

Bibles???

The Word of God is the Absolute Truth and the Final Authority

Let's pray...

This morning, we continue our study through the book of Joshua. We are going to be in chapter 10.

Two weeks ago in chapter nine, we saw Joshua have a spiritual set back as he makes an agreement with the Gibeonites.

You might remember that the Gibeonites deceived Joshua by making an impression that they came from a very far land.

They made the impression that they were no threat to the Israelites and they did this by their appearance.

They wore old clothes

They wore beaten up old sandals

They carried around moldy bread and wine in old wine skins.

And the reason that Joshua was deceived was that he didn't seek the council of the Lord.

He couldn't discern – and was rushed into making a compromise with the Gibeonites despite the Word of God telling them otherwise.

The Children of Israel were not supposed to make peace treaties with them – they were supposed to wipe them out.

And now, the Israelites are bound by the agreement because God wants them and us to keep our promises – because after all, He keeps His.

So here in chapter 10, our story continues. We are going to see the reaction of the nations to the agreement that Gibeon made with the Israelites.

**[Jos 10:1-10 NKJV] 1 Now it came to pass when Adoni-Zedek king of Jerusalem heard how Joshua had taken Ai and had utterly destroyed it--as he had done to Jericho and its king, so he had done to Ai and its king--and how the inhabitants of Gibeon had made peace with Israel and were among them,**

I asked you to make a note of the Adoni-zedek – he is the king of Jerusalem.

Now, there was an earlier king of Jerusalem with a similar name. That was Melchizedek and we find him in the Book of Genesis 14.

Turn with me there.

**[Gen 14:18-20 NKJV] 18 Then Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine; he [was] the priest of God Most High. 19 And he blessed him and said: "Blessed be Abram of God Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth; 20 And blessed be God Most High, Who has delivered your enemies into your hand." And he gave him a tithe of all.**

You might remember that when we went through our study in Genesis, I made note that Melchizedek is theophany – or

one of the instances where Jesus Christ manifests Himself in the flesh in the Old Testament.

The name Melchizedek means “King of Righteousness”

And similarly, the name Adoni-zedek means “lord of Righteousness”

So, not only do they have similar sounding names – the meaning of their names are also similar.

However, that is where the similarities end.

The first king, Melchizedek (Genesis), was a priest of God and he came out to share with and bless Abraham.

The second king, Adoni-zedek (Joshua), he came out to destroy Abraham's descendants, the children of Israel.

This is just an example of how far the people of the land had fallen.

I have tried to make the point repeatedly that all of these ites were not innocent victims of a ruthless conquering nation.

What we're seeing in the book of Joshua is God's judgment on a wicked people, God's judgment coming through the hand of Israel.

**2 that they 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] mighty. 3**

**Therefore Adoni-Zedek king of Jerusalem sent to Hoham king of Hebron, Piram king of Jarmuth, Japhia king of Lachish, and Debir king of Eglon, saying, 4 "Come up to**

**me and help me, that we may attack Gibeon, for it has made peace with Joshua and with the children of Israel."**

King Adoni-zedek wanted to discourage other nations from following the examples of the Gibeonites of making an agreement with the Children of Israel.

So they are going to teach Gibeon a lesson.

**5 Therefore 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 together and went up, they and all their armies, and camped before Gibeon and made war against it. 6 And the men of Gibeon sent to Joshua at the camp at Gilgal, saying, "Do not forsake your servants; come up to us quickly, save us and help us, for all the kings of the**

**Amorites who dwell in the mountains have gathered together against us."**

The nations come together against Gibeon and the people of Gibeon they call on Joshua to help them.

Gibeon is about 25 miles and 4000 feet higher in elevation from where the Israelites were camped at this time.

Joshua was not obligated in helping them – the agreement that was made with the Gibeonites was one that they wouldn't attack them. There was nothing in it regarding protecting them against other nations.

Joshua could have looked the other way and his mistake would have been taken care of.

But church, that is not what Joshua decides to do.

You see, Joshua is a picture of Jesus in the Old testament – let's see what he does.

**7 So Joshua ascended from Gilgal, he and all the people of war with him, and all the mighty men of valor. 8 And the LORD said to Joshua, "Do not fear them, for I have delivered them into your hand; not a man of them shall stand before you." 9 Joshua therefore came upon them suddenly, having marched all night from Gilgal. 10 So the LORD routed them before Israel, killed them with a great slaughter at Gibeon, chased them along the road that goes to Beth Horon, and struck them down as far as Azekah and Makkedah.**

As a picture of Jesus, Joshua sets out to rescue the very same people who had lied to him and were, at this time, very far from him.

He marched all night to rescue them.

And let us not forget church that Jesus Christ came to rescue each one of us when we were also undeserving and unworthy and far from Him.

That's grace church.

**[2Ti 2:13 NKJV] 13 If we are faithless, He remains faithful; He cannot deny Himself.**

**[Jos 10:11] 11 And it happened, as they fled before Israel [and] were on the descent of Beth Horon, that the LORD cast down large hailstones from heaven on them**

**as far as Azekah, and they died. [There were] more who died from the hailstones than the children of Israel killed with the sword.**

So Joshua shows up with his men and they rout the coalition of forces that were attacking Gibeon – and as some of them start retreating, God rains down hailstones on them and kills them.

Notice that it doesn't mention any Israelites being killed by these large hailstones.

Even though the hail storm could have been a phenomenon of nature, the timing and the aim were evidence of the hand of God.

**12 Then Joshua spoke to the LORD in the day when the LORD delivered up the Amorites before the children of**

**Israel, and he said in the sight of Israel: "Sun, stand still over Gibeon; And Moon, in the Valley of Aijalon." 13 So the sun stood still, And the moon stopped, Till the people had revenge Upon their enemies. [Is] this not written in the Book of Jasher? So the sun stood still in the midst of heaven, and did not hasten to go [down] for about a whole day. 14 And there has been no day like that, before it or after it, that the LORD heeded the voice of a man; for the LORD fought for Israel. 15 Then Joshua returned, and all Israel with him, to the camp at Gilgal.**

As Joshua and his men are fighting the coalition forces, Joshua makes a petition for the Lord to hold back the sun.

He wants God to stop time – why? So they can take care of the enemy and finish the job that day. He doesn't want the enemy to escape in the darkness of night.

We do this all the time...

We have a deadline and we wish the clock would just stay still long enough to get all caught up and finish.

That is what Joshua is asking and the Lord granted Joshua's request.

God extended the daylight so that Joshua would be able to finish the job.

Now critics will say, this is why I don't believe the bible – first of all, the sun never moves –

So then why do we use words like sunrise and sunset???

it is the earth's rotation that defines the day – we all learned that in science class.

In order to for the sun to stand still – the tilt of the earth would have to be changed or the rotation of the earth would have to stop – defying the laws of gravity.

Let me ask you this question?

Is God bound by the laws of gravity??? Of course not.

Church, our God is the creator. He spoke a word and it became.

If the bible says that the sun stood still, I believe that the sun stood still and God provided Joshua with light to finish the job.

You see, my focus is not on how God held the sun.

My focus is on the faith that Joshua showed by asking the Lord in front everyone, to hold back the sun for him.

You see, Joshua had faith in a God is was all powerful – that nothing is impossible for Him –

**[Isa 40:12 NKJV] 12 Who has measured the waters in the hollow of His hand, Measured heaven with a span And calculated the dust of the earth in a measure? Weighed the mountains in scales And the hills in a balance?**

I think sometimes we forget just how great our God is.

**[Jos 10:16-27 NKJV] 16 But these five kings had fled and hidden themselves in a cave at Makkedah. 17 And it was told Joshua, saying, "The five kings have been found hidden in the cave at Makkedah." 18 So Joshua said, "Roll large stones against the mouth of the cave, and set**

men by it to guard them. 19 "And do not stay [there] yourselves, [but] pursue your enemies, and attack their rear [guard]. Do not allow them to enter their cities, for the LORD your God has delivered them into your hand."

20 Then it happened, while Joshua and the children of Israel made an end of slaying them with a very great slaughter, till they had finished, that those who escaped entered fortified cities. 21 And all the people returned to the camp, to Joshua at Makkedah, in peace. No one moved his tongue against any of the children of Israel.

Joshua's main objective was to make sure that he finished the work that day.

He wasn't going to allow himself to be distracted by the capturing of the five kings – he just imprisoned them in the cave and will deal with them later.

He wants to make sure that he completed the victory first.

**[Jos 10:22-25 NKJV] 22 Then Joshua said, "Open the mouth of the cave, and bring out those five kings to me from the cave." 23 And they did so, and brought out those five kings 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. 24 So it was, when they brought out those kings to Joshua, that Joshua called for all the men of Israel, and said to the captains of the men of war who went with him, "Come near, put your feet on the necks of these kings." And**

they drew near and put their feet on their necks. **25 Then Joshua said to them, "Do not be afraid, nor be dismayed; be strong and of good courage, for thus the LORD will do to all your enemies against whom you fight."**

Putting your feet on the necks of individuals was an eastern custom of conquerors.

It was a symbol of complete subjugation of the defeated enemy.

Joshua is not rubbing it in – what he is trying to do is to teach his men that this is what they are called to do as they defeat the inhabitants of the Promised Land.

It is God's will for them.

God has allowed you to conquer kings.

In other words, Joshua is trying to encourage them and give them the sense of victory in obedience to God.

I asked you to make note of verse 25, because in chapter one of the book of Joshua, these are the same words that God spoke to Joshua as He encouraged him while the Israelites were still on the other side of the Jordan.

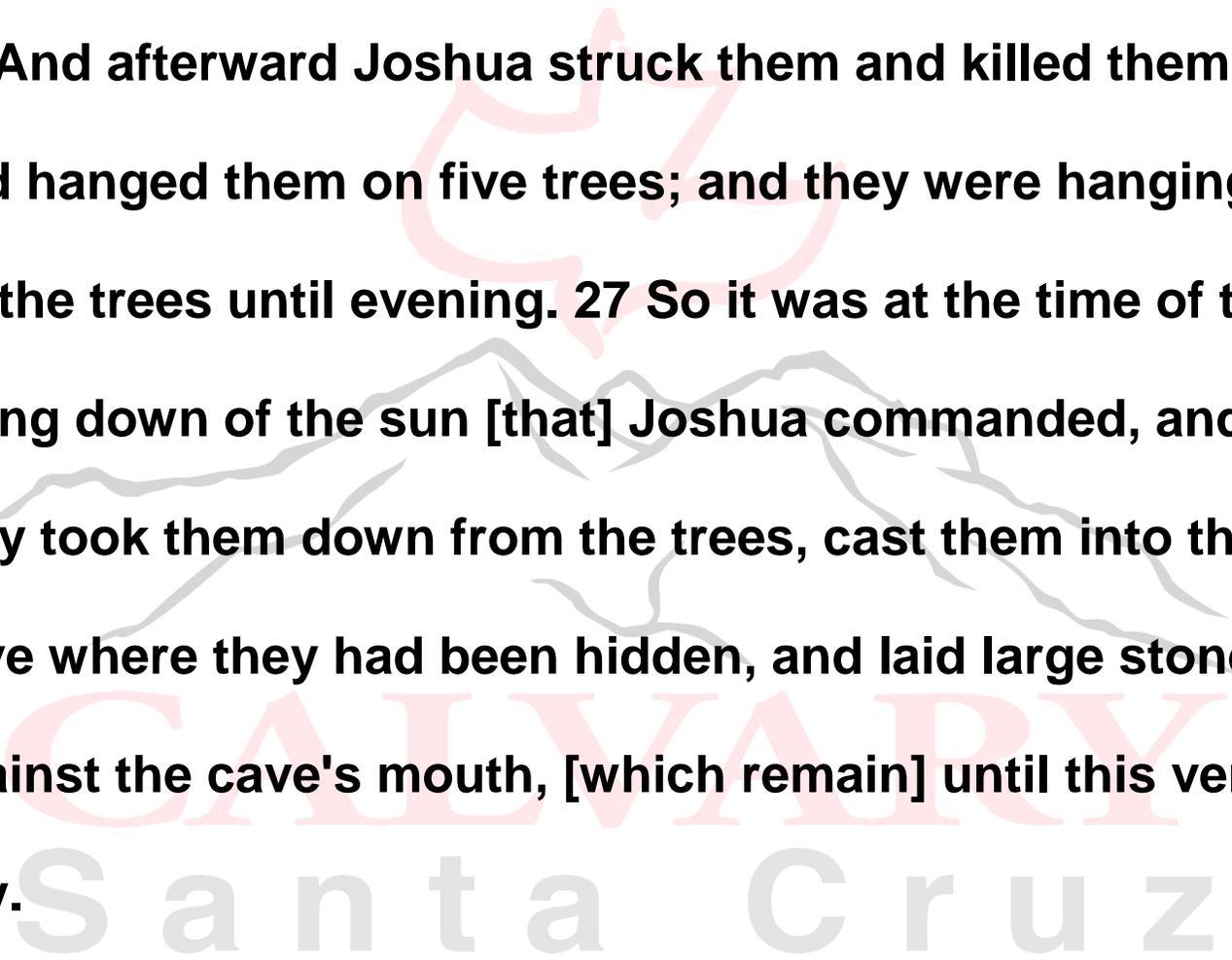
Now, the one receiving encouragement is the one giving encouragement to his men.

You see, Joshua had lived out the words that the Lord spoke to him in chapter one. And Joshua experienced God's faithfulness and now he wants to make sure that his other men experience the same thing.

Church, we are called to be encouragers.

And the best way we can encourage someone is by reminding them of how God has been faithful in our lives.

**26 And afterward Joshua struck them and killed them, and hanged them on five trees; and they were hanging on the trees until evening. 27 So it was at the time of the going down of the sun [that] Joshua commanded, and they took them down from the trees, cast them into the cave where they had been hidden, and laid large stones against the cave's mouth, [which remain] until this very day.**



Here we have five kings that were hung on a tree until evening and cast into a sealed tomb.

In chapter eight we saw that the children of Israel do the same thing with the king of Ai.

Church, our King, the King of kings was also hung on a tree until the evening and placed in a sealed tomb as well—

But guess what...

He didn't stay there – He conquered death. He is risen.

Giving us hope.

**[Jos 10:28-43 NKJV] 28 On that day Joshua took Makkedah, and struck it and its king with the edge of the sword. He utterly destroyed them--all the people who [were] in it. He let none remain. He also did to the king of Makkedah as he had done to the king of Jericho. 29 Then Joshua passed from Makkedah, and all Israel with him, to Libnah; and they fought against Libnah. 30 And**

**the LORD also delivered it and its king into the hand of Israel; he struck it and all the people who [were] in it with the edge of the sword. He let none remain in it, but did to its king as he had done to the king of Jericho.**

Joshua is doing exactly what he was commanded to do – he is not leaving any of the enemy in the land.

**31 Then Joshua passed from Libnah, and all Israel with him, to Lachish; and they encamped against it and fought against it. 32 And the LORD delivered Lachish into the hand of Israel, who took it on the second day, and struck it and all the people who [were] in it with the edge of the sword, according to all that he had done to Libnah. 33 Then Horam king of Gezer came up to help Lachish; and Joshua struck him and his people, until he**

left him none remaining. 34 From Lachish Joshua passed to Eglon, and all Israel with him; and they encamped against it and fought against it. 35 They took it on that day and struck it with the edge of the sword; all the people who [were] in it he utterly destroyed that day, according to all that he had done to Lachish. 36 So Joshua went up from Eglon, and all Israel with him, to Hebron; and they fought against it. 37 And they took it and struck it with the edge of the sword--its king, all its cities, and all the people who [were] in it; he left none remaining, according to all that he had done to Eglon, but utterly destroyed it and all the people who [were] in it. 38 Then Joshua returned, and all Israel with him, to Debir; and they fought against it. 39 And he took it and

**its king and all its cities; they struck them with the edge of the sword and utterly destroyed all the people who [were] in it. He left none remaining; as he had done to Hebron, so he did to Debir and its king, as he had done also to Libnah and its king. 40 So Joshua conquered all the land: the mountain country and the South and the lowland and the wilderness slopes, and all their kings; he left none remaining, but utterly destroyed all that breathed, as the LORD God of Israel had commanded. 41 And Joshua conquered them from **Kadesh Barnea** as far as Gaza, and all the country of Goshen, even as far as Gibeon.**

Kadesh Barnea was the place where Moses sent out the 12 spies into the land of Canaan. Remember, 10 came back with a bad report and discouraged all the Israelites.

Then they had to wander the wilderness for 40 years because of their disobedience.

Now, because they are walking in obedience to His will and placing their trust in Him, they experience victory.

**42 All these kings and their land Joshua took at one time, because the LORD God of Israel fought for Israel.**

**43 Then Joshua returned, and all Israel with him, to the camp at Gilgal.**

Every single battle that we read about here in chapter 10, was won one at a time.

The Children of Israel were told that God was going to give them the land little by little. He was going to give them the victory.

I believe that many times we want to win every battle for God all at once.

And when we try to take on every battle at once and fail, we become discouraged. That is the enemy's biggest strategy – to discourage us. To remind us how weak we are.

However, we have to realize that every battle is a test – and every single battle is going to require us to walk in obedience as well as us placing our trust in Him.

**[Rom 8:37 NKJV] 37 Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.**

Church, victory was won at the cross.

May we always walk in light of that victory instead of trying to fight our battles using our own resources. Amen.

Let's pray...

To Receive Christ do the following:

Admit, "I am a sinner."

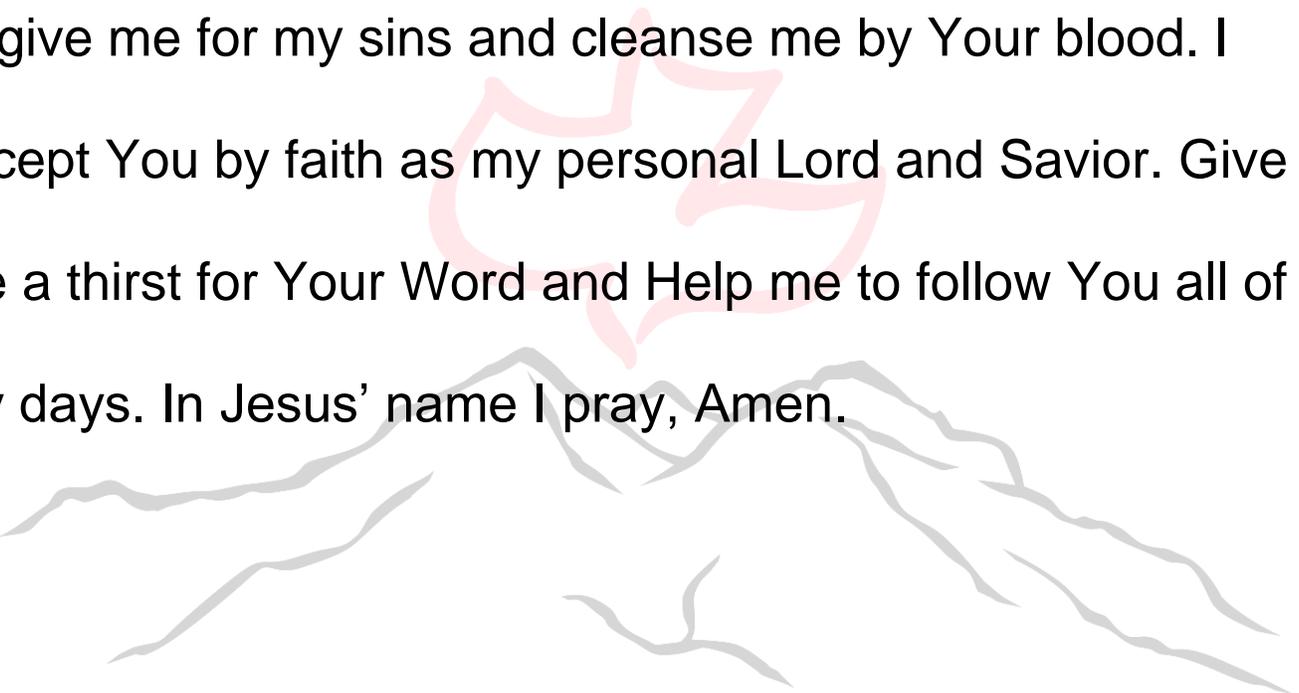
Confess and be willing to turn from your sin.

Believe, by faith that Jesus Christ died for you on the cross.

Receive, through prayer, Jesus Christ into your heart and receive eternal life.

Dear Lord Jesus,

I know that I am a sinner and need Your forgiveness. I believe that You died on the cross for my sins. Please forgive me for my sins and cleanse me by Your blood. I accept You by faith as my personal Lord and Savior. Give me a thirst for Your Word and Help me to follow You all of my days. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.



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