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## **Lessons from the Book and Life of Joshua chapter 10**

### **Review Scripture:**

**Joshua 1:8 (NKJV)** This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.

### **Current Scripture:**

**Isaiah 1:19** If you are willing and obedient, you will eat the best of the land.

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**Introduction:** The children of Israel were able to stand against all of the kings of Canaan who banded together to fight against the armies of the Lord. One particular group, the Gibeonites deceived the Children of Israel to make an oath with them. They were clever, misrepresented themselves, gave false evidence and lied to the people of God. Their tactics remind us of how the enemy will try in a variety of ways to lead us astray and cause us to make moves without consulting the Father. We also see that because the Gibeonites honored the God of the Israelites, their punishment and reward was to serve the Lord and His tabernacle. Just like Rahab, the Gibeonites found salvation in the God of Israel and became a

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part of God's people. God can do great things with sinful people who have been saved by grace and have determined to follow Him.

**1. Joshua 10:1-2** A miraculous victory for Israel

- a. The king of Jerusalem was alarmed when he heard of the victories the Children of Israel had over the cities of Jericho and Ai.
- b. This was a different kind of fighting where the Children of Israel exacted the judgment of God without taking any profits or plunders from the cities. They were fighting for the glory of God.
- c. The children of Israel had victories through the middle of Canaan which separated the north and south and gave them a strategic vantage point.
- d. The surrender of the Gibeonites were another reason for him to be afraid as they were known to be a great city with mighty men
  - i. King Adoni-Zedek doesn't know they didn't surrender because of weakness, but because of their love and honor of the God of Israel, and that they submitted to serving God's tabernacle.
- e. All of these factors caused Adoni-Zedek to rise up, organize and become the leader of the southern Canaanite kings.
- f. Our spiritual enemies are just like this. When they are in jeopardy of losing, they launch an all-out attack on our destiny and purpose.

**2. Joshua 10:3-5** Preparation for attack.

- a. The king acts upon his fear and assembles the different kings in the south to go against the children of Israel.

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- b.** Not only did he assemble but he wrote to Pharaoh at least 5 letters called the Armana letters regarding his town and its security.
- c.** All of these cities were organized as city-states and not as a unified nation and were important for their location and for trade routes.
- d.** Although they were afraid of Israel, they were clever enough to make a plan to attack the Gibeonites.
  - i.** Just like the enemy to try to attack everyone around us if they cannot touch us. But thanks be to God that we have the victory.

**3. Joshua 10:6 Gilgal.**

- a.** When the Gibeonites heard of the plan of attack, they found Joshua at Gilgal, a very significant place for the Israelites.
  - i.** It was the place of memorial (Josh. 4:20).
  - ii.** It was the place of radical obedience (Josh. 5:2-3).
  - iii.** It was the place where their shame of slavery was removed (Josh. 5:9).
  - iv.** It was the place of remembrance of their salvation (Josh. 5:10).
  - v.** It was the place where a new understanding of God's provisions began (Josh. 5:11-12).
- b.** The Gibeonites now have right under the covenant to ask for God's promises.

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- c. We can claim all the promises of God because of our participation in the New Covenant.

**4. Joshua 10:7-11** The defeat.

- a. Joshua doesn't turn his back on the oath he made to the Gibeonites. This is the first time Israel responds to an ally's request instead of initiating an attack.
- b. He sends his best men into this battle to defend Gibeon. He responds with such a dedication to them. He felt obligated to fulfil the spirit of the vow.
  - i. He didn't have to send his mighty men of valor.
  - ii. He could have let them get defeated so that he could have gotten out of his bad vow.
  - iii. This kind of honor is what pleases the Lord.
- c. God gives Joshua a command and a promise.
  - i. Command: that even though 5 kings are coming against you, you do not need to be afraid.
  - ii. Promise: that the enemy will be delivered into your hands.
  - iii. Joshua could obey God's command to not fear because he had God's promise of victory. The two went hand and hand.

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- iv. Can we believe God's promises and fight our battles without fear?
- d. Joshua responds with faith.
  - i. He actively sets out to add works to his faith.
  - ii. This march from Gilgal to Gibeon involved a climb of 3,300 feet over a distance of about 20 miles. It was about 8 to 10 hours of hard marching all through the night.
  - iii. God does His part, but he often waits to see our willingness to be a partner with Him, before He does what only He can do.
- e. God does His part.
  - i. Because of Joshua's obedience, the Lord changes the enemy's route.
  - ii. The hailstones killed more men than the sword of the Israelites.
    - 1. The hailstones could have been a phenomenon of nature, but the timing and intentions were definitely done by God.
    - 2. Immanuel Velikovsky, in his book Worlds in Collision, believed these hailstones to be a sustained meteor show and was connected to the next miracle that Joshua witnesses.

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3. Joshua doesn't wait around for the hail to come. He obeys the voice of God to do his part, and then lets God do His.

**5. Joshua 10:12-15** Another miracle for victory.

- a. Joshua is filled with boldness to ask for another miracle from the Lord.
  - i. He asks for the day to be halted so that he could complete the victory before darkness fell.
  - ii. The sun and moon had witnessed the demonic religion of these Canaanites and now they were helping God's purposes to see the enemy defeated.
- b. Did the Lord slow the earth's rotation? Did he tilt the earth's axis? Did he create a miracle of the reflection of light? Was it God's presence manifested in the light? All we know He did it.
  - i. Immanuel Velikovsky suggested that the long day was caused by the near pass of a comet, that was powerful enough to tilt the axis of the earth. He also notes that there are records of other ancient writings that record an extraordinarily long night in the same approximate time.
- c. Joshua's request is interesting.
  - i. He doesn't ask God to do it, but to give *him* the opportunity to fight on God's behalf.
    1. He wanted God to be glorified.
    2. He wanted to obey the Lord.

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3. He wanted to do God's work without hinderance.

4. He wanted God's people to triumph.

**6. Joshua 10:16-21** The completion of the battle.

- a. Joshua didn't allow anything, even the personal capture of the kings, to keep him from completing Israel's victory.
- b. The children of Israel were to conduct a unique war of judgment against the Canaanites. And all the people knew that God was with Joshua and the nation of Israel.
- c. We, as the church, should stand on God's word and preach the kind of messages that show all people the kind of God we serve. He is a God who wants to be first in our lives. We must come to Him with surrendered hearts.

**7. Joshua 10:22-27** The execution of the Canaanite kings.

- a. King Adoni-Zedek was one of those kings who resisted God's plan and is picture of the anti-christ who comes against the plans of God.
- b. He has the captains of men put their feet on the neck of the kings as a picture to all of us that God has allowed you to conquer kings.
- c. He performs a very dramatic hanging as a picture to all of us that all ground belongs to Jesus and we must not spare anything or anyone who rises up against his place in our lives.

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**8. Joshua 10:28-39** The fall of the cities.

- a. Joshua follows the word of the Lord and conquers the rest of the cities of Makkedah, Libnah, Lachish, Gezer, Eglon, Hebron and Debir.

**9. Joshua 10:40-43** A summary of the conquest of the Southern Canaanite Kingdoms.

- a. In a period of weeks or months, these 6 cities were defeated, without one single lost battle for Israel.
- b. It was the Lord God who fought for Israel.
  - i. We can only win as we see the LORD fighting on our behalf. We do our part, and He will do His.
  - ii. The children of Israel returned to Gilgal. This was the place of total faith, commitment and fellowship with God. They continued to return to the place where God had conquered them.