for you." 5 Then they replied, "It was Saul who planned to destroy us, to keep us from having any place at all in the territory of Israel. 6 So let seven of Saul's sons be handed over to us, and we will

execute them before the LORD at Gibeon, on the mountain of the LORD.” “All right,” the king said, “I will do it.”

A decision made in one generation...
can carry weight into another.

**What is entered into without God...
can outlast the moment it was created in for generations.**

4. God’s Redemption in the Midst of Consequences

Joshua 9:26-27 NIV

26 So Joshua saved them from the Israelites, and they did not kill them. 27 That day he made the Gibeonites woodcutters and water carriers for the assembly, to provide for the needs of the altar of the LORD at the place the LORD would choose. And that is what they are to this day.

**God will not always remove what your decision created—
but He will not waste it either.**

**What was never His will...
can still be brought into His purpose.**

**Because even when we get it wrong...
God is not finished.**

John 3:16–17 (NIV)

“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son... For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.”

Romans 8:28 (NIV)

28 And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

Conclusion

Some battles in your life
are not lost because you were overpowered...

They are lost
because you moved forward
without seeking God.

Some of the most costly moments
don't come from opposition in front of you...

They come from assumptions or within you.

**You cannot walk in freedom
while agreeing with what God never said.**

**God's mercy meets you in your failure...
but His purpose is still working through it.**

**What began in deception...
does not have to end in destruction.**

**What was entered into without God...
can still be brought under His authority.**

**And what carries consequence...
can still carry purpose.**