

enemy tactics

definitions

Using a Bible app or the word glossary at the back of this book,
look up each Strong's number to find the definitions.

cunning

STRONGS DEFINITION | H6195

Joshua 9:4 they on their part acted with **cunning** and went and made ready provisions and took worn-out sacks for their donkeys, and wineskins, worn-out and torn and mended

covenant

STRONGS DEFINITION | H1285

Joshua 9:6 And they went to Joshua in the camp at Gilgal and said to him and to the men of Israel, "We have come from a distant country, so now make a **covenant** with us."

And as the Gibeonite delegation headed toward the camp of Israel, one question pressed emerged:

WHAT IF *danger*
WAS DISGUISED
AS A FRIEND?

decode the text

Read Joshua 9:1-13

How does Gibeon respond to the destruction of Ai and Jericho?

What specific details are given about their strategy and appearance? List each element the text emphasizes.

What did the Gibeonites ask for? What initial suspicion do the men of Israel voice in verse 7?

Read Deuteronomy 20:10-15

Identify Who this set of instructions apply to? What was Israel commanded to offer these cities?

Read Deuteronomy 20:16-18

Identify Who this set of instructions apply to? What were Israel's explicit instructions regarding these cities?

Based on these passages, into which category did Gibeon fall: cities outside the land or cities within the land of inheritance?

decode the text

Read Joshua 9:14-27

According to verse 14, what critical action did Israel fail to take before making the covenant?

Why did Israel not attack Gibeon after discovering the deception?

What judgment is placed upon the Gibeonites?





when assault fails

“If you can’t beat them, join them.”

In Nehemiah 6, after failing to halt the rebuilding of Jerusalem’s wall through ridicule and threats, Judah’s enemies shifted strategies. They sent messengers to Nehemiah with an invitation:

“Come, let us meet together...”

This approach is as ancient as the Garden itself. Our first glimpse of Satan is not the terrifying figure movies often portray. Instead, he appears friendly, approachable, conversational, and even flattering. He is cunning and crafty in exactly this way.

The Gibeonites once chose infiltration (Joshua 9). Likewise, the enemy desires nothing more than for us to form an alliance with the flesh—not to destroy sin, but to manage it, make it subservient, allow it to linger and “behave.”

Scripture knows nothing of
such compromise

Our sword is sharp enough to deflect this weapon of false friendliness. In Nehemiah’s account, Scripture exposes the truth: “They intended to do me harm” (Neh. 6:2).

The “plain of Ono” becomes unforgettable because of Nehemiah’s resolute reply:

“I am doing a great work
and I cannot come down.”

(Neh. 6:3)

The enemy may shift tactics when direct attacks fail. He may whisper invitations to compromise: “Just a little alliance with distraction, with sin, with the flesh—it won’t hurt the bigger picture.” He comes friendly, reasonable, even spiritual sounding.

Do not negotiate with what Christ has already crucified. Do not make provision for what God commands you to put to death. Romans 13:14

And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. Galatians 5:24

Resist—firmly, consistently, by submitting first to God—and watch the enemy flee. The great work God has entrusted to you is too important, the victory in Christ too certain, and the reward too glorious for you to step down even once.

wield the sword

We are soldiers in active spiritual war. Joshua's encounters with Jericho, Ai, and Gibeon reveal a full picture of our enemy: the world, the flesh, and the devil.

Scripture warns us not to be ignorant of Satan's schemes (2 Corinthians 2:11). Ignorance leaves us vulnerable, but awareness guards our lives. Our enemy is calculated, adaptable, and knows how to study and deceive. But the Lord has not left His people without truth.

Step into the war room. Turn your eye to the blackboard.
Identity and recognize your opponent.
How does he come? What fatigues does he wear. What's his MO?

know his...

TRUE IDENTITY_{vs. 2}

Identify our enemy's titles from
the following verses

REVELATION 20:2

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

EPHESIANS 2:2

- _____
- _____
- _____

REVELATION 12:10

- _____
- _____

JOHN 12:31

- _____
- _____

Our enemy is a defeated foe and he KNOWS IT. Though he can not kill us, he will do all he can to take us out. He fights with what he can use. We will expose four of his tactics.

stepping forward



Soldiers of the King, you are in the fight. The enemy will often come with a smile, a gift basket, flattery dripping like honey.

“Just this once. Make peace. Lower the guard. You have earned a break.” Sound familiar?

Joshua was hit that day with Gibeon. He took the blow and carried the consequences, but he did not drop his sword. The conquest pressed forward.

If you are locked in, on task, on mission, advancing the Kingdom agenda, expect opposition. He will frustrate, distract, and accuse. Full-frontal assaults are loud, but the subtle ones are deadlier, like flesh invited to the table instead of crucified.

The intensity of his effort reveals the eternal weight of your work. If he is relentless, tireless, and coming after you, that is not defeat. It is confirmation.

You are taking ground he cannot afford to lose.

Satan is defeated. He knows it. So he stalls, buys time, and hopes you will lay down your weapon in exhaustion or shame. Odds are he will land some blows. You will bleed. You will bruise. You may stagger. Wounds come with the territory. It is okay to get hit. But do not drop your sword.

Our accuser is overcome by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of your testimony. Speak the name of Jesus. Plead the blood. Stand up. Strap on your boots. Armor up with the belt of truth, the breastplate of righteousness, the shield of faith, and the sword of the Spirit.

Submit to God. Resist the devil. Watch him flee.

The work is not finished. Get back in the fight. Grit your teeth, grip your weapon, and press on. Christ has secured the victory.

No retreat.
No surrender.
Advance.
The King is with you.