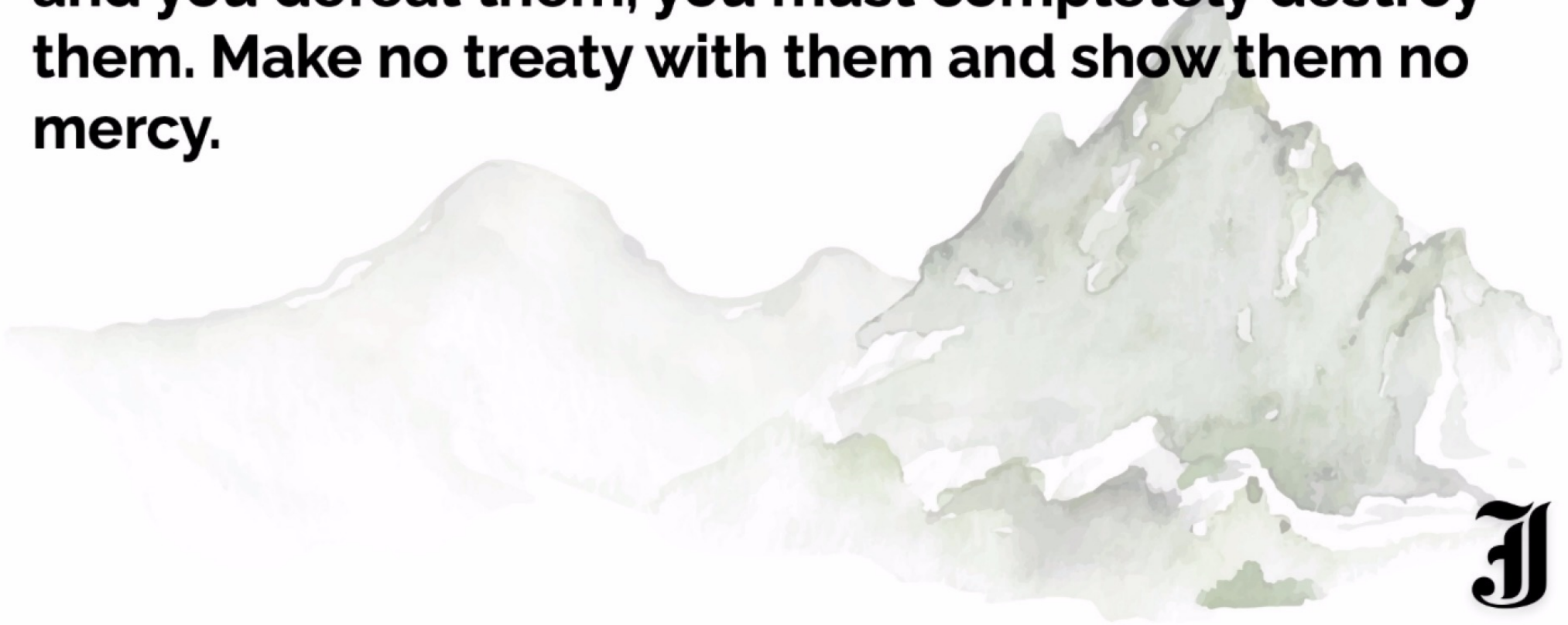


Joshua

The Story of
The Promise-Keeping God

Deuteronomy 7:2

When the LORD your God delivers them over to you and you defeat them, you must completely destroy them. Make no treaty with them and show them no mercy.



9:3 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."





9:9 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... ¹¹ 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.” ’...



9:12 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. ¹³ 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."



9:14 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. ¹⁶ Three days after making the treaty with them, they heard that the Gibeonites were their neighbors, living among them.

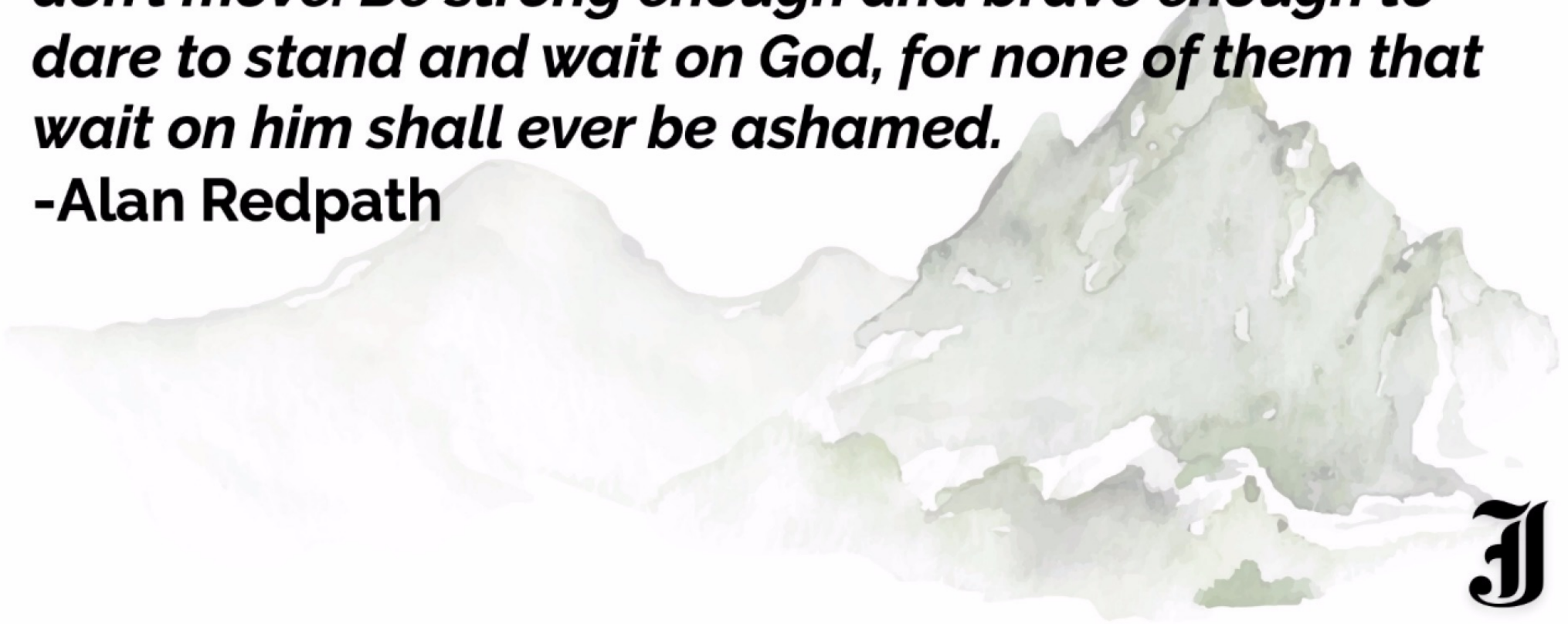


When common sense says that a course is right, lift your heart to God, for the path of faith and the path of blessing may be in a direction completely opposite to that which you call common sense. When voices tell you that action is urgent, that something must be done immediately, refer everything to the tribunal of heaven. Then, if you are still in doubt, dare to stand still. If you are called on to act and you have no time to pray, don't act...



If you are called on to move in a certain direction and cannot wait until you have peace with God about it, don't move. Be strong enough and brave enough to dare to stand and wait on God, for none of them that wait on him shall ever be ashamed.

-Alan Redpath



9:17 So the Israelites set out and reached the Gibeonite cities on the third day... 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.



9:19 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...”**



²⁴ The Gibeonites answered him, “It was clearly communicated to your servants that the LORD your God had commanded his servant Moses to give you all the land and to destroy all the inhabitants of the land before you. We greatly feared for our lives because of you, and that is why we did this. ²⁵ Now we are in your hands. Do to us whatever you think is right.”



Numbers 30:1-2

Moses told the leaders of the Israelite tribes, “This is what the LORD has commanded: ² When a man makes a vow to the LORD or swears an oath to put himself under an obligation, he must not break his word; he must do whatever he has promised.



Deuteronomy 23:21-23

²¹ “If you make a vow to the LORD your God, do not be slow to keep it, because he will require it of you, and it will be counted against you as sin. ²² But if you refrain from making a vow, it will not be counted against you as sin. ²³ Be careful to do whatever comes from your lips, because you have freely vowed what you promised to the LORD your God.



²⁶ This is what Joshua did to them: he rescued them from the Israelites, and they did not kill them. ²⁷ On that day he made them woodcutters and water carriers—as they are today—for the community and for the LORD's altar at the place he would choose.



10:6 Then the men of Gibeon sent word to Joshua in the camp at Gilgal: “Don’t give up on your servants. Come quickly and save us! Help us, for all the Amorite kings living in the hill country have joined forces against us.”



10:7 So Joshua and all his troops, including all his best soldiers, came from Gilgal.

8 The LORD said to Joshua, “Do not be afraid of them, for I have handed them over to you. Not one of them will be able to stand against you.”

9 So Joshua caught them by surprise, after marching all night from Gilgal.



Romans 8:37 In all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.



10:12 On the day the LORD gave the Amorites over to the Israelites, Joshua spoke to the LORD in the presence of Israel: "Sun, stand still over Gibeon, and moon, over the Valley of Aijalon."

13 And the sun stood still and the moon stopped until the nation took vengeance on its enemies.



10:14 There has been no day like it before or since, when the LORD listened to a man, because the LORD fought for Israel. ¹⁵ Then Joshua and all Israel with him returned to the camp at Gilgal.



Psalm 15:1-4

¹ LORD, who can dwell in your tent? Who can live on your holy mountain?

² The one who lives blamelessly, practices righteousness, and acknowledges the truth in his heart—

³ who does not slander with his tongue, who does not harm his friend or discredit his neighbor,

⁴ who despises the one rejected by the LORD but honors those who fear the LORD, who keeps his word whatever the cost.



Both Jesus and James underscore that Christians are to be people of their word. They are people who follow through on their commitments made by saying “Yes” and do not second-guess themselves on commitments declined with a “No.” The world is filled with phony Yes-People—people who accept a commitment but cannot be counted on to carry it out—and Maybe-people—people who are afraid to say “No” so they say “Maybe” (a polite “No”).

Robert Hubbard

