Why Ask Counsel Of God

Intro: Jos. 9:14 “And the men took of their victuals, and asked not counsel at the mouth of the Lord.” This shows us of God’s disapproval of this league even though Israel was deceived.

I. BACKGROUND

A. Moses admonition prior to coming into the land.
   1. Deu. 7:2 “And when the Lord thy God shall deliver them before thee; thou shalt smite them, and utterly destroy them; thou shalt make no covenant with them, nor shew mercy unto them:”
   2. The purpose.
      a. Deu. 7:4 “For they will turn away thy son from following me, that they may serve other gods: so will the anger of the Lord be kindled against you, and destroy thee suddenly.”
      b. To protect His people from the corruption of the Canaanites.
      c. Second, because the Canaanites cup of iniquity was full.
         (1) God promised to give the land to Abraham; Gen. 15:7 “And he said unto him, I am the Lord that brought thee out of Ur of the Chaldees, to give thee this land to inherit it.”
         (2) They would not receive it, until the sins of the Amorites was full; Gen. 15:16 “But in the fourth generation they shall come hither again: for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet full.”
         (3) While God had been longsuffering to them (for over 400 years), now God’s justice would be seen in destroying them.

B. The rest of the background we will see as we study.

II. FORCES OF EVIL WILL FIGHT AGAINST US.

A. Jos. 9:1-2 “And it came to pass, when all the kings which were on this side Jordan, in the hills, and in the valleys, and in all the coasts of the great sea over against Lebanon, the Hittite, and the Amorite, the Canaanite, the Perizzite, the Hivite, and the Jebusite, heard thereof; 2That they gathered themselves together, to fight with Joshua and with Israel, with one accord.”
   1. We see the forces of evil joining together to oppose God’s people and His purpose.
   2. They were with “one accord.”
   3. Satan will not divide himself in fighting good; Mat. 12:26 “And if Satan cast out Satan, he is divided against himself; how shall then his kingdom stand?”

B. Satan and his forces unite to oppose Christ.
   1. Psa. 2:1-2 “Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing? 2The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the Lord, and against his anointed, saying;”
   2. Acts 4:27-28 “For of a truth against thy holy child Jesus, whom thou hast anointed, both Herod, and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles, and the people of Israel, were gathered together, 28For to do whatsoever thy hand and thy counsel determined before to be done.”
      a. Notice all that joined forces—even those who were enemies.
      b. Herod, Pilate, Gentiles, Jews.

C. Satan will bring all his forces against those who follow Christ.
   1. 1 Pet. 5:8 “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:”
   2. The book of Revelation shows Satan seeking to destroy the church.
   3. Satan will try to destroy the church both from without and within.
      a. From without, Satan uses persecution, worldliness, materialism, etc.
b. We should not be surprised when we see Satan try to destroy the church from within.
   (1) False teachers.
      (a) Mat. 7:15 “Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves.”
      (b) Acts 20:29-30 “For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. 29Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them.”
      (c) 1 Tim. 4:1 “Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils;”
      (d) 1 John 4:1 “Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.”
   (2) Erroneous practices.
      (a) 2 Tim. 3:1-5 “This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. 2For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, 3Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, 4Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; 5Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.”
      (b) There is ever that enticement from Satan to do the works of the flesh, worldliness, etc.

4. Thus we must seek God’s counsel as revealed in the Bible when trials and temptations come our way.
   a. Jam. 4:7 “Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.”
   b. 1 Pet. 5:8-9 “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: 9Whom resisted steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.”

III. DECEPTION IS A POWERFUL TOOL (EFFECTIVE METHOD) OF SATAN.
   A. Jos. 9:3-13 “And when the inhabitants of Gibeon heard what Joshua had done unto Jericho and to Ai,
      *They did work willy, and went and made as if they had been ambassadors, and took old sacks upon their
      asses, and wine bottles, old, and rent, and bound up; 2And old shoes and clouted upon their feet, and old
      garments upon them; and all the bread of their provision was dry and mouldy. 3And they went to Joshua unto
      the camp at Gilgal, and said unto him, and to the men of Israel, We be come from a far country: now therefore
      make ye a league with us. 4And the men of Israel said unto the Hivites, Peradventure ye dwell among us; and
      how shall we make a league with you? 5And they said unto Joshua, We are thy servants. And Joshua said
      unto them, Who are ye? and from whence come ye? 6And they said unto him, From a very far country thy
      servants are come because of the name of the LORD thy God: for we have heard the fame of him, and all that
      he did in Egypt, 7And all that he did to the two kings of the Amorites, that were beyond Jordan, to Sihon king
      of Heshbon, and to Og king of Bashan, which was at Ashtaroth. 8Wherefore our elders and all the inhabitants
      of our country spake to us, saying, Take victuals with you for the journey, and go to meet them, and say unto
      them, We are your servants: therefore now make ye a league with us. 9This our bread we took hot for our
      provision out of our houses on the day we came forth to go unto you; but now, behold, it is dry, and it is
      mouldy: 10And these bottles of wine, which we filled, were new; and, behold, they be rent: and these our
      garments and our shoes are become old by reason of the very long journey.”
   1. The Gibeonites knew Israel was to destroy all the land; Jos. 9:24 “And they answered Joshua, and said, Because it was certainly told thy servants, how that the LORD thy God commanded his servant Moses to give you all the land, and to destroy all the inhabitants of the land from before you, therefore we were sore afraid of our lives because of you, and have done this thing.”
2. They knew of the destruction of Jericho and Ai; Jos. 9:3 “And when the inhabitants of Gibeon heard what Joshua had done unto Jericho and to Ai,”

3. They set out to deceive Joshua and Israel. This would spare their lives by Israel entering into this covenant which stipulated such.

4. When they came to Joshua, they gave the appearance they had come from far away (enough time for fresh bread, good shoes, new garments to become moldy, old, and worn).

5. Israel accepted the looks as truth without seeking verification from God.

6. This sinful alliance could have been avoided if they had sought counsel from God.

B. Satan will ever lie to bring about the destruction of the righteous.

1. John 8:44 “Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.”

2. Rom. 16:17-18 “Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them. 18For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple.”

a. Simple is from ἄκοκος (akokos) which literally means no evil.

b. It does not mean ignorant but those who are free from evil and implies those who fear no evil from others or distrust no one.

c. In context, one who is naive or easily deceived.

3. There are many today who are trying to deceive us.

a. The New Unity movement.

b. All grace and no law teaching.

c. All false doctrine ultimately is deceptive.

C. We must go to the Scriptures to avoid Satan’s deceptions.

1. Eph. 4:13-15 “Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ: 14That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; 15But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:”

2. We have been given all things we need today to know how to live and worship acceptable.

a. 2 Tim. 3:16-17 “All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: 17That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.”

b. 2 Pet. 1:3 “According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:”

c. We must do as John bids; 1 John 4:1 “Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.”
IV. **Believing a Lie is Just as Bad and Produces the Same Results as Wilful Disobedience.**

A. **Jos. 9:18** “And the children of Israel smote them not, because the princes of the congregation had sworn unto them by the Lord God of Israel. And all the congregation murmured against the princes.”

1. While we are confident that Joshua and the leaders of Israel were sincere in believing the deceitful Gibeonites, they did not destroy them because of the alliance.
2. The end result of their believing a lie and willfully disobeying God in not destroying the Gibeonites is the same.

B. **Satan tries to get us to reject the truth and believe a lie.**

1. Adam and Eve
   a. Was bold in his lie.
      1. Gen. 3:4 “And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die:”
      2. That they would be as gods; Gen. 3:5 “For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.”
   b. The result was Eve ate, gave it to her husband and he ate, and they died.
2. People today.
   a. Many believe the devil’s lie that it does not matter what one believes as long as he is sincere.
   b. This was not the case for the Israelites and will not be for us.
   c. 2 The. 2:11-12 “And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: 12That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.”

C. **We must study and learn the truth.**

1. John 7:17 “If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself.”
2. Acts 17:11 “These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.”
3. Jam. 1:21 “Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls.”

V. **Sinful Alliance Will Destroy Us.**

A. **The destructive nature of this alliance.**

1. Deu. 7:4-6 “For they will turn away thy son from following me, that they may serve other gods: so will the anger of the Lord be kindled against you, and destroy thee suddenly. 5But thus shall ye deal with them: ye shall destroy their altars, and break down their images, and cut down their groves, and burn their graven images with fire. 6For thou art an holy people unto the Lord thy God: the Lord thy God hath chosen thee to be a special people unto himself, above all people that are upon the face of the earth.”
2. Israel went into idolatry and was eventually destroyed by God.

B. **We are to make alliances with Satan.**

1. 2 Cor. 6:14-18 “Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? 15And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? 16And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. 17Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you. 18And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.”
2. 1 Cor. 5:6-7 “Your glorying is not good. Know ye not that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump? Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us.”

3. 1 Cor. 15:33 “Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners.”

4. Eph. 5:11 “And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them.”

5. Today if we make ties with others we will be destroyed, whether it be:
   a. Denominationalism
   b. The New Unity movement (unity with the Christian Church)
   c. Immorality
      (1) We must be holy to God.
      (2) 1 Pet. 1:15-16 “But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.”

Conclusion: We must learn to ask counsel at the mouth of the Lord so that we will not make unholy alliances. We must go to the Bible and make sure we have authority for all we do and say; Col. 3:17 “And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him”