

Joshua 10:1-15 “Oh what a day!”

The sneaky Gibeonites fooled Joshua into making a covenant with them. Verse 14 records the tragic words, ¹⁴ Then the men of Israel took some of their provisions; but they did not ask counsel of the Lord.

But once they gave their word they would not back away from it... the sanctity of God's name was at stake. Church we better be people of our word. Let your Yes, be yes and your no be no.

Human cunning and human fallibility are on display in Joshua Chapter 9 yet This is the glory of Yahweh. He cannot be outmaneuvered by human cunning or hindered by human fallibility. **PRAY** Israel

Joshua Chapter 10 Now it came to pass when Adoni-Zedek

The leader of this group, the king of Jerusalem, is an interesting figure. His name, Adoni-Zedek means *Lord of Righteousness*, though we see him as really the *opposite* of the Lord of Righteousness. If anything, he represents the Anti-Christ, set against Joshua's representation of Jesus Christ. Again verse 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, ² that they feared greatly, **The enemies of Israel feared greatly, but like our spiritual enemies, they do not retreat when they are afraid, but launch attacks that are even more bold, as a wild animal might fight when it feels attacked.** 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.” 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.”⁷ So Joshua ascended from Gilgal, he and all the people of war with him, and all the mighty men of valor.

We saw that in [Joshua 9](#), Joshua, the leaders of Israel, and all the people of Israel knew they made a bad vow to the Gibeonites, yet they did not turn their backs on that vow.

But here, we see Joshua and the leaders of Israel going a step further. Allowing these Canaanite kings to wipe out the Gibeonites would have been a convenient way to get out of a vow that should not have been made, but they will have none of it.



We should have the same sense of honor. Though Joshua was only bound to not kill the Gibeonites himself ([Joshua 9:15](#)), he goes on to fulfill what the *spirit* of the vow he made to the Gibeonites.

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. This took hard work and initiative on Joshua's part. The march from Gilgal to Gibeon involved a climb of 3,300 feet, and the distance was about 20 miles, taking 8 to 10 hours of hard marching, all through the night.

A little geography lesson is helpful – from Gilgal to Ai is just 15 miles, but it's all uphill. Gilgal is 900 feet below sea level. Ai is in the mountains, 2600 feet above sea level. Keep going westward toward Gibeon, and you slope back down the west side of the mountain. The valley below Gibeon is called the Valley of Beth Horon. There is only one way out of this valley, and that's toward the south. The Valley of Beth Horon runs perpendicular with the Valley of Aijalon. Joshua hears that the southern coalition is camped in the Valley of Beth Horon about 25 miles from Shechem. He pushes his troops through the night so when the sun comes up he can launch a surprise attack against Adoni-Zedek and his Amorite buddies. Joshua gets to Beth Horon, and the fight commences.

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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.

This is not a world that he has wound up and left; it is a world in which he is intimately and constantly involved. **Transcendent** God is above His creation. Isa. 57:15 “the High and Lofty One Who inhabits eternity.” God is transcendent in the sense that in being and majesty He is infinitely above all that is human and temporal. **But He is also Immanent** Counterpart of transcendence “Although

God is above all (transcendent) He is actively involved **within** His creation.
indwelling the universe

Whenever we face situations of danger, difficulty, or complexity, God's back is never turned. Nothing can slip into your life without his knowledge. Nothing can happen to you with his eyes closed. "Behold, he who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep" (Psalm 121:4). We can sleep because he never does.

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.

Madvig "The Canaanites, who worshipped nature deities, must have thought that their own gods were aiding the Israelites."

There were more who died from the hailstones than the children of Israel killed with the sword. "Remarkable marksmanship... God was having target practice. **God intervenes with a little heavenly artillery.**

"Oh what a day!" News 24... reports on July 23 2014 Israel Miracle? Gaza Strip Hamas Complain, 'Their God Changes The Paths Of Our Rockets In Mid-Air'

"Oh what a day!" June 5th... On this day in 1967 Israel faced 547,000 enemy soldiers... 957 fighter jets, 2504 tanks, 1,845 personnel carriers, 962 field guns, 2050 anti aircraft guns, and 13 hostile countries determined to destroy her...



The three-week period preceding the Six-Day War was one of dread, shock and fright for the residents of the Holy Land.

With close to two and a half million Jews living in the tiny country, it had the highest concentration of Jews since pre-Holocaust Eastern Europe. So pessimistic was the outlook that the nation's cemeteries and national parks were marked to become gravesites for the many who would surely perish in the course of the war.

However, despite all the prognostications, by the time the war ended, the territory under Israeli control had tripled in size. Jews returned to sites where their ancestors had lived for thousands of years, sites from which waves of terror were launched against them for so many years. The casualties and losses were painful, but minimal in comparison to all projections. The Jewish nation was miraculously victorious in the face of unbelievable odds.

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.*

How was the length of this day extended? It could have been a slowing of the earth's rotation; it could have been a tilting of the earth's axis; it could have been a miracle of reflection of light; it could have been simply the presence of God manifested in light.

Whatever it means, the result was clear. The sun seemed to stay still in the sky, and Israel was able to complete the victory. **“The mind which asks for a non-miraculous Christianity is a mind in process of relapsing from Christianity into mere ‘religion.’” [C.S. Lewis, “Miracles” p. 133]**

Guzik noted, “The sun and the moon had long stood as silent witnesses to the sin, wickedness, and demonic religion of these Canaanites. Why shouldn't they now allow Joshua to complete this victory over the Canaanites?”



That this miracle happened should not be questioned - the only question is how it happened. There are historical references to a “long day” or “long night” in most every ancient culture. The Chinese speak of a **“long day”**. The Aztecs of Mexico, the Choctaw Indians, and the Peruvian Indians - all report a **“long night”**.

How it happened though, is more of a mystery. Certainly, God could've reached out with His hand, and slowed the earth's rotation. Genesis 1:1 says God created the earth, and if He created it, He can do anything with it He so chooses. There are, though, respected scientists who've posed astronomical explanations for what happened. A colleague of Albert Einstein, Immanuel Velikovsky, says in his book “Worlds in Collision” a comet passed through the earth's atmosphere in the midst of the battle. The

comet tilted the earth's axis, accounting for the long day. Its tail pummeled the earth with a shower of asteroids or hailstones. It was a miracle of timing - God manipulated the comet in answer to Joshua's prayer. Another book by NASA scientist, Donald Wesley Patten, called “Catastrophism and the Old Testament” suggests the earth was victim of a close encounter with the planet Mars.

Patten has constructed computer models that show around the time of Joshua, Mars passed by the earth at a distance of 28,000 miles. Note, the closest the moon ever gets to the earth is 221,463 miles. **So 28,000 is just spitting distance.** A close fly-by would've caused the earth's rotation to grind to a halt. All kinds of global disasters would've taken place – like hailstones near Beth Horon. Patten's theory may also explain why the ancients worshipped planets they could barely see. The city of Rome was dedicated to Mars, the god of war.

Patten's and Velikovsky's possible explanations for the long day of Joshua also shine an interesting light on the book of Revelation, and some of its predictions. If a planetary fly-by, or the sweep of a comet through the earth's atmosphere occurred in the past, it could also occur in the future – and possibly explain some of cataclysmic events that will occur in the last days. Revelation describes massive earthquakes, the sky tearing, meteors falling from the sky,

the surface of the earth scorched, mountains moving out of their place, islands disappearing, etc. Perhaps the same forces that were at work at the time of Joshua will be unleashed again in the last days. Which brings up another provocative observation.

When you think of it, the book of Joshua is an amazing model of the book of Revelation. Remember the theme of both books – a “Jesus”, or “Joshua”, wages war against a collection of pagan nations to take possession of a land that belongs to God and His people. And look at the parallels:

*Two spies enter Jericho; two witnesses are sent by God to the earth.

*Seven trumpets shake the walls of Jericho; seven trumpet judgments shake the earth.

*Both campaigns take seven years;

*Both opposition forces are led by a king from Jerusalem; Adoni-Zedek is a type of the Antichrist.

*In both books God uses cataclysmic judgments to humble the enemy; hailstones fall in Beth Horon, and 100 pound hailstones fall on the blasphemers in Revelation 16:2.

*In Revelation 6:15 the kings of the earth hide themselves in the rocks and caves, in Joshua 10:16 the 5 kings that come against Joshua hide themselves in a cave at Makkedah – and the list of parallels goes on and on. It's amazing!

Notice too what Joshua does to the Amorite kings in 10:24 - he tells the captains of Israel to “[put your feet on the necks of these kings](#)”. This is what Jesus will one day do to His enemies. Psalm 110:1- **His enemies will be His footstool.**

¹⁴ And there has been no day like that, before it or after it, “Oh what a day!” that the Lord heeded the voice of a man; for the Lord fought for Israel.

We must learn the importance of prayer in every situation. Whatever his exact words, verse 12 makes it plain that Joshua asked God for a miracle and verse 14 underlines that what happened was due to the prayer of this man. As Jackson states in his commentary, “The uniqueness of verse 14 is not designed to discourage us because it is so unusual. Rather it shows us the extremes to which God is prepared to go in answering his people's prayers of faith, in accordance with his promises. 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. That is why we “ought always to pray and not lose heart” (Luke 18:1).”

¹⁵ Then Joshua returned, and all Israel with him, to the camp at Gilgal.

God has prepared to overrule the created order so that his land might be purged of evil and his people be kept pure, and if his only beloved Son died an agonizing death for our sins, how can we lightly tolerate the evil in our lives?

God uses His people to purge the land of wickedness and evil. The extent He goes to is awesome! **May we apply this passion to our own lives and the evil within us, so that we are ruthless with our own sin and rebellion.** It is a wonderful thing to know that the blood of Jesus goes on cleansing us and that there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ (1 John 1:7; Romans 8:1).

1 John 1:7 – But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin

Romans 8:1 – There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit

“Oh what a day!” There was “no day like it” (v. 14), but its lessons are for every day of our earthly pilgrimage, until at last we reach our promised rest.