

Adult Bible Class

The Book of Joshua - Lesson 6 - Chp. 10

A Quick Review

In Joshua 9, the people of Gibeon, a city about 15 miles away from the camp of Israel, came to Joshua pretending to be ambassadors of a nation far away. Israel was forbidden to make any covenant or treaty with the inhabitants of Canaan, and they were commanded by God to destroy all the Canaanites. Therefore, the Gibeonites took great care to appear to be from a far off country. They wore ragged clothes and had moldy bread with them to appear that they had been on a long journey. They wanted Israel to make a solemn vow that they would not be destroyed.

We read these words in Scripture, *“but they [the Israelites] did not ask counsel of the Lord.”* Israel did not ask God what to do. The “evidence” before them and the words that they heard caused them to believe that these really were ambassadors from a country a long way off. Israel trusted their senses instead of inquiring of the Lord. Joshua and the elders made a covenant with the Gibeonites with an oath by the God of Israel.

The truth of the matter was quickly discovered. Gibeon - along with three other cities - had joined together in this deceit to preserve their lives. The Gibeonites did not make excuses for lying to Israel. They clearly stated that they were afraid for their lives.

These Gibeonites, though they practiced deception, became a part of Israel that day. They came under the protection of Israel to follow its laws and its God. They became woodcutters and water carriers for the Tabernacle.

If we think about it, the reason for the destruction of the nations of Canaan was because of their sin and so they would not influence the people of Israel to sin. These Gibeonites came to Joshua fearing the God of Israel. Joshua put them in a place where they would serve Israel’s God and God’s people. The Gibeonites are a picture to us of the sinner who comes to God. Though we come to God in rags and full of deceit, yet God makes us fit to work in the house of the Lord.

Joshua Chapter 10

Joshua 10:1 (NLT) Adoni-zedek, king of Jerusalem, heard that Joshua had captured and completely destroyed Ai and killed its king, just as he had destroyed the town of Jericho and killed its king. He also learned that the Gibeonites had made peace with Israel and were now their allies. **2** He and his people became very afraid when they heard all this because Gibeon was a large town—as large as the royal cities and larger than Ai. And the Gibeonite men were strong warriors.

3 So King Adoni-zedek of Jerusalem sent messengers to several other kings: Hoham of Hebron, Piram of Jarmuth, Japhia of Lachish, and Debir of Eglon. **4** “Come and help me destroy Gibeon,” he urged them, “for they have made peace with Joshua and the people of Israel.” **5** So these five Amorite kings combined their armies for a united attack. They moved all their troops into place and attacked Gibeon.

Joshua 10:6 The men of Gibeon quickly sent messengers to Joshua at his camp in Gilgal. "Don't abandon your servants now!" they pleaded. "Come at once! Save us! Help us! For all the Amorite kings who live in the hill country have joined forces to attack us."

7 So Joshua and his entire army, including his best warriors, left Gilgal and set out for Gibeon. **8** "Do not be afraid of them," the Lord said to Joshua, "for I have given you victory over them. Not a single one of them will be able to stand up to you."

When a sinner comes to God he can experience trouble. Here, the Gibeonites were attacked by their former allies, and they called on Joshua for help. Even though the people of Israel were not pleased to make the people of Gibeon their allies, we can see that God was willing to help and defend them.

9 Joshua traveled all night from Gilgal and took the Amorite armies by surprise. **10** The Lord threw them into a panic, and the Israelites slaughtered great numbers of them at Gibeon. Then the Israelites chased the enemy along the road to Beth-horon, killing them all along the way to Azekah and Makkedah. **11** As the Amorites retreated down the road from Beth-horon, the Lord destroyed them with a terrible hailstorm from heaven that continued until they reached Azekah. The hail killed more of the enemy than the Israelites killed with the sword.

12 On the day the Lord gave the Israelites victory over the Amorites, Joshua prayed to the Lord in front of all the people of Israel. He said,

"Let the sun stand still over Gibeon,
and the moon over the valley of Aijalon."

13 So the sun stood still and the moon stayed in place until the nation of Israel had defeated its enemies.

Is this event not recorded in *The Book of Jashar*? The sun stayed in the middle of the sky, and it did not set as on a normal day. **14** There has never been a day like this one before or since, when the Lord answered such a prayer. Surely the Lord fought for Israel that day!

15 Then Joshua and the Israelite army returned to their camp at Gilgal.

Joshua went to the aid of Gibeon just as he would have helped one of the tribes of Israel. They traveled all night (a trip of about fifteen miles, ascending over 3000 feet) and then fought all day the next day, with Joshua praying for the sun and moon to stand still so they could complete the victory.

God Himself fought along with Israel by sending great hail from the heavens. Job writes:

Job 38:22 (NLT) "Have you visited the storehouses of the snow
or seen the storehouses of hail?

23 (I have reserved them as weapons for the time of trouble,
for the day of battle and war.)

Though the result of Joshua's prayer and God's answer to it was that Israel had enough time to win the battle, yet there is more to it than what lies on the surface. First of all, Joshua is a great Old Testament type of our Lord Jesus Christ. Even Joshua's name in the Hebrew is the equivalent of *Jesus* in the Greek. Joshua is now known as someone who has power over the elements. The Canaanites saw

this great miracle - these people who were sun and moon worshipers. Joshua had power over their gods!

There had never been a day like this day! And to think, God gave Israel one of its greatest victories with an outstanding miracle, the likes of which the world had never seen - all to rescue the Gibeonites.

Jesus Christ loves the sinner. Though the sinner may come to God in rags and imperfections, pleading for his life, yet God invites him to be a part of the household of faith. And when we become a part of the church, God accepts us as His own, hears our prayers, and fights our battles for us.

The Amorite Kings Executed

Joshua 10:16 (NKJV) 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. **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." **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.

The great slaughter of kings of Canaan is a picture to us of the destructive nature of sin. The people of Canaan had, over centuries of time, allowed sin to totally consume them. Through this story we learn just how much God hates sin.

Jesus Christ conquered sin at Calvary, and therefore all things are under His feet:

Psalms 110:1 The Lord said to my Lord,
"Sit at My right hand,
Till I make Your enemies Your footstool."

Ephesians 1:17 that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, **18** . . . that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, **19** and what *is* the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power **20** which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated *Him* at His right hand in the heavenly *places*, **21** far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come. **22** And He put all *things* under His feet, and gave Him *to be* head over all *things* to the church, **23** which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

We also learn that the Christian has power over spiritual enemies. We are in Christ, and we have the power to put principalities and powers under our feet as well. We have the right and privilege to ask things of God in prayer, for God is well able:

Ephesians 3:20 Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, **21** to Him *be* glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

Conquest of the Southland

Joshua 10:28 (NLT) That same day Joshua captured and destroyed the town of Makkedah. He killed everyone in it, including the king, leaving no survivors. He destroyed them all, and he killed the king of Makkedah as he had killed the king of Jericho. **29** Then Joshua and the Israelites went to Libnah and attacked it. **30** There, too, the Lord gave them the town and its king. He killed everyone in it, leaving no survivors. Then Joshua killed the king of Libnah as he had killed the king of Jericho.

31 From Libnah, Joshua and the Israelites went to Lachish and attacked it. . . **33** During the attack on Lachish, King Horam of Gezer arrived with his army to help defend the town. But Joshua's men killed him and his army, leaving no survivors.

34 Then Joshua and the Israelite army went on to Eglon and attacked it. . . **36** From Eglon, Joshua and the Israelite army went up to Hebron and attacked it. . . They did the same thing to all of its surrounding villages. . .

38 Then Joshua and the Israelites turned back and attacked Debir. . .

40 So Joshua conquered the whole region—the kings and people of the hill country, the Negev, the western foothills, and the mountain slopes. He completely destroyed everyone in the land, leaving no survivors, just as the Lord, the God of Israel, had commanded. **41** Joshua slaughtered them from Kadesh-barnea to Gaza and from the region around the town of Goshen up to Gibeon. **42** Joshua conquered all these kings and their land in a single campaign, for the Lord, the God of Israel, was fighting for his people.

43 Then Joshua and the Israelite army returned to their camp at Gilgal.

The conquest of Canaan is a picture to New Testament believers of the conquest of sin by our Lord Jesus Christ, and also a picture of the conquest of sin in a believer's heart. God wants all of our heart. Any sin or rebellion in our hearts must be completely destroyed without mercy. The land was to be taken from the Canaanites and given to the Israelites so they could have a great nation for God and produce the promised Messiah. Our hearts must be cleansed from sin so that the Messiah can dwell in us.