

Study Notes and Questions for Joshua 9-11

- How does the reaction of the local kings to Israel's victories in Joshua 9:1-2 reflect the influence that our victories and achievements can have on others?
- How were the Israelites deceived by the Gibeonites?
- The Israelites quickly made a treaty with the Gibeonites based on what they saw and heard. How does this speak to the importance of discernment and seeking God's guidance in our own decisions?
- Even though the Israelite leaders were tricked they kept their word to the Gibeonites, even when the general population wanted to kill them. How do you think it would have affected Israel had they gone back on their vow?
- How does this chapter show the importance of integrity in our dealings with others?
- What are the similarities between the attitude and heart of the Gibeonites and those of Rahab back in chapter 2?
- Discuss some ways that people today use manipulation or deceit to gain an advantage, like the Gibeonites did. How should Christians respond to such situations?
- Joshua showed mercy and protection to the Gibeonites despite their deceit in chapter 10. How does this align with your understanding of mercy and justice?
- The chapter mentions that God fought for Israel. How can we expect God to fight for us today?
- How do you reconcile God's active involvement in these battles, including sending large hailstones to kill more people than the Israelites' swords, with your understanding of God's heart of mercy?
- The execution of the Amorite kings served as a visual demonstration of God's power over Israel's enemies. How can this imagery inspire Christians facing spiritual battles today?
- Joshua 11 opens with kings uniting their forces to defeat Israel. How can we apply the concept of God assuring Joshua and his men in the face of that vast army, to the enemies that threaten us today?
- The process of claiming the promised land was not a quick one. How does this apply to our understanding of patience and waiting on God's timing?