

Yahweh: The Warrior

Joshua 10:1-27

As soon as Adoni-zedek, king of Jerusalem, heard how Joshua had captured Ai and had devoted it to destruction, doing to Ai and its king as he had done to Jericho and its king, and how the inhabitants of Gibeon had made peace with Israel and were among them, he feared greatly, because Gibeon was a great city, like one of the royal cities, and because it was greater than Ai, and all its men were warriors.

So Adoni-zedek king of Jerusalem sent to Hoham king of Hebron, to Piram king of Jarmuth, to Japhia king of Lachish, and to Debir king of Eglon, saying, "Come up to me and help me, and let us strike Gibeon. For it has made peace with Joshua and with the people of Israel." Then the five kings of the Amorites, the king of Jerusalem, the king of Hebron, the king of Jarmuth, the king of Lachish, and the king of Eglon, gathered their forces and went

up with all their armies and encamped against Gibeon and made war against it. And the men of Gibeon sent to Joshua at the camp in Gilgal, saying, “Do not relax your hand from your servants. Come up to us quickly and save us and help us, for all the kings of the Amorites who dwell in the hill country are gathered against us.” So Joshua went up from Gilgal, he and all the people of war with him, and all the mighty men of valor.

And the LORD said to Joshua, “Do not fear them, for I have given them into your hands. Not a man of them shall stand before you.” So Joshua came upon them suddenly, having marched up all night from Gilgal. And the LORD threw them into a panic before Israel, who struck them with a great blow at Gibeon and chased them by the way of the ascent of Beth-horon and struck them as far as Azekah and Makkedah.

And as they fled before Israel, while they were going down the ascent of Beth-horon, the LORD threw down large stones from heaven on them as far as Azekah, and they died. There were more who died because of the hailstones than the sons of Israel killed with the sword. At that time Joshua spoke to the LORD in the day when the LORD gave the Amorites over to the sons of Israel, and he said in the sight of Israel,

“Sun, stand still at Gibeon, and moon, in the Valley of Aijalon.” And the sun stood still, and the moon stopped, until the nation took vengeance on their enemies.

Is this not written in the Book of Jashar? The sun stopped in the midst of heaven and did not hurry to set for about a whole day. There has been no day like it before or since, when the LORD heeded the voice of a man, for the LORD fought for Israel.

So Joshua returned, and all Israel with him, to the camp at Gilgal. These five kings fled and hid themselves in the cave at Makkedah. And it was told to Joshua, “The five kings have been found, hidden in the cave at Makkedah.” And Joshua said, “Roll large stones against the mouth of the cave and set men by it to guard them, but do not stay there yourselves. Pursue your enemies; attack their rear guard. Do not let them enter their cities, for the LORD your God has given them into your hand.”

When Joshua and the sons of Israel had finished striking them with a great blow until they were wiped out, and when the remnant that remained of them had entered into the fortified cities, then all the people returned safe to Joshua in the camp at Makkedah. Not a man moved his tongue against any of the people of Israel. Then Joshua said, “Open the mouth of the cave and bring those five kings out to me from the cave.”

And they did so, and brought those five kings out to him from the cave, the king of Jerusalem, the king of Hebron, the king of Jarmuth, the king of Lachish, and the king of Eglon. And when they brought those kings out to Joshua, Joshua summoned all the men of Israel and said to the chiefs of the men of war who had gone with him, “Come near; put your feet on the necks of these kings.” Then they came near and put their feet on their necks. And Joshua said to them, “Do not be afraid or dismayed:

be strong and courageous. For thus the LORD will do to all your enemies against whom you fight.” And afterward Joshua struck them and put them to death, and he hanged them on five trees. And they hung on the trees until evening. But at the time of the going down of the sun, Joshua commanded, and they took them down from the trees and threw them into the cave where they had hidden themselves, and they set large stones against the mouth of the cave, which remain to this very day.

As soon as **Adoni-zedek, king of Jerusalem**, heard how Joshua had captured Ai and had devoted it to destruction, doing to Ai and its king as he had done to Jericho and its king, and how the inhabitants of Gibeon had made peace with Israel and were among them, **he feared greatly**, because Gibeon was a great city, like one of the royal cities, and because it was greater than Ai, and **all its men were warriors.**

So **Adoni-zedek** king of Jerusalem sent to **Hoham** king of Hebron, to **Piram** king of Jarmuth, to **Japhia** king of Lachish, and to **Debir** king of Eglon, saying, “Come up to me and help me, and let us strike Gibeon.

And the men of Gibeon sent to Joshua at the camp in Gilgal, saying, “Do not relax your hand from your servants. **Come up to us quickly and save us and help us**, for all the kings of the Amorites who dwell in the hill country are gathered against us.”

So Joshua went up from Gilgal, he
and all the people of war with him,
and all the mighty men of valor.

If Joshua had been a lesser man, he might have regarded this as a way to escape the consequences of his rash agreement to spare the Gibeonites. He had been tricked by them. Now they were being attacked for their deceitfulness. Joshua did not think that way. He had made a treaty with the Gibeonites in God's name, and now he decided it was important to stand by the agreement.

– James Montgomery Boice



And the LORD said to Joshua, “Do not fear them, for I have given them into your hands. Not a man of them shall stand before you.”

Joshua 1:5

No man shall be able to stand before you all the days of your life. Just as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. I will not leave you or forsake you.

Such is the usual way God has of reassuring his children: not by unveiling to them some new truth previously unknown, but by reaffirming promises already given, which somehow take on special power because of the present pressing need. That is what God's people usually need- not new truth but old truth freshly applied to their current need.

– Dale Ralph Davis



And the **LORD** threw them into a panic before Israel, (who) **struck** them with a great blow at Gibeon and **chased** them by the way of the ascent of Beth-horon and **struck** them as far as Azekah and Makkedah.

The Lord threw them into a panic **THEN** Israel struck, chased and struck them.

And the **LORD** threw them into a panic before Israel, **struck** them with a great blow at Gibeon and **chased** them by the way of the ascent of Beth-horon and **struck** them as far as Azekah and Makkedah.

The Lord threw them into a panic **AND THE LORD ALSO** struck, chased and struck them.

And as they fled before Israel, while they were going down the ascent of Beth-horon, **the LORD threw down large stones** from heaven on them as far as Azekah, and they died. There were **more who died because of the hailstones** than the sons of Israel killed with the sword. At that time Joshua spoke to the LORD in the day when **the LORD gave the Amorites over** to the sons of Israel

There has been no day like it before
or since, when the LORD heeded the
voice of a man, **for the LORD fought
for Israel.**

Exodus 15:3

The LORD is a man of war;
the LORD is his name

He who comes forth fresh from beholding the face of God will never fear the face of man. If we dwell with Him, we shall catch the heroic spirit, and to us a world of enemies will be but as the drop of a bucket. A countless array of men, or even of devils, will seem as little to us as the nations are to God, and He counts them only as grasshoppers.

– Charles Spurgeon



At that time Joshua **spoke to the LORD** in the day when the LORD gave the Amorites over to the sons of Israel, and **he said in the sight of Israel,**

Exodus 14:13-14

And Moses said to the people, “Fear not, stand firm, and **see the salvation of the LORD**, which he will work for you today. For the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall never see again. **The LORD will fight for you**, and you have only to be silent.”

“Sun, stand still at Gibeon, and **moon**, in the Valley of Aijalon.” And the **sun stood still**, and the **moon stopped**, until the nation took vengeance on their enemies.

Is this not written in the Book of Jashar? The sun stopped in the midst of heaven and did not hurry to set for about a whole day.

God stopped the rotation of the earth

God caused a refraction of light so that
(while the earth rotated) much more
daylight was given than usual.

The miracle was an “omen”- sun and moon
in the sky at the same time.

Figurative- God gave such strength to
Israel the day seemed longer.

Colossians 1:16-17

For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things and in him all things hold together.

“Well, some men have a little god, and they are always in trouble with him . He can’t do any miracles. He can’t take care of the inspiration of the Scriptures and their preservation and transmission to us. They have a little god, and I call them little-godders. Then there are those who have a great God. He speaks, and it is done. He commands, and it stands fast. He knows how to show himself strong on behalf of those who fear him. You have a great God, and he will bless your ministry.”

– Donald Grey Barnhouse



There has been no day like it before
or since,

**when the LORD heeded the voice
of a man, for the LORD fought for
Israel.**

“The two previous miracles on Israel’s behalf—the stopping of the waters of the Jordan and the victory over Jericho—had been at God’s initiative; this time, it was in response to one man’s petition. This fact again highlights Joshua’s importance in the book, and it also underscores God’s faithfulness to his people.”

– David M. Howard



“Come near; put your feet on the necks of these kings.” Then they came near and put their feet on their necks. And Joshua said to them, **“Do not be afraid or dismayed: Be strong and courageous.**

He will bend his omnipotence to fight for his own when they are in his will, doing his work, and seeking his greater glory, however strong the opposition may be and however extraordinary the exercise of his providence may need to be.

– David Jackman

