

Joshua 9:25

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And now, behold, we are in thine hand: as it seemeth good and right unto thee to do unto us, do.

Analysis

We are in thine hand: as it seemeth good and right unto thee to do unto us, do (הִנֵּנוּ בְיָדְךָ כָּטוֹב וְיָשָׁר בְּעֵינֶיךָ, hinenu veyadecha katov vekhayashar be'einecha)—complete surrender to Joshua's judgment. The phrase 'in thine hand' (בְּיָדְךָ, veyadecha) appears frequently in Scripture as submission to authority (Genesis 16:6, 1 Samuel 24:4). The doubled expression 'good and right' (טוֹב וְיָשָׁר, tov veyashar) acknowledges Joshua's moral authority to determine justice.

This unconditional submission contrasts with their earlier deception. Having manipulated circumstances through lies, they now abandoned all pretense and cast themselves on mercy. Their posture anticipates the tax collector's prayer, 'God be merciful to me a sinner' (Luke 18:13). Joshua's response—protection rather than execution—models how covenant grace operates: those who acknowledge unworthiness and submit to divine authority receive mercy rather than deserved judgment.

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern treaty protocols required vassal nations to pledge complete submission to the suzerain. The Gibeonites used diplomatic language acknowledging Joshua's absolute authority over their fate. However, Joshua's existing oath (v. 15, 19) constrained his options—their deception trapped Israel into covenant obligations that God's character would honor despite human failure to seek His counsel.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How does the Gibeonites' progression from deception to complete surrender mirror the journey of genuine repentance?
2. What does Joshua's merciful response teach about how covenant leaders should balance justice with grace?
3. In what ways does submitting to 'what seems good and right' in God's eyes differ from worldly concepts of fairness?

Interlinear Text

וְעַתָּה הִנֵּנוּ בְיָדְךָ כֵּט וָיָשָׁר וְכִכְּשֵׁר יָרָא					
H6258	And now behold we	are in thine hand	good	and right	as it seemeth
	H2009	H3027	H2896	H3477	H5869
עָשֵׂהָ לְנוּ עָשֵׂהָ:					
unto thee to do	H0	unto thee to do			
H6213		H6213			

Additional Cross-References

Genesis 16:6 (Parallel theme): But Abram said unto Sarai, Behold, thy maid is in thy hand; do to her as it pleaseth thee. And when Sarai dealt hardly with her, she fled from her face.

Jeremiah 26:14 (Good): As for me, behold, I am in your hand: do with me as seemeth good and meet unto you.