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BIBLE ADVENTURES SCRIPT:

A1460 ~ The Gibeonites Deceive Joshua.

Welcome to Bible Adventures. Help for today. Hope for tomorrow. Jesus is Lord of all.

News about the children of Israel had reached all the people in the land of Canaan. They had heard how the Israelites had conquered cities on the eastern side of the Jordan River. They had heard how the Almighty God had helped His people cross over the river, even though it was in flood at that time of year. Then they had heard how Jericho's walls had fallen down flat so the Israelite army could destroy it. Next on the list Israel had conquered the town of Ai. It looked as if no-one could stop them. All the idol-worshipping tribes of Canaan were very afraid. Would their cities also fall? So they all decided to join together. They would be much stronger, united. Surely they would be able to turn back these people who trusted the Almighty God!

But there was one city that did not join in. The people of Gibeon were like Rahab. She was the one person in Jericho who saw that Israel's God was the Almighty One. She understood it was foolish to try to stand against Him. It was much better to ask for His mercy. She and all her family were the only ones saved when Israel destroyed Jericho.

The Gibeonite people understood it was foolish to fight against the great All-powerful God of Israel, so they thought up a plan to save their lives.

DRAMA - [The Bible In Living Sound.](#)

So the Gibeonites got what they wanted: their lives and the safety of their city. But because they deceived Joshua, they were no longer free. Nevertheless, this also was a **blessing** to them. They mixed amongst the Israelites and learned about the One True God and His ways.

There is a true saying, "God moves in mysterious ways." When the children of Israel left Egypt, there were some Egyptians who also believed God's words to Moses. **They** also joined the Israelites' journey to the Promised Land.

And 400 years earlier, when God saved Joseph and all the Israelite family in Egypt from starvation, God also saved all the Egyptians. God was blessing others through faithful Abraham's children, as He had promised. Perhaps life would have been better for the Gibeonites if they had been honest when they asked for peace and safety. In the Bible book Exodus, chapter 20, God says this, "I show My love to thousands of generations of those who love Me and keep My laws." "Do you think I enjoy seeing an evil man die?" asks the Sovereign Lord in the book Ezekiel, chapter 18. "No, I would rather see him repent and live," The Almighty God would have shown Joshua what to do if the Gibeonites wanted to join Israel and follow God's laws.

It's easy for us to see that Joshua and the princes of Israel were foolish when they believed the Gibeonites' story, and did not ask God for wisdom. The worn-out clothing and mouldy bread made the story seem true, so Joshua believed the lies. We need to learn, from this story, how important it is always to ask for wisdom from God.

Many years later, David, the famous king of Israel, did not trust his own wisdom. In the songs he wrote, he prayed for God to guide him. Psalm 5, in the Bible, says this, "Lord, I have so many enemies! Lead me to do your will; make your way plain for me to follow. What my enemies say can never be trusted;" And Psalm 143 says, "You are my God; teach me to do Your will. Be good to me and guide me on a safe path." The Book James, chapter 1, also says this, "If any of you lacks wisdom, he should pray to God Who will give it to him; because God gives generously and graciously to all."

Joshua knew he had been foolish to make a solemn promise to the Gibeonites without first asking wisdom from God. But he also knew he must keep his word. He could not claim his oath or promise didn't matter, because the Gibeonites had lied to him. In God's name he had promised to spare them, and he **must** hold fast to that. What would **you** do if someone tricked **you** into giving your promise, then later you found they had lied to you?

God's Word, the Bible, shows He wants His people to be trustworthy. He knows all that we say and do, and He wants us to keep our word. Psalm 139 says this, "Lord, You know everything I do: from far away you understand all my thoughts." And Psalm 15 tells us the person who pleases God always does what he promises, no matter how much it costs.

It is never wise to tell a lie to try to keep out of trouble or dishonestly save money. A mother took her 5 year old son to visit a large scientific complex. When they reached the first section, a sign on the door said, "Children under 6 not allowed in." So the mother told her son to say he was six. When they came to the next section, the sign on the door said, "Children 5 years and under admitted free." So the mother told her son to say he was five. Before arriving at the door of the next section the confused child asked his mother what age he was. The mother's lies of convenience caused harm to her son. Our great enemy Satan is the father of lies. When we are tempted to tell what we consider a small or white lie, we must pray to Jesus for help to overcome the temptation. He wants us to be blameless and will show us a way out.

Some people may be very unhappy to know the All-powerful, all-seeing God knows everything about them. But we need to understand this is true. The book Hebrews, chapter 4, says this, "Nothing can be hidden from God; everything in all creation is exposed and lies open before His eyes, and it is to Him that we must give account."

Our great Creator-God knows which people are slaves to sin. Their wrongdoing and wrong-thinking earn eternal death for them. But the book Romans, chapter 5, says this, "God has shown how much He loves us; it was while we were still sinners that Christ died for us!"

The Lord Jesus Christ, God's One and Only Son, gave up His life on the Cross to set us free from the power of sin. He knows everything about you. He knows all your secret thoughts, your fears, sorrows and problems. He loves **you** and wants **you** to become His child through faith in Jesus.

MUSIC - [Integrity Music](#).

John Barbour sings "Sweeter than Honey".

The drama is from The Bible In Living Sound.

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