The Gibeonite Trick

Joshua 9:1-10:15
2. After winning the cities of Jericho and Ai, Joshua continued to lead the Israelites in winning the cities of the land of Canaan. This was the land that God had promised to them and his plan was that they win battles to conquer it.

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3. God was on the side of the Israelites so the kings in all of the land were very worried. They decided to join together and form a big army to fight God's people.
4. Part 1 (The Gibeonites trick the Israelites)

The city of Gibeon was very near where Joshua and the people of Israel were located. The city did not have a king but it was big and had a lot of fighting men. The people of Gibeon knew that God was on the side of the Israelites so they thought up a plan to protect themselves.

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The Gibeonites were very tricky. They loaded up their animals and made it look like they had been travelling for a long time. They wore old and worn out clothes and shoes. They even put old dry bread and food in their travel packs. The Israelites were camped nearby but when the Gibeonites arrived it seemed to Joshua and the rest of the people that they had come from a place far, far away. The men of Israel looked at the old clothes and even tasted the old bread. They were fooled!
6. The Gibeonites said that even though they were from far away they had heard about how God was helping the Israelites win all of the land. They asked if the people of Israel would make a special agreement to never hurt the people of Gibeon.
A special agreement like this is a very big decision. The men of Israel should have taken the time to pray and ask God to give them wisdom. Instead, they just thought, “This is not that important. God wants us to take over all the cities in Canaan but Gibeon is a city far away. We will just promise to never hurt them.” So they made the promise to the Gibeonites.
Three days later the Israelites learned the truth. Gibeon was not an enemy city far away! Gibeon was an enemy city very close to them! They had made a terrible mistake and now they had to keep their promise. They wished so much that they had asked God to give them wisdom instead of rushing right in to the agreement.
The Israelite people were not very happy with their leaders. They complained to them that the Gibeonites should not be allowed to get away with this but the leaders said that they had to keep their promise not to hurt them.
Finally, they came to a decision. They would keep their promise and not hurt the Gibeonites. The Gibeonites, however, would have to do work for the Israelites. From then on the Gibeonites would have to carry water and cut wood for the Israelites.
11. Part 2 (Israel Protects the Gibeonites)

Remember how all of the kings from the nations banded together to fight the Israelites? Now, when they heard that the Gibeonites had made a special treaty with the Israelites, they got very angry. They decided to fight with the Gibeonites and teach them a lesson.

The Gibeonite Trick

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12. When the Gibeonites heard that the other nations were going to attack them they sent a message to Joshua and the people, "Help! Come and save us or we will be destroyed."
Joshua remembered the promise to the Gibeonites. He led the Israelite soldiers in a battle against the kings and the people of the land. They defeated them in a great victory.
14. Everyone knew that God was the God of Israel. As the Israelites chased the enemies away, large hailstones began to fall from the sky. More enemy soldiers died from the hailstones than were killed by swords.
Joshua and the soldiers had been fighting so long that night would come soon and it would be dark. So Joshua and the soldiers did something no one expected. Joshua told the sun to stand still and it did. That day God showed that he was God for his people. God made the sun stand still so it continued to be daytime long enough for the Israelites to win the battle. There had never been a battle like this and there as never been one like it since that time!
1. **Cover: The Gibeonite Trick (Joshua 9:1-10:15)**

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7. A special agreement like this is a very big decision. The men of Israel should have taken the time to pray and ask God to give them wisdom.

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