



*Pointers and questions on*

# JOSHUA 1-12

## Session 7

**9:1-27**

### Israel deceived by the Gibeonites

#### Summary

- 9:1-14** Instead of planning a military campaign against the Israelites like the other nations in the area, the Gibeonites resort to deception to extract a guarantee of safety.
- 9:15-21** Once the deception is exposed the Israelites complain to Joshua and the leaders of Israel, who remain bound by their oath not to destroy the Gibeonites.
- 9:22-27** As a compromise, Israel forces the Gibeonites to be slaves, compelled to do menial tasks.

#### Questions to get you thinking

1. The devil has more than one strategy. What can we learn about his methods from this chapter, compared with the previous ones? Can you give any real-life examples that illustrate his different approaches?
2. This was an elaborate deception, planned to the last detail to make it look authentic (v4-5). Can Christians be as completely deceived as the Israelites were by Satan's cunning deceit? Think about Jesus' phrase 'wolves in sheep's clothing' (Matthew 7:15).
3. What was Israel's major error in dealing with the Gibeonites? See v14. What does this tell us about the wisdom of trusting our own observation and experience? See James 4:13-15.
4. Should the Israelites have killed the Gibeonites once their deception was exposed (see v18-19)? How important is it to keep a promise? Look at what happened when, later on, King Saul disregarded this very oath: 2 Samuel 21:1-6.
5. Choices have consequences. If Joshua and Israel's leaders had exercised more care in their initial contact with the Gibeonites they would not have been lumbered with them for ever after. Give some examples from your own experience.
6. Look at v27. Why do you think Joshua assigned the Gibeonites to duties at or near the Tabernacle?
7. God had not yet chosen the location where the Tabernacle would be permanently established. See 2 Chronicles 1:3 for where it *was* eventually placed. Any comments on this?

