

## The pool of Gibeon

Because of sparse rainfall, many early cities in this area had elaborate water systems that took advantage of natural springs to supply the city on a hill above with water. The 37 foot diameter pool is probably the most significant archaeological feature remaining of early Gibeon at the present day el-Jib. This pool was 82 feet deep, and was not actually used to hold water, but was rather a circular stairway down to a 167 foot long tunnel to a cistern that was fed by a spring outside the city walls. It was apparently near this “pool” that Abner and Joab fought on behalf of Ishobeth and David.



W E L C O M E

TO *Fabulous*

**GIBEON**

### INSIDE:

#### Page 2:

- Events at Gibeon

#### Page 3:

- The Day the Sun Stood Still
- Crossword puzzle

#### Page 4:

- Puzzle answers
- Sources and Reading

If I chose only one word to summarize Gibeon, it would be deception. Gibeon is probably most famous, or rather infamous, for being the home of the people who deceived Joshua early in the Israelite conquest of the land of Canaan. According to 1 Chronicles 9:35-39, it was also the homeland of Saul’s family, Saul the king who suffered the absence of God’s Spirit. Most significantly though, it was home for many years to God’s prescribed tabernacle, even though the ark, the Presence of God Himself, was never within the holy of holies there. Gibeon represents the alliance of a lie, the king of God’s people apart from the Lord of God’s people, the outward appearance of God without the inward Presence of God.

It makes me pause and wonder how often I am deceived by appearances. The Israelite leaders were fooled by the worn appearance of the wineskins and sandals of the Gibeonites, believing that meant they had traveled a far piece when they had actually only come from a few miles away. Two hundred or so years later, the tabernacle stands in Gibeon, drawing the Israelites there to make their sacrifices, follow the religious routines, and depart satisfied that they were in right relationship with God. But were they? Was honoring the trappings of God as good as coming near God? Do I think because a building looks like a church I will meet God there? Do I think because someone uses the right words, they bear the message of God? How often am I fooled by outward appearances and led away from the spiritual reality? How in tune am I to the true Presence of God? Do I even notice, or care, when He is missing from my religious routines?

Are there ways that you have fallen into the Gibeon deception? \_\_\_\_\_

## 2 Gibeon

How did the Gibeonites fool the Israelites in Joshua 9? \_\_\_\_\_

Why? \_\_\_\_\_

According to the agreement, in what way would the Gibeonites serve the Israelites? \_\_\_\_\_

What faith in God's word did the Gibeonites express? \_\_\_\_\_

Why were the other Canaanites alarmed at the alliance Gibeon had made with the Israelites? \_\_\_\_\_

How did Israel honor their treaty with Gibeon? \_\_\_\_\_

Describe God's activity in the battle: \_\_\_\_\_

How was this victory important to God's plan for the Israelites? \_\_\_\_\_

Where was the ark at this point in time? \_\_\_\_\_

In 2 Samuel 2, what battle took place at Gibeon? \_\_\_\_\_

How had Saul broken the covenant with the Gibeonites according to 2 Samuel 21? \_\_\_\_\_

What was the punishment? \_\_\_\_\_

Where was the ark, and the tabernacle located at the beginning of 1 Samuel 3? \_\_\_\_\_

When the Philistines returned the ark seven months later, where was it kept for twenty years until David took it to Jerusalem according to 1 Samuel 7? \_\_\_\_\_

Where was the tabernacle according to 1 Chron. 16:37-40? \_\_\_\_\_

Why do you think it was located here? \_\_\_\_\_

Why did David not bring it to Jerusalem too? \_\_\_\_\_

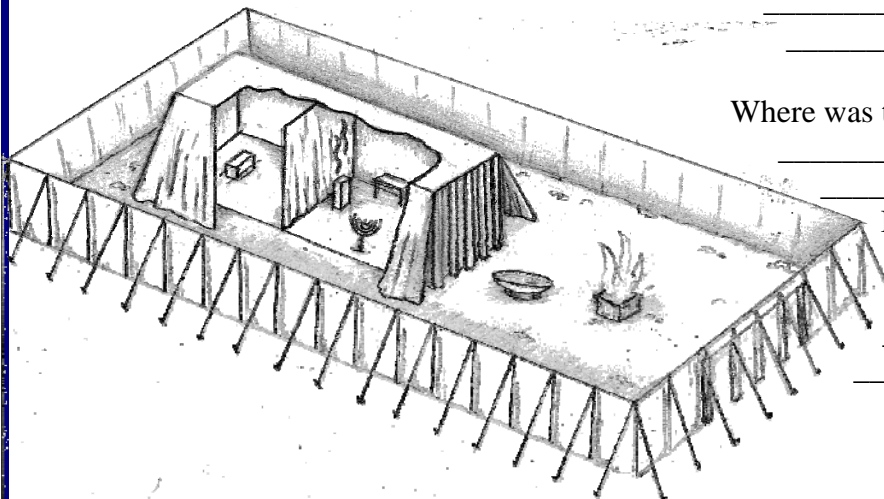
Where did Solomon offer sacrifices at the beginning of his reign? (1 Kings 3:4) \_\_\_\_\_

What encounter did Solomon have with God there? \_\_\_\_\_



Where was the ark at this point in time? \_\_\_\_\_

In 1 Kings 8:4, what does Solomon do with the tabernacle? \_\_\_\_\_



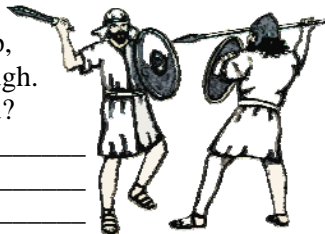
WELCOME

TO *Fabulous*

GIBEON

*puzzle*

**The Day the Sun Stood Still**  
 There has been much speculation about what exactly happened when God granted Joshua's request to make the sun "stand still." Some say that God stilled the sun's power which caused the earth to stop rotating, delay ing the passage of the day. Some say it was actually the night that was pro- longed. I'm not sure Joshua much cared what the scientific explanation of God's control of the sun was. He just knew that it would sure be helpful to have a little more time, and when he asked the Mas- ter and Creator of time for help, He came through. Has He for you?



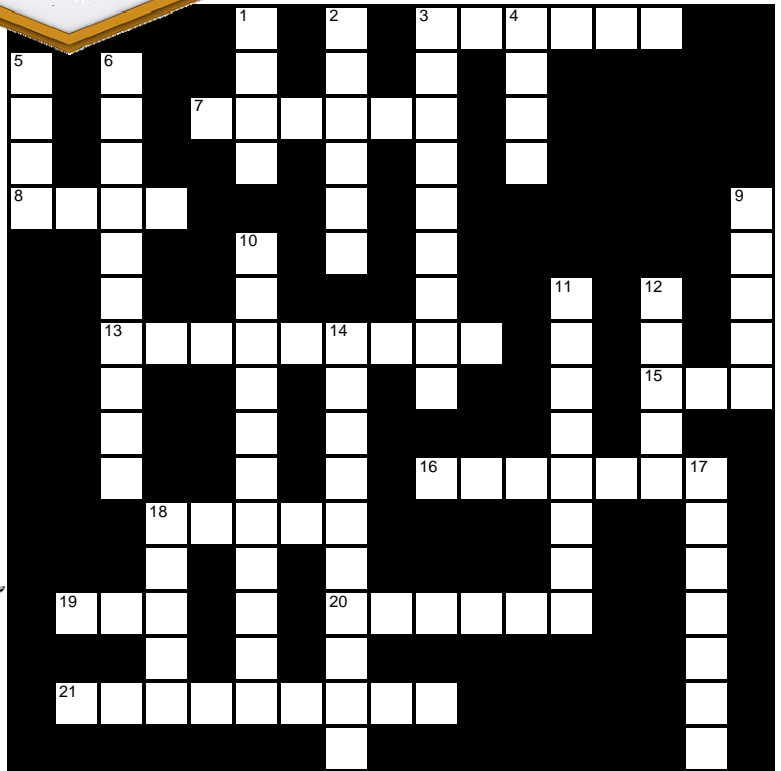
## Puzzle clues:

### Across

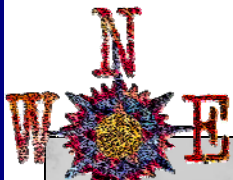
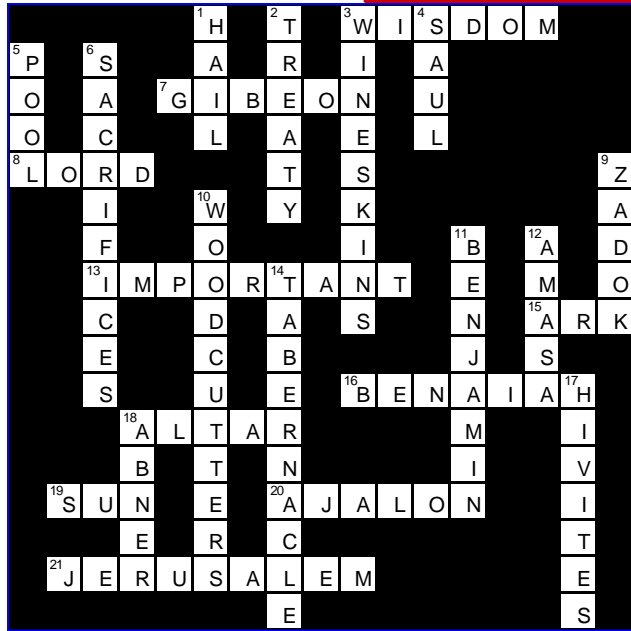
- 3 granted to Solomon here (1 Kings 3) (6)  
 7 city that is now known as el-Jib (6)  
 8 appeared to Solomon here (1 Kings 3) (4)  
 13 it was this kind of city (Josh. 10) (9)  
 15 was never housed here (3)  
 16 killed Joab here (1 Kings 2) (7)  
 18 Joab fled to the \_\_\_\_ here (1 Kings 2) (5)  
 19 "stood still" here (Josh. 10) (3)  
 20 nearby valley (Josh. 10) (6)  
 21 located 6 miles northwest of this city (9)

### Down

- 1 Joshua's enemies were bombarded with this here (Josh. 10) (4)  
 2 Joshua honored his \_\_\_\_\_ with the people from here (6)  
 3 old ones were used to trick Joshua (9)  
 4 did not honor Joshua's treaty with the people from here ( 2 Sam. 21) (4)  
 5 there was one here (Jer. 41:12) (4)  
 6 Solomon offered these here (2 Chron. 1:7-12) (10)  
 9 priest present at the tabernacle here (1 Chron. 16) (5)  
 10 job that was a consequence for deception (11)  
 11 belonged to this tribe (Josh. 18) (8)  
 12 was put to death here by Joab (2 Sam. 20) (5)  
 14 was the last location of this (10)  
 17 its inhabitants (Josh. 11) (7)  
 18 Joab battled against \_\_\_\_ here (2 Sam. 2) (5)



# 4 Gibeon



## MAP

- **Gilgal**, where Joshua and the Israelites camped when they entered the Promised Land, is missing on this map. Using the map in the back of your Bible, fill it in.
- Draw a tent around the places labeled on this map that the tabernacle was located. What are they?

---



---



---

- Underline **Gibeon** in red.
- What are the cities that the Lord defeated for Israel when they came to Gibeon's defense?

---



---



---



---

## SOURCES

Coogan, Michael D. "BAR's 20th Anniversary: 10 Great Finds." *Biblical Archaeology Review*, May/ Jun 1995, 36-47. <http://members.bib-arch.org/publication.asp?PubID=BSBA&Volume=21&Issue=3&ArticleID=2> (accessed 11/8/2010)

For comments or questions, contact me at [victoryrd@hotmail.com](mailto:victoryrd@hotmail.com) or for more studies visit [www.downvictoryrd.com](http://www.downvictoryrd.com)

