

Oh Sun! Stop!

Scripture Reading: Joshua 9:1 to 10:43

There was a saying that when Napoleon Bonaparte stands on the war field it is equivalent to one lack soldiers. When the soldiers see him, they will be encouraged and win over the battle. Once when Napoleon was not present in the battle, his soldiers were defeated. After the war Napoleon said, "I cannot be present at all places". But God promised, "surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

The Gibeonites deceived the people of Israel and made a covenant with them. Since the Israelites made a covenant with them in the name of the Lord, they were not able to war against them. There were 5 kings who gathered themselves to war against the Gibeonites. Joshua decided to help them inspite of knowing that they had deceived him.

By the time the intensity of the battle grew, the sun started setting and was getting dark. Then Joshua prays to God for help. He then looks at the sun and commanded it to stop. The sun obeyed his command and stopped for 24 hours. The Israelites defeated all those five kings and captured their lands.

Though Joshua and the Israelites disobeyed God, when they surrendered themselves to God again, He heard the supplication of Joshua. God not just forgave his people; He also came down to help them. Even the Israelites forgave and helped the Gibeonites who deceived them.

Questions:

- 1) How did Joshua have the victory?
- 2) What did Joshua and the Israelites do to the Gibeonites who deceived them?
- 3) How will you react when the person who deceived you seeks a help from you?