

## Chapter 9

*Other nations fearing Ifrael ioyne their forces to fight againft them, 3. but the Gabaonites fend embaffadors, feyning craftily to come farre of, 14. with whom Iofue and the ancientes of Ifrael make league binding it by oath. 16. Within three dayes they are detected to be nere inhabitantes. VVherupon the people murmur againft their princes. VVho yet for their oath, let the Gabaonites liue, 20. only making them and their progenie perpetual feruantes, to cutte wood, and carie water.*

**V** Which thinges being heard, al the kinges beyond Iordan, that dwelt by the fea fide and the fhore of the great fea, they alfo that dwelt befide Libanus, the Hetheite and Amorreite, the Chananeite, the Pherezeite, and the Heueite, and the Iebuſeite, <sup>2</sup> were gathered, to fight againft Iofue and Ifrael with one minde, and one ſentence. <sup>3</sup> But they that dwelt in Gabaon, hearing al thinges that Iofue had done to Iericho and Hai: <sup>4</sup> ſubtelly deuifing tooke prouiſion for them ſelues, laying old ſackes vpon their ſhoulders, and bottels of wine rent and ſowed againe, <sup>5</sup> and ſhoes very old which for a ſhew of oldeneſſe were clouted with ſpeckes, putting on them old garmentes: the loaues alfo, which they caried for prouiſion by the way, were heard, and broken into peeces: <sup>6</sup> and they went on to Iofue, who then abode in the campe at Galgal, and ſaid to him, and withal to al Ifrael: We are come from a farre countrie, defirous to make peace with you. And the children of Ifrael answered them, and ſaid: <sup>7</sup> Left perhaps you dwel in the Land which is dew to vs by lotte, and we can not enter a league with you. <sup>8</sup> But they ſaid to Iofue: We are thy ſeruantes. To whom Iofue ſaid: Who are you? and whence came you? <sup>9</sup> They answered: From a very farre countrie are thy ſeruantes come in the name of the Lord thy God. For we haue heard the fame of his might, al thinges that he did in Ægypt, <sup>10</sup> and to the two kinges of the Amorrheites that were beyond Iordan, Sehon the king of Hefebon, and Og the king of Bafan, that were in

Aftaroth: <sup>11</sup> and our ancientes, and al the inhabitantes of our Land faid to vs: Take in your handes victuals for a very long way, and goe meete them, and fay: We are your feruantes, enter a league with vs. <sup>12</sup> Behold, thefe loaues we tooke hotte, when we departed from our houfes to come to you, now they are become drie, and broken for ouer much oldeneffe. <sup>13</sup> The bottels of wine we filled being new, now they are burft & diffolued. The garmentes and fhoes that we haue vpon vs, and which we haue on our feete, for the length of the long way are worne, and almoft confumed. <sup>14</sup> They tooke therfore of their victuals, and <sup>a</sup>)asked not the mouth of our Lord. <sup>15</sup> And Iofue made peace with them, and entring a league promifed that they fhould not be flaine: the princes alfo of the multitude fware to them. <sup>16</sup> But three daies after that the league was made, they heard that they dwelt nigh, and they fhould be among them. <sup>17</sup> And the children of Ifrael remoued the campe, and came into their cities the third day, whofe names are thefe, Gabaon, and Chaphira, and Beroth, and Chariathiarim. <sup>18</sup> And they ftroke them not, becaufe the princes of the multitude had fworne in the name of our Lord the God of Ifrael. Therefore al the common people murmured againft the princes. <sup>19</sup> Who answered them: We haue fworne to them in the name of our Lord the God of Ifrael, and therefore we may not touch them. <sup>20</sup> But this we wil doe to them: Let them be referued in dede aliue, left the wrath of God be ftirred againft vs, if we fhall be forfworne: <sup>21</sup> but fo let them liue, that for the vfes of the whole multitude they hew wood, and carie in water. Who fpeaking thefe thinges, <sup>22</sup> Iofue called the Gabaonites, and faid to them: Why would you deceiue vs by fraude to fay: We dwel very farre of from you, wheras you are

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<sup>a</sup> In fuch a cafe they ought to haue confulted God, to witte, the high Prieft, putting on the Ephod & Rationale, fhould haue prayed at the dore of the tabernacle, where our Lord appointed to fpeake vnto him. *Exo. 19. v. 42.* It was alfo ordained *Num. 17. v. 21.* that Eleazar fhould cōfult our Lord, when anie thing was to be donne by Iofue, which omittig to do they were deceiued by thefe Gabaonites.

in the middes of vs? <sup>23</sup> Therefore you shal be vnder a curfe, and they shal not faile of your ftocke a hewer of wood, and a carier of water into the houle of my God. <sup>24</sup> Who answered: It was told vs thy feruantes, that the Lord thy God had promifed Moyfes his feruant, that he would deliuer you al the Land, and would deftroy al the inhabitantes therof. Therefore we feared exceedingly and provided for our liues, cōpelled by your terrour, and we tooke this counfel. <sup>25</sup> And now we are in thy hand: that which feemeth vnto thee good and right, doe to vs. <sup>26</sup> Iofue therefore did as he had faid, and deliuered them from the hand of the children of Ifrael, that they should not be flaine. <sup>27</sup> And he decreed in that day, that <sup>a</sup>)they should be in the minifterie of al the people, and of the altar of our Lord, hewing wood, and carying water, vntil this present time, in the place which our Lord hath chofen.

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<sup>a</sup> In thefe Gabaonites of Chanaans race was fulfilled Noes prophecie *Gen. 9.* that *Chanaan should be a feruant to his brethren.*