

Satan's Line of Attack **Joshua 9:2-21**

*When all the kings heard about Jericho and Ai, those who were west of the Jordan in the hill country, in the Judean foothills, and all along the coast of the Mediterranean Sea toward Lebanon — the Hethites, Amorites, Canaanites, Perizzites, Hivites, and Jebusites — ² they formed a unified alliance to fight against Joshua and Israel. **Joshua 9:1-2 (Christian Standard Bible)***

1. Satan will conceal his identity.

*When the inhabitants of Gibeon heard what Joshua had done to Jericho and Ai, ⁴ they acted deceptively. They gathered provisions and took worn-out sacks on their donkeys and old wineskins, cracked and mended. ⁵ They wore old, patched sandals on their feet and threadbare clothing on their bodies. Their entire provision of bread was dry and crumbly. ⁶ They went to Joshua in the camp at Gilgal and said to him and the men of Israel, “We have come from a distant land. Please make a treaty with us. **Joshua 9:3-6 (Christian Standard Bible)***

*The men of Israel replied to the Hivites, “Perhaps you live among us. How can we make a treaty with you?” ⁸ They said to Joshua, “We are your servants.” Then Joshua asked them, “Who are you and where do you come from?” ⁹ They replied to him, “Your servants have come from a faraway land because of the reputation of the LORD your God. For we have heard of his fame, and all that he did in Egypt, ¹⁰ and all that he did to the two Amorite kings beyond the Jordan — King Sihon of Heshbon and King Og of Bashan, who was in Ashtaroth. **Joshua 9:7-10 (CSB)***

*So, our elders and all the inhabitants of our land told us, ‘Take provisions with you for the journey; go and meet them and say, “We are your servants. Please make a treaty with us.”’ ¹² This bread of ours was warm when we took it from our houses as food on the day we left to come to you; but see, it is now dry and crumbly. **Joshua 9:11-12 (CSB)***

*These wineskins were new when we filled them; but see, they are cracked. And these clothes and sandals of ours are worn out from the extremely long journey.” ¹⁴ Then the men of Israel took some of their provisions, but did not seek the LORD's decision. ¹⁵ So Joshua established peace with them and made a treaty to let them live, and the leaders of the community swore an oath to them. **Joshua 9:13-15 (CSB)***

2. Satan wants to water down our commitment.

*They went to Joshua in the camp at Gilgal and said to him and the men of Israel, “We have come from a distant land. Please make a treaty with us.” **Joshua 9:6 (Christian Standard Bible)***

3. Satan will get us to forget about prayer.

*Then the men of Israel took some of their provisions, but did not seek the LORD's decision. **Joshua 9:14-15 (Christian Standard Bible)***

4. Satan wants to crush our spirit.

*Three days after making the treaty with them, they heard that the Gibeonites were their neighbors, living among them. ¹⁷ So the Israelites set out and reached the Gibeonite cities on the third day. Now their cities were Gibeon, Chephirah, Beeroth, and Kiriath-jearim. ¹⁸ But the Israelites did not attack them, because the leaders of the community had sworn an oath to them by the LORD, the God of Israel. Then the whole community grumbled against the leaders. ¹⁹ All the leaders answered them, “We have sworn an oath to them by the LORD, the God of Israel, and now we cannot touch them. ²⁰ This is how we will treat them: we will let them live, so that no wrath will fall on us because of the oath we swore to them.” ²¹ They also said, “Let them live.” So the Gibeonites became woodcutters and water carriers for the whole community, as the leaders had promised them. ²² Joshua summoned the Gibeonites and said to them, “Why did you deceive us by telling us you live far away from us, when in fact you live among us? ²³ Therefore you are cursed and will always be slaves — woodcutters and water carriers for the house of my God.” **Joshua 9:16-23 (CSB)***