

Joshua Chapter 10

V: 1 “Adonai-Zedec” meaning “Lord of righteousness” – king of Jerusalem.

- This is the 2nd mention of Jerusalem in the Bible, the first was with Abraham and his contact with Melchizedec the King of Salem – a contraction of Jerusalem.
- Jerusalem wouldn’t become the capital of Israel until many years later under the reign of king David, he would drive the Jebusites out and move his capital from Hebron in Judah to Jerusalem in Benjamin; unifying the country under his leadership.
- Adonai-Zedec learns of the destruction of Ai, which met the same fate at Jericho – and that the Gibeonites had made peace or surrendered to Israel.

V: 2 The Gibeonites had previously figured the same thing out.

- Gibeon was a “great city” and a “royal city”, meaning it was large, wealthy, and well protected – all the men thereof were mighty.
- The Gibeonites understood that they could not win a battle against the God of the Israelites – this was not the choice of those who were unwilling to fight – it was simply a very practical view.
- The inhabitants of Jerusalem feared greatly because these great cities are either being conquered or they are surrendering to the children of Israel.

V: 3-5 Adonai-Zedec hasn’t learned the lessons that the Gibeonites had and he forms a confederation of the various city states in the region intending to destroy the Gibeonites for having made peace with Israel, possibly doing so as a warning to any others who might consider the same thing.

([Map](#)) Jerusalem, Hebron, Jarmuth, Lachish, Eglon: - laying siege at Gibeon.

- Adoni-Zedec is also hoping to draw the Israelites into a battle against this new confederation which in his eyes should have a much better chance of success, being potentially a larger military force.

V: 6-7 The Gibeonites immediately send for Joshua for help.

[Typology](#):

- The pagans call out to Joshua / Jesus and say “save us”, and he does.
- Joshua goes to help those that lied to him, and are afar off. (Us)
- This is all related to the previous chapter when the children of Israel didn’t ask counsel of God and were deceived. They made a treaty with the Gibeonites contrary to God’s command.

- We are given the same command in the NT for the same reasons.

2 Corinthians 6:14-18 “¹⁴Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? And what communion hath light with darkness? ¹⁵And what concord hath Christ with Belial? Or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? ¹⁶And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? For ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. ¹⁷Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, ¹⁸and will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be My sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.”

- As is often the case, when we make an agreement or treaty with those that we shouldn't, life gets more complicated, our lives now being intertwined with theirs, we're drawn into their drama.

2 Timothy 2:4 “No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier.”

- As much as Israel should not have made this alliance, they've come to understand that and the error of their ways, they've repented of it, they've sought to honor God and not go back on their oath, swearing to their own hurt – understanding now that they have to live with the consequences of their actions – and this is part of that – coming to the aid of the Gibeonites.
- As we will see, God honors that. It's not just that they sinned and flippantly continued in their actions, they did acknowledge their guilt before the Lord, they have repented before the Lord – this in itself frees God to use this for their good and to bless them, to pour out His grace upon them.
- Joshua and the army of Israel “ascend” from Gilgal. They climb about 4,200 feet over the 20 or so miles between Gilgal to Gibeon – it's a tough group of men, guided and empowered by the Lord.

V: 8-9 The Lord speaks to Joshua affirming that He is not only with Joshua, but that He is for Joshua.

- Up until now Joshua has taken one city at a time, now they are looking at 5 large cities coming out against them all together.
- Joshua and the children of Israel are having their faith stretched, grown.
- Don't be afraid, I have delivered them into your hand – the victory is yours – not one of them shall stand before you.
- So they went up by night, came upon them suddenly and surprised them.
- Herein is partly how we see God's grace in this scenario:

- Because of the treaty with the Gibeonites, this coalition of nations comes out of their walled cities, their fortified cities into the open which is where the children of Israel surprise them.
- It is much easier to do battle with them in the open field than to lay siege to these cities.

So once again:

Romans 8:28 “And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are called according to His purpose.”

V: 10-11 The Lord discomfited them and slew them, God did the work, He always does!

- God joints the battle directly and kills more than the children of Israel.
- (Map)
- The “battle” takes place at Gibeon and the enemy flees to Beth-Horon (North), towards Azeka to the West, and Makkedah to the South.

Deuteronomy 28:7 “The Lord shall cause thine enemies that rise up against thee to be smitten before thy face: they shall come out against thee one way, and flee before thee seven ways.”

- In the 10 plagues of Egypt we discovered how each specific plague had a direct correlation to one of the pagan Egyptian deities. The 7th plague described in **Exodus 9:22-23** was the plague of hail stones which killed both cattle and crops.

Revelation 16:21 “And there fell upon men a great hail out of heaven, every stone about the weight of a talent: (100 lbs.) and men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail: for the plague thereof was exceeding great.”

- God was demonstrating His superiority over the god’s of the Egyptians, and now He’s doing the same thing with the gods of the Canaanites.
- Those fleeing to Beth-horon were stoned from above, God stoned them. More men died from God than from the Israelites.
- Azekah: Cultivated ground, farmland. Makkedah: “Place of Shepherds.”
- Beth-horon: “House of Hauron” – A pagan Egyptian god imported to Canaan and Lebanon, sometimes in the forms of a falcon headed man, sometimes equated to Baal.

Stoning was the penalty for blasphemy:

Leviticus 24:16 “And he that blasphemeth the name of the Lord, he shall surely be put to death, and all the congregation shall certainly stone him:

as well the stranger, as he that is born in the land, when he blasphemeth the name of the Lord, shall be put to death.”

- Some people take issue with God being somehow depicted as a God of war and violence; but God doesn't have a problem with that.

Exodus 15:3 “The Lord is a man of war: the Lord is His name.”

Psalm 24:8 “Who is this King of glory? The Lord strong and mighty, the Lord mighty in battle.”

V: 12-14 Joshua had been called to utterly slay all the people, he wasn't done with that task, they were running out of daylight.

- Joshua prays boldly, asking God to extend the day, to hold the sun and the moon still – and God does it!

James 5:16 “... the effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.”

- This is the greatest miracle ever recorded in the Bible! This is the last miracle recorded in the book of Joshua, and it involved the powers of the universe.
- Why did God do it? Because the Lord was fighting for Israel. Because they were doing the will of God – when God guides He provides!

2 Peter 1:2-3 “²Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord, ³according as His divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him that hath called us to glory and virtue.”

- Book of Jasher? A book known to the children of Israel at that time, but unavailable to us now. God edited His own book.

V: 15-27 Joshua returns to Gilgal after the victory as the mopping up operations continue.

V: 18 The five kings who formed the coalition against Israel have fled and are now trapped in a cave – stones being placed over the entrance makes them a tomb.

- Why do these 5 kings run into a cave? If for example you were king of a people that worshipped the sun and the moon – and you've just heard your enemy's leader pray to God that the sun and the moon would stop in their tracks – and it happened... where would you go? They are seeing the power of God on display.

Revelation 6:15-17 “¹⁵And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the

mountains; ¹⁶and said to the mountains and rocks, fall on us, and hide us from the face of Him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb. ¹⁷For the great day of His wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?"

- The 5 kings are brought out and slain, hung on a tree, then removed and placed back in the cave from which they came.

V: 21 Nobody said a word against what they did – no criticism.

V: 28-30 They conquered Makkedah & Libnah.

V: 31-32 Lachish.

V: 33 Horem king of Gezer comes to the aid of Lachish – and are destroyed.

V: 34-37 Eglon & Hebron

V: 38-39 Debir

- One city is missing out of the 5 that formed a coalition – Jerusalem, the Jebusites are not conquered until king David takes it during his kingdom.

V: 40-43 All the hill country of the South down to Kadesh-barnea.

“Because the Lord God of Israel fought for Israel.”

- 40 years earlier it looked different from the other side.
- Basically this was the Southern campaign.
- Next we will see the Northern campaign.

Joshua Chapter 11

V: 1-5 Looking North (map) Hazor – Madon – Shimron – Achshaph – Chinneroth – Dor.

- Numerically superior / as the sand of the sea, they have the technological edge – armor, chariots.
- The historian Josephus tells us this coalition numbered 300,000 infantrymen, 10,000 cavalry men, and 20,000 chariots – a formidable force:

Romans 8:31 *“What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?”*

- Jabin king of Hazor seeks to form another coalition of city states to fight against the children of Israel.
- They came together at the waters of Mirom / swamp North of the Sea of Galilee.
- Again they came out into the open out of their walled cities and facilitated their own demise.

V: 6-9 *“And the Lord said unto Joshua...”* be not afraid, I will deliver.

V: 8 “And the Lord delivered them into the hand of Israel, who smote them and chased them...”

(Map) Zidon – Misrephothmair – Mizpeh.

V: 9 The horses were hocked / hamstrung. Chariots burned.

- Horses were used effectively as weapons of warfare; chariots would also have been a valuable prize – like capturing tanks intact.

Psalm 20:7 *“Some trust in chariots, and some in horses: but we will remember the name of the Lord our God.”*

- Joshua was obedient after the victory as well as before.

V: 10-14 Took Hazor, utterly destroyed all that breathed, burnt the city with fire.

- Jericho, Ai, and now Hazor are the only cities that were burned, the rest were taken and inhabited.
- So did Joshua to all the cities.

V: 15-20 Joshua did all that the Lord commanded, he left nothing undone.

- Absolute obedience brings absolute victory.

(Map) Mt. Halak – Seir – Baalgad – Mt. Hermon.

V: 18 Joshua made war a long time... sometimes we lose track of time, pages vs: years. It has been 7 years since they crossed the Jordan.

- The children of Israel wandered in the wilderness for 38 years. Deuteronomy 2:14. Caleb was 40 years old at that time. Joshua 14:7. Caleb is 78 years old when they cross the Jordan and attack Jericho. He is 85 years old as the battle winds down. Joshua 14:10, so the war has lasted 7 years.

Typology: “Promise land” – victorious Christian life:

- Maturity doesn’t come over night, walking in the victory of the promised land, taking hold of or appropriating all the promises of the victorious Christian life may take some time.

Philippians 1:6 *“Being confident of this very thing, that He which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ.”*

- Sometimes we get impatient with God and with ourselves...

- We are called as Christians to continue walking, growing, learning, dying to ourselves, drawing closer to Him.
- Paul had been walking with the Lord for about 25 years when he penned these words.

Philippians 3:12-14 “¹²Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus. ¹³Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, ¹⁴I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.”

- None made peace – they fought for every city.

V: 20 The Lord hardened their hearts not to surrender and He used Israel as His instrument of judgment upon these evil cities.

V: 21-23 Joshua cut off the Anakims, the “giants”.

(Map) Hebron – Debir – Anab (all in the mountains of Judah).

- All the Anakims were killed except for Gaza, Gath, and in Ashdod.
- Joshua took all the land, then there was rest from war.
- We see Joshua and the army of Israel conquer all their enemies, they are victorious in battle – because the Lord fought the battle for them.
- We see that in actuality they were more than conquerors because as we’ve read several times now, God told them ahead of time that the victory was their, that the battle had already been won.
- God makes the same promise to us:

Romans 8:37-39 “³⁷Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him that loved us. ³⁸For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, ³⁹nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

- All the nations deserved utter destruction. The only nation or people group that survived were the Gibeonites – those who surrendered, all the rest perished.