

# Run It By the LORD!

*Joshua 9:1-15*

We have an expression in English “to run it by.” This idiom means to obtain one’s permission before engaging in an activity. For example, “You need to run that by the boss before you do it.”



The children of Israel, under Joshua’s leadership, failed to run something by the LORD. It was a costly mistake. The Gibeonites were about to be exterminated by Joshua’s army as God was enabling them to conquer the land. Anticipating the danger they were in, the Gibeonites came up with a clever and deceptive scheme in order to enter into a friendly alliance with Israel. They pretended to be from a far country, and they had prepared all the need-

ed props: worn-out sacks on their donkeys, old wineskins, moldy bread, ragged clothing, and dilapidated sandals. The Israelites fell for this, hook, line and sinker! If only they had run it by the LORD, but they “asked not counsel at the mouth of the LORD” (*Josh. 9:14*). Before making an ill-advised treaty, they failed to consult Jehovah.

God had a special system whereby Joshua could have obtained counsel. It involved the Urim and Thummim, a divinely appointed means by which the will of the LORD could have been determined (*Numbers 27:21*). Yet, Joshua failed to utilize this provision.

As believers seeking to travel obediently down God’s path, how we need to consult the LORD before deciding on a course of action. We must acknowledge the LORD in all our ways so that He might direct our paths (*Prov. 3:5*).

Never should we make plans without seeking to know the mind of the LORD (*James 4:13*)! “For that ye ought to say, If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this or that” (*James 4:15*). No decision should ever be made independently of the LORD.

**May we always remember to run it by Him!**

~George Zeller: [www.middletonbiblechurch.org](http://www.middletonbiblechurch.org)

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