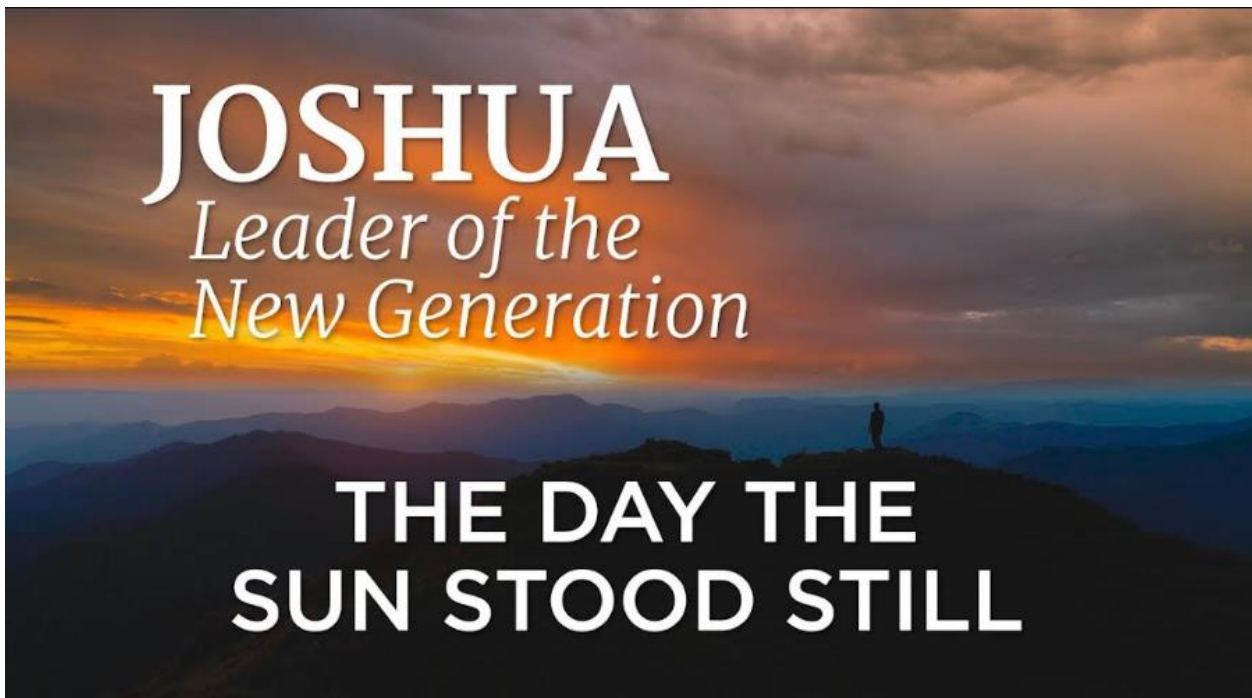


JOSHUA CHAPTER 10

The Sun Stood Still at Gibeon



Five Sections in this chapter:

- A) Five Kings go to war to wipe out Gibeon because it had joined Israel...
- B) Joshua keeps his Covenant with Gibeon and goes to their rescue...
- C) Heaven joined the war on Joshua's side: huge hailstones and **Sun Stood Still**...
- D) The 5 Kings in the cave at Makkedah...
- E) Conquest of the rest of the Southern cities of Canaan

Introduction:

- Israel has had major victories at Jericho and Ai...
- Then there was a lull, with Gibeon surrendering to Israel...
- Israel then consecrated herself to God again on Mt. Ebal.

... but after **this rest period** some fierce battles awaited God's People
... and they were thrown into warfare much more fiercely than before.

So it is with us: In our spiritual warfare we find a similar pattern where God gives us a period of rest after some victories... only to be thrown more fiercely in warfare afterwards...

- In both cases **Satan works** while we rest... preparing the next challenge for us.
- In fact, after our victories Satan **intensifies** the attacks against us.
 - (i) Joshua had overcome single Kings before... now he faces a confederation of 5 Kings!
 - (ii) Yeshua – Jesus also found the opposition **to Him** grew more fierce as His Ministry developed.
cf Lk 6:40 / Mt 10:24

A disciple is NOT ABOVE his Master... he will be perfect if he becomes LIKE his Master.

10:1-2 The fact that Gibeon had **joined** Israel caused **alarm** to the King of Jerusalem – whose city was next to be conquered. His name was Adoni-Zedek, which means “my Lord (Adonai = God's Name!) Zedek = King = “My Lord-King”

- Somehow the people knew that one day this city **would** have **God's King** reigning there!

THE NEWS: People hear the facts, but **interpret** them differently!

(e.g.) Rehab (chap 2) and the Gibeonites (chap 9) knew it was the **GOD of ISRAEL** who was responsible for all the miracles... so they **joined** God's People.

(e.g.) Adoni-Zedek and the other kings attributed the victories to Joshua and so they joined together to oppose him! But they were, **in fact**, fighting **God** and His Judgement of Canaan.

cf Acts 5:39 **If this is from God, you will not be able to stop them... you will only find yourselves fighting against God.**

- In this incident **Gibeon becomes a symbol** of all those who give their lives to God and His Church. As soon as they begin to withdraw from worldliness and sin in order to make their peace with God... then they face **opposition** everywhere— even **persecution and** the opposition begins in their own household! **Mt 10:36 your enemies will be those of your own household.** cf John 16:33
- So, Jesus tells His disciples to **count the cost**: Lk 14:28-33
He also said: **If the world hates you, it hated Me before you.**
St John repeated this in 1 Jn 3:13: **Do not marvel that the world hates you, my friends!**
- The **utter destruction** of Jericho and Ai is a strong reminder to **us** that we must be ruthlessly thorough in our mortification of the lusts of the flesh and the pull of the world... **Rom 6:12**
 - We must achieve **full** self-mastery if the Divine Will is to reign in us: Rom 5:17
 - a) - this is the way we shut the door **to Satan** and all his evil works.
 - b) - this is the way we **OPEN** the door to **GOD'S** reign in us.
- The destruction of Jericho and Ai were not **PLEASANT** tasks – they were “blood and guts” stuff.
 - so mortification of the lusts of the flesh and the world... are **also** not pleasant!
 - Jesus compared them to “**cutting off a hand or plucking an eye out**”: Matt 5:29-30
 - **the eye** represents what is most precious to us...
 - **the hand** represents what is most useful in everyday life
 - so the emphasis here is on **THE COST** to us – the painfulness of the event -

BUT both actions point to **PERMANENT** solutions [the eye and hand are gone, forever!]
so these actions point to the **triumph** of **GRACE** over Nature.
Once this happens the **KOG** can be **established** in the soul on a safe and firm footing.

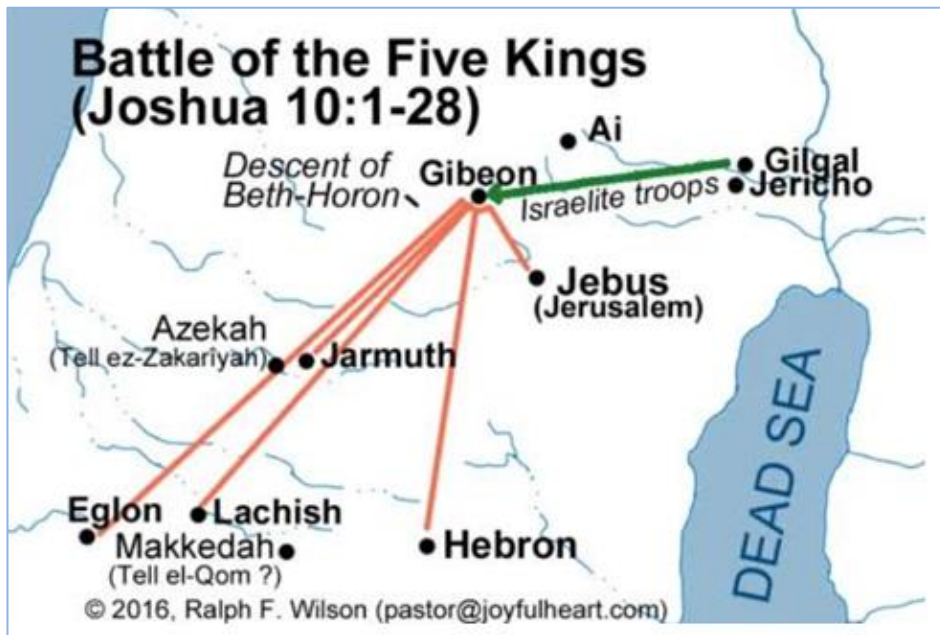
10:2 The reason **why** King Adoni-Zedek **FEARED GREATLY** was because **Gibeon was a great city.**

But it had **joined** Israel, thus making Israel stronger – **so he thought.**

- this wasn't **true** as events will show...

- If it **was true** about Gibeon that **all its men were mighty** then we must solve the mystery as to why they just surrendered **to Israel** and agreed to be **Hewers of wood and drawers of water** instead of fighting them!
- We have to see that **BEHIND** Gibeon's deceptive ways in Chapter 9, there was a **divine call** to **join** the Chosen People – God working in the strangest of ways!
- Adoni-Zedek would have expected Gibeon to be an ally against Israel.
 - he now feared other cities would capitulate also!

10:3 The King of Jerusalem then called on the Kings of Hebron, Jarmuth, Lachish and Eglon.
- these men were ruling the cities in the South of Israel.



10:4 These 5 Kings were **Amorites** – the very people Joshua was told to wipe out.
Their decision was to wipe out **Gibeon** for joining Israel!! **Deut 11:25** / **Ex 23:27**

(NB) There would be **no expectation** that Joshua would **rescue** Gibeon!!

- These 5 Kings had the same opportunity as Gibeon to surrender to Israel but they rejected that option.
- Not only did Adoni-Zedek refuse but he made sure the other kings refused **also!**
 - he called the others to help **him** destroy Gibeon – as a warning to all **other** cities not to make the same ‘mistake’... **for it has made peace with Joshua And with the children of Israel.**

Note: that these Kings were fellow-countrymen with the Gibeons. They would have traded together... they were “neighbours”... So, they represent the Christian’s foes in a general way
- the opposition from those who consider you “different” from them
- at times they consider you “mad” . Mark 3:21 **He is out of His mind.**

Note: the prominent place the King of Jerusalem held – this went back to Abraham’s time: Gen 14:19-20

10:5 **... they encamped before Gibeon...**

Gibeon was a **walled** city – as cities **were** in those days, so the invading army surrounded the city and encamped there to **STARVE** the inhabitants out...

(NB) Gibeon is in a fix now. Their former friends/countrymen are against them.

Will Israel come to their aid? Do they **know God** yet?

- this is the position of the persecuted Christians – which challenges their **faith and trust in God.**

10:6 Gibeon **behaved** in a wonderful way!

- they did **not** trust in their great city walls to defend them... as Jericho did
- they did not trust in their “mighty men” to fight for them: **Prov 3:5**
- they did not break their Covenant with God through Israel
- they put their trust in **God’s Covenant** with them and sent for **Joshua** to **come to save them...**
 - Joshua was the one who had shown **mercy** to them in **Chap 9.**

→ they have something to **teach us** in this – not to look to the world for help – as it is the world which is causing the **trouble!** ... not to lean on ourselves... but to humble ourselves before the Saviour (Yeshua) who made a Covenant for us with God.

- Let us not make the mistake of thinking that **we** are strong enough for the fight
- or that **we** can take the enemy on.

Isaiah 40:29 The Lord **gives strength to the weary... the powerless... those who wait for Him will renew their strength and put out wings like eagles.**

2 Cor 12:9 **My Power works BEST in weakness.**

Valley of Achor turns into a Gateway of Hope

Ps 46:1 **God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in times of trouble.**

10:6 Gibeon sent to **Joshua Do not forsake us... come and help us quickly... save us!**

In appealing to Joshua they appeal to the **Captain of the Lord's Army** who guides Joshua.
- so they will discover that **TROUBLE** is actually a **BLESSING** in disguise.

They will discover it is a blessing **BECAUSE** they turned to **God** for help.

- those who treat trouble as just "bad luck" or misfortune don't **reach out** for help,
So the "rescue services" of God are not put into motion!

- but if we turn to God in our weakness and nothingness, He comes to our help.

→ **READ** Ps 46 **God is our refuge and strength...**

Note that on Earth we cannot escape trouble because the majority live out of their fallen-state reality.

The Saviour won't save them against **their will!**

In the world you will have trouble; but be brave; I have overcome the world: Jn 16:33

- Since Jesus has overcome the world, **trouble** should send us **INTO His Arms!**

Ps 77:2 **In the day of my trouble I sought the Lord.**

Ps 50:15 **Call on Me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you and you will glorify Me.**

Ⓝ When you call upon the Lord you must realise it's not **magic!** He will help you **TO DEAL WITH IT** just as Joshua helped the Gibeonites deal with their problem.

- It is in the **fiery trials** that we glorify God with our faith and trust.

e.g. 3 men in fiery furnace: Dan ch 3

Daniel in lion's den: Dan 6:1-28

Susanna on her way to execution: Dan ch 13

Paul & Silas: Acts 16:16-40

The Apostles after flogging: Acts 5:40-42 **glad to have had the honour of suffering for Jesus.**

1 Pet 5:7 **Cast your care upon the Lord for He cares about you.**

Gibeon's prayer was in 10:6 **come to us quickly and save us...** - this is always our cry to the Lord!

Ps 31:2 **Bow your ear to me; deliver me speedily.**

Ps 38:22 **Make haste to help me! Oh Lord, you are my salvation.**

Ps 70:5 **I am poor and needy; make haste to help me.**

10:7 Help came quickly! Joshua took his whole army to deliver Gibeon!

Ⓝ God is **with** Joshua **BECAUSE** Joshua is faithful to **his** covenant with Gibeon,
just as God is faithful to **His** Covenant with Israel!

∴ We see Joshua **behaving** like a **MAN OF GOD.**

- Here again Joshua points to Jesus, our Saviour. In the Gospel we see that Jesus NEVER refused a request for help. He served us at the cost of His Life.
- His Love is without borders: universal. He responded to everyone Rich or Poor, Jew or Gentile, slave or free, sick or well, saint or sinner...

Danger: When trouble comes to us we are tempted to **get lost** in the pain and challenge, whereas the solution is to rise above it to find God in **ALL** circumstances

- and find **His** solutions to all of life's challenges...

The God Who Fights for You



Joshua 10:28-12:24

- 10:8** **And the Lord spoke to Joshua... I have delivered them into your hand.**
Because Joshua is doing God's Will – keeping his Covenant with Gibeon – God is with him.
Isaiah 12:2: **God is my salvation, I will trust and not be afraid...**
for the Lord is my strength and my song...
- 10:9** **Joshua came upon them suddenly having marched ALL NIGHT.**
It is normal for people in Israel to travel at night because it is cool.
Marching in the heat of the day is very difficult – the army would be worn out before battle!
- 10:10** Joshua defeated the armies because they were encamped around Gibeon – they were NOT expecting Israel to surround them... so they were trapped.
So, instead of having to fight these 5 Kings separately Joshua fought them together and won!
- 10:11** Heaven assists Joshua: **the Lord cast down large hailstones from heaven... more died from the hailstones than from... the sword.**



- The Amorites who fled from Joshua ran straight into Judgement from on high!
- Hail was the **7th Plague** sent to Egypt: Ex 9:22-26
- Hail will be one of the chastisements coming in our day: Rev 16:21
(several countries have experienced dreadful hail in 2022!)
cf Job 33:22-23

**Have you entered the treasury of snow,
or have you seen the treasury of hail
which I have reserved for the time of trouble
for the day of battle and war?**

- Notice in 10:11**
- (i) large hailstones
 - (ii) its force and efficacy – like bullets from a machine gun!
 - (iii) only the Amorites were killed – none of the Israelites! [single combat!]
- Ⓝ frozen water **cannot** make this discrimination between two beings!

Notice that in **Ex 9:22-26** the hail **only** fell on the Egyptians who were opposed to God.
cf Ps 91:7 **A thousand will fall at your side, 10,000 at your right hand
But you it will not approach!**

Notice that when Judgement came to the Amorites **THEN**... and when Judgement comes to our generation **NO ONE** will be able to escape if they are enemies of God.

Heb 10:31 **It is a fearful thing to fall into the Hands of God.**

But it is different for Joshua... and all the **friends** of God for all time...

Deut 3:22 **Do not fear them: for the Lord your God will fight for you**

Rom 8:31 **If God is FOR US, who can be against us?**

*Ps 44:1-3 (*read this*) This is the testimony of later generations to the miracles God worked for Joshua and his men.

Learning points for us:

- (i) Stay in the Will of God and you will have Heaven on your side.
- (ii) Keep your vows and promises to God, Church, family, etc.
- (iii) In spiritual warfare God will fight with you giving you **Sovereign Grace** to win...
- (iv) Pass on to others the way to have miracles in our lives...
- (v) If we **live** in Divine Will, and remain faithful and attentive, God will **undertake for us**
Ⓝ He will intervene to bring matters to the conclusion Heaven wants...

