

# Courageous

Claiming Canaan, Lessons from the Book of Joshua

Lesson 13: Certain (10:1-27)

*This journey was going to be an uphill climb in the dark. It was farther than they wanted to travel, and it would keep them longer than they wanted to stay. But even so, Israel had made a commitment, and Divine purposes were leading the way.*

When the battle grew fiercest, time would stand still. But time was the very thing Israel needed to acquire God's promises (Joshua 10:8). Victory had been assured but they must keep ascending, keep fighting, and keep believing until the enemy was subdued.

*"Do not be afraid, nor be dismayed; be strong and of good courage" (Joshua 10:25). "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness" (2 Corinthians 12:9, NKJV). "For [I am] with you wherever you go" (Joshua 1:9).*

*Read Joshua 10:1-15.*

1. For what reasons did the king of Jerusalem summon the Amorite kings? (vv.1-4)

What did he ask of them?

2. King Adoni-Zedek, translated, "Lord of Righteousness" is often described as a type of imposter— an Antichrist who poised on God's "holy hill" and led nations against Joshua and God's people.

Read Psalm 2:1-12. How does this passage apply to Joshua's battle and the battle of the end of the age?

3. Return to Joshua. The Gibeonites' former allies turned on them when they learned of their alliance with Israel and its God. How are his actions and his purposes like that of our enemy?
  
4. To whom did they turn for help? What did the Gibeonites ask of them?
  
5. Why should Joshua respond to this cry for help from the very people who had deceived him?<sup>i</sup> Why not let the situation "rectify" itself?
  
6. According to Matthew 5:38-48, how should our actions emulate Joshua's?

Which of these commands are the most difficult for you? Why?

7. Per verses 7-9, in what condition did the Israelites arrive at Gibeon? Why?
  
8. In what ways did the Lord aid Israel? (vv.10,11)
  
9. The hailstones did not harm a single Israelite. How do Romans 5:9 and 1 Thessalonians 5:9-10 apply?

10. Why might Joshua have asked God to cause the sun and the moon to stand still? (Reconsider verse 8.)<sup>ii</sup>
11. Why did God honor his request? (Consider 1 John 5:14-15.)

"An important fact that should not be overlooked is that the sun and moon were principal deities among the Canaanites. At the prayer of Israel's leader, Canaan's gods were compelled to obey. This disturbance to their gods must have been terribly upsetting and frightening to the Canaanites."<sup>iii</sup>

12. Before the battle began, the Lord promised victory. (10:8) Explain the relationship between the fulfillment of God's promises and human effort.
13. Many regard this miracle as the greatest recorded in the Bible, and yet others dismiss its credibility. Why do many attempt to explain away the miracles contained in the Word?

What other miracles has God performed?

Why are these foundational to our faith?

*Read Joshua 10:16-27.*

14. From who and what were the kings hiding?

15. Read Revelation 6:12-17. What similarities can be observed? (See also Revelation 16:21.)
16. Back to Joshua 10. What became of the remnant of the Amorites? (v.20)
17. For what reasons were the enemy *and* the Israelites silenced? (v.21)
18. What message did Joshua's actions convey to the remnant of the Amorites and the remaining Canaanite nations? (vv.23-27) See Psalm 110:1,5, Romans 16:20, and 1 Corinthians 15:25.
19. Why was it important for Joshua to include the men of Israel and his captains, and to speak these particular words to them (v.25; Joshua 1:9)?
20. How is this battle an example of the ways God uses our failures for His purposes?

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<sup>i</sup> Campbell, D. K. (1985). Joshua. In J. F. Walvoord & R. B. Zuck (Eds.), *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures* (Vol. 1, p. 350). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.

<sup>ii</sup> "The record of this miracle has been called the most striking example of conflict between Scripture and science because, as is well known, the sun does not move around the earth causing day and night. Instead, light and darkness come because the earth rotates on its axis around the sun. Why then did Joshua address the sun rather than the earth? Simply because he was using the language of observation; he was speaking from the perspective and appearance of things on earth. People still do the same thing, even in the scientific community. Almanacs and journals record the hours of sunrise and sunset, yet no one accuses them of scientific error." (Campbell, D. K. (Vol. 1, pp. 350-351).)

<sup>iii</sup> Campbell, D. K. (Vol. 1, p. 351).