

CONQUEST OF CANAAN

PLEASE do not read these comments until you have prayed for wisdom and read the Bible to learn what the Holy Spirit wants you to teach your students. Then let Him guide you in using these notes below to meet the needs of your students.

Lesson Aim: Trust in the LORD's promises and power to conquer all your spiritual enemies.

Suggestion: Give next week's Student Lesson to your class to answer the questions. Let them share their answers in class. The questions below will reveal important truths you may want to emphasize.

Introduction: Although Joshua had already led Israel in victory over Jericho and Ai, there were many more cities that needed to be conquered in the land of Canaan. Without faith in the Lord, victory would be beyond their power. But with his faith in the promises and power of the LORD and compliance with the LORD's principle of keeping an oath made in His name, he was victorious. Paul said, "I can do all things through Christ Who strengthens me" (Phil 4:13).

How can a believer discern the deceptions of the world, the flesh or the devil? 9:3-15

It is easy to discern a frontal attack by the world, the flesh and the devil, but not a deceptive attack. A believer can be deceived by the enemy when it makes sin look normal or even good. Satan did this to Eve. She believed Satan's lie about God withholding knowledge from her that would make her as wise as He was, if she ate of the forbidden tree. Joshua and his leaders made the same error as Eve - they failed to seek counsel from the LORD (9:14). You can seek the LORD's counsel for all your decisions so you will not be deceived (Mt 7:7-8).

What can a believer do that has been deceived? 9:21-2

Joshua and his leaders made the Gibeonites slaves for deceiving them, but that is not an option for most believers. Paul advised believers to leave the mistreatment with the LORD: vengeance belongs to Him. You can trust Him to judge the deceiver for His wrongdoing (Rom 12:19).

What should a believer do that has made a bad covenant with a deceiver? 10:5-9

Joshua kept his covenant with Gibeon so that he might not bring a reproach on the name of the LORD (Lev 19:12). Jesus used this verse to tell all believers to keep the promises they make (Mt 5:33). Joshua kept his covenant with the Gibeonites by going to war against the five Amorite kings that prepared to attack Gibeon. As a result, the LORD blessed him with a great victory over these kings, which gave him control of the southern cities of Canaan. The LORD honors those who keep their promises, but disciplines those who do not (2 Sam 21:4-6). Will you keep all your promises?

What should believers do to accomplish the LORD's work? 10:10-14

Believers should fight the good fight of faith (1 Tim 6:12). To do this they need to be strong in the LORD and put on all the armor that He provides (Eph 6:10-17). Joshua fought the five Amorite kings by faith in the LORD's promise and power. When they fled, the LORD hurled hailstones on them, which killed more than the sword. Joshua needed more daylight hours to finish this war, so he prayed for the sun and moon to stay in their places and the LORD answered. You need to fight Satan by the LORD's power and pray like Joshua did (Eph 6:18) to win great battles for the LORD.

What should believers do to the enemies of their souls? 10:22-27

Joshua killed the five Amorite kings and threw them into the cave and piled stones in front of the cave. Believers are told to put to death five wicked sins: sexual immorality, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry (Col 3:5). You must get victory over these sins.

Why should believers not use the weapons of unbelievers to serve the LORD? 11:1-6

The LORD told Joshua to hamstring the enemies' horses and burn their chariots. He did not want them to use the enemies' weapons for their warfare, but to trust in Him for victory. Believers must not use the world's methods and music to win lost souls to Christ; they must trust in Christ's ways by telling others of His death and resurrection (Act 4:10; 1 Cor 15:3-4). Do you trust Christ's ways?