Grace for the Guilty

The inhabitants of Canaan were under an ancient curse [Genesis 9:20-27] and under a sentence of judgment that had been hanging over their heads for 600 years [Genesis 15:12-21]. Nevertheless, it was true for them as it is for all people:

**Whoever will call on the name of the Lord will be saved** [Joel 2:32; Acts 2:21; Romans 10:13].

**1. The Desperation of the Gibeonites**

A. They *feared* the Lord

B. They *humbled* themselves

C. They *lied* to Joshua

**2. The Disobedience of the Israelites**

A. They were *suspicious*

[Romans 14:23]

B. They were *gullible*

C. They didn’t *ask God*

[Numbers 27:18-21]

**3. The Defense of the Gibeonites**

A. Joshua kept his *oath to the Lord*

B. The Gibeonites *accepted the curse*

C. The Lord *defeated their foes*

**4. The Developments Afterwards**

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A. The curse became a *blessing*

[Psalm 84:10]

B. The Lord defended their *descendants*

2 Samuel 21:1-14

C. The Gibeonites foreshadow *others*

1 Kings 17:8-24 (with Luke 4:16-30); Matthew 15:21-28

**For additional study or family discussion**

1. What did the Lord say to you today through His word? Did you learn some new truth about God or yourself? Did the Lord challenge you, convict you, or encourage you?

2. God does not save good people. What kind of people does He save? Why does this magnify His grace?

Romans 4:5

Romans 5:6, 8, 10

Ephesians 2:1-5

1 Timothy 2:15

3. What do the following verses say about the importance of oaths and of simply keeping your word as unto the Lord?

Numbers 30:2

Psalm 15 (note v. 4 in context)

Matthew 5:33-37

4. Our natural tendency is to keep outsiders out so we who are inside can enjoy each other. God, however, brings outsiders in and blesses them. After stern messages of warning and judgment on Egypt and Assyria (along with other nations), what does God say He will do for these traditional enemies of Israel? (Egypt was sometimes an ally. Assyria was always a threat.)

Isaiah 19:19-24