

Joshua 9-10

Good evening and thank you for joining us tonight. Would you please turn in your Bibles to Joshua chapter 9?

Last time in our study we saw both the defeat and the victory at the town of Ai. And you would think from such a dramatic moment the people of Israel would learn to search the mind of God regarding even the smallest of matters. But we'll see tonight that's not the case.

We're going to study both chapters 9 and 10, and the title of tonight's message is FORWARD BY FAITH

Let's pray.

1 And it came to pass when all the kings who were on this side of the Jordan, in the hills and in the lowland and in all the coasts of the Great Sea toward Lebanon—the Hittite, the Amorite, the Canaanite, the Perizzite, the Hivite, and the Jebusite—heard about it, 2 that they gathered together to fight with Joshua and Israel with one accord. The news of Israel's victories over Jericho and Ai has spread rapidly throughout the land of Canaan. Here the kings decide that instead of letting the Hebrews conquer them one at a time, they will form an alliance to face off against Israel.

3 But when the inhabitants of Gibeon heard what Joshua had done to Jericho and Ai, Now it's important to know that the next town west of Ai was Gibeon. And the Gibeonites know they are next to be conquered.

4 they worked craftily, and went and pretended to be ambassadors. And they took old sacks on their donkeys, old wineskins torn and mended, 5 old and patched sandals on their feet, and old garments on themselves; and all the bread of their provision was dry and moldy. 6 And they went to Joshua, to the

camp at Gilgal, and said to him and to the men of Israel, “We have come from a far country; now therefore, make a covenant with us.” The Gibeonites knew that Israel didn’t take any prisoners from among the Canaanites. God commanded their complete destruction.

So trying to be a good and peaceful neighbor wouldn’t work for the Gibeonites, so they pretended to be a delegation from a far country.

7 Then the men of Israel said to the Hivites, “Perhaps you dwell among us; so how can we make a covenant with you?” (they didn’t know they were Hivites)

8 But they said to Joshua, “We are your servants.”

And Joshua said to them, “Who are you, and where do you come from?”

9 So they said to him: “From a very far country your servants have come, because of the name of the LORD your God; for we have heard of His fame, and all that He did in Egypt, 10 and all that He did to the two kings of the Amorites who were beyond the Jordan—to Sihon king of Heshbon, and Og king of Bashan, who was at Ashtaroth. Notice, they don’t mention the latest conquests of Jericho and Ai. It was a brilliant part of the deception. They want the Hebrews to think they’re oblivious to recent events!

11-14

11 Therefore our elders and all the inhabitants of our country spoke to us, saying, ‘Take provisions with you for the journey, and go to meet them, and say to them, “We are your servants; now therefore, make a covenant with us.”’ 12 This bread of ours we took hot for our provision from our houses on the day we departed to come to you. But now look, it is dry and moldy. 13 And these

wineskins which we filled were new, and see, they are torn; and these our garments and our sandals have become old because of the very long journey.”

14 Then the men of Israel took some of their provisions; but they did not ask counsel of the LORD. How often have we been guilty of the same mistake? How many problems can we trace back to not seeking counsel from the Lord? Too often we forget that we have a very real enemy-Satan and he is very good at deception.

The Hebrews trusted their senses instead of the LORD. "Look at this bread. Feel and taste how stale it is. Surely, they must have come a long way." They walked by sight, not by faith.

But we're called to do the opposite. We're called to **2 Corinthians 5:7 For we walk by faith, not by sight.**

15-18

15 So Joshua made peace with them, and made a covenant with them to let them live; and the rulers of the congregation swore to them.

16 And it happened at the end of three days, after they had made a covenant with them, that they heard that they were their neighbors who dwelt near them. 17 Then the children of Israel journeyed and came to their cities on the third day. Now their cities were Gibeon, Chephirah, Beeroth, and Kirjath Jearim. 18 But the children of Israel did not attack them, because the rulers of the congregation had sworn to them by the LORD God of Israel. And all the congregation complained against the rulers. A vow is a vow, and the leaders were men of their word. Even if they were deceived into making the vow, they still were committed to honor their word.

It reminds us of Ecclesiastes 5:5, “Better not to vow than to vow and not pay.”

And notice the internal strife this caused. The end of verse 18—all the congregation complained against the rulers. The congregation realized the error of their leaders!

This is why it’s so important that leaders seek the mind of and heart of God. A bad decision can affect the whole body of Christ since we’re all interconnected.

19 Then all the rulers said to all the congregation, “We have sworn to them by the LORD God of Israel; now therefore, we may not touch them. The leaders realized they were accountable to the Lord for the bad decision they had made.

20 This we will do to them: We will let them live, lest wrath be upon us because of the oath which we swore to them.” 21 And the rulers said to them, “Let them live, but let them be woodcutters and water carriers for all the congregation, as the rulers had promised them.” Later, King Saul broke this vow to the Gibeonites and his sin brought famine upon Israel.

2 Samuel 21:1 Now there was a famine in the days of David for three years, year after year; and David inquired of the LORD. And the LORD answered, “It is because of Saul and his bloodthirsty house, because he killed the Gibeonites.

22-23

22 Then Joshua called for them, and he spoke to them, saying, “Why have you deceived us, saying, ‘We are very far from you,’ when you dwell near us? 23 Now therefore, you are cursed, and none of you shall be freed from being slaves—woodcutters and water carriers for the house of my God.” Not exactly exciting service right-but look carefully at the next 2 verses

24 So they answered Joshua and said, “Because your servants were clearly told that the LORD your God commanded His servant Moses to give you all the land, and to destroy all the inhabitants of the land from before you; therefore we were very much afraid for our lives because of you, and have done this thing. 25 And now, here we are, in your hands; do with us as it seems good and right to do to us.” I’m sure the Gibeonites weren’t thrilled at being wood cutters and water carriers, but they rejoiced in knowing they could be those things for the LORD.

And this brings up a hard question for us tonight-Do we have the same heart? Can we rejoice in any kind of service to the Lord, if we see we are in the presence of the LORD as we do it?

Lot’s of folks have prerequisites for their service to God. But sadly, they forget we are merely bondservants to our Lord.

26 So he did to them, and delivered them out of the hand of the children of Israel, so that they did not kill them. 27 And that day Joshua made them woodcutters and water carriers for the congregation and for the altar of the LORD, in the place which He would choose, even to this day. Despite the deception the Gibeonites used, they gratefully embraced their duties. Later on, Joshua appoints Gibeon, of all places - as a Levitical city.

Perhaps the psalmist was thinking about the Gibeonites when he wrote **Psalm 84:10, “For a day in Your courts is better than a thousand. I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of wickedness.”**

Throughout the Bible we’ll see that God honored this covenant with the Gibeonites.

The Gibeonites became servants in the tabernacle, just as Joshua had commanded.

the Ark of the Covenant stayed at Gibeon often in the days of David and Solomon (1 Chronicles 16 and 21).

At least one of David's mighty men was a Gibeonite (1 Chronicles 12:4).

God spoke to Solomon at Gibeon (1 Kings 3:4).

Gibeonites were among those who rebuilt the walls of Jerusalem with Nehemiah.

These are examples of the great things God can do with people who are sinners, but come to Him in humility and love.

CHAPTER 10

1-4

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, 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.” This is the first mention of the city of Jerusalem in the Bible.

So rather than sit back and let Joshua take them one at a time. Adoni Zedek wants to join forces and take the battle to Joshua

And look at who they want to attack-Gibeon.

This is a picture of the Christian faith isn't it? Once a man or woman dedicates themselves to Jesus the enemy declares war upon them!

The leader of this group, the king of Jerusalem, is an interesting figure. His name, Adoni-Zedek means Lord of Righteousness, though he's really the opposite of the Lord of Righteousness isn't he? If anything, Adoni Zedek is a picture of the coming Anti-Christ, set against Joshua's representation of Jesus Christ.

And notice what this the false Lord of Righteousness does- he leads many nations against Joshua and the children of Israel. Just as the AC will lead many nations against Jesus.

5-8

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. 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." This is a scary situation. Think of the noise of the concern of the people-we're going against 5 kingdoms, on behalf of the people who deceived us?!

But God gives Joshua a command to not fear this confederation of five kings.

Our fear can absolutely cripple our ability to fight God's battles. Though we might face strong enemies, we are commanded to not fear

9 Joshua therefore came upon them suddenly, having marched all night from Gilgal. Here is where a little geography lesson will be 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. Joshua and the troops march through the night a - 15 mile - 3300 feet climb. Can you imagine the exhaustion!

But when the sun comes up Joshua is in position to launch a surprise attack against Adoni-Zedek and his coalition.

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. 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. The Lord has ways of victory that we cannot even fathom.

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.” Joshua is concerned that the Amorites will get away under the cover of darkness. To complete the defeat, Joshua and the troops need a few more hours of

daylight. So Joshua prays in front of everyone for the sun to stand still.

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. Jasher was a book known to the people of the time, but is unavailable to us.

How did this happen? I don't know.

How did Jonah survive in the belly of a fish?

How did Noah survive the flood?

How did the snake talk to Eve?

It comes down to faith-Genesis 1:1

14-21

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.

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.

Notice there was significant strategy in these battles. Sometimes in the Spirit-filled life, people say, “Strategy and organization aren’t necessary, we’re just going to go with the flow.” But as we read Joshua, we see in his Spirit-filled model a great emphasis upon strategy.

It’s wisely been said that organization is a very good servant, it’s a very bad master. Organization mustn’t be what determines what we do. We know if organization is our master by how we start our day. Do we start in prayer or by looking at our calendar?

22-25

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.” In

chapter 1, God said to Joshua, “Fear not, but be strong and of good courage.”

And now, as time goes on, Joshua, who has lived this out, is now telling those with him not to be afraid.

Joshua had seen God do exactly what He promised, Joshua could share with authority that which he had experienced personally.

Folks this is why it's so important that we share our testimonies- what God has done for us and in us and through us.

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. Five kings were hung on five trees, put in a cave, and covered by stones. Our King, the King of kings was also hung on a tree and put in a cave covered by a stone. But guess what. He didn't stay there. When the stone was rolled away, it was evident that Jesus had risen.

Notice so far in our study how similar the book of Joshua is to the book of Revelation.

In both books... a “Jesus” or “Joshua” wages war against a collection of pagan kings in order to take possession of a land that belongs to God and His people.

In Joshua the land is Canaan. In Revelation the land is the entire planet Earth. And look at the parallels...

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

7 trumpets shake the walls of Jericho - 7 trumpet judgments shake the earth.

Both campaigns last 7 years – the Great Tribulation and Canaan’s conquest.

Both opposition forces are led by a king from Jerusalem. “Adoni-Zedek” means “Lord of righteousness”. He typifies the Antichrist, the imposter of righteousness.

In both books God uses cataclysmic judgments to humble the enemy... Hailstones fall in Beth Horon – while 100 pound hailstones fall on the blasphemers in Revelation 16.

In Revelation 6 the kings of the earth hide themselves in the rocks and caves, in Joshua 10 the five kings that come against Joshua hide themselves in a cave at Makkedah.

You’ll also notice 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. His enemies will be His footstool.

Now we read of several more conquests...

28-30

28 On that day Joshua took Makkedah, and struck it and its king with the edge of the sword. He utterly destroyed them^[fn]—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's not leaving any of the enemy in the land.

31-41

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^[fn] 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. Where have we heard Kadesh Barnea before? Remember it was at Kadesh-Barnea that the children of Israel had lost heart at the report of the 10 spies because they lacked faith and began their wilderness wanderings-Numbers 13. Now they're at Kadesh-Barnea again—this time experiencing victory.

Don't we see this in our lives. How many times have we experienced spiritual failure, only for the Lord to graciously give us another chance, and this time in the power of the Lord we overcome and 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. I'd like to call your attention to 3 things Joshua did that ensured his victory.

First, we see Joshua believing God's Word. In verse 8, God told Joshua that He would give him victory. And Joshua acted on that promise. We can do the same concerning the three thousand-plus promises given to us in the Word.

Secondly, Joshua did his best. He traveled quickly all night to reach the Gibeonites. Because faith without works is dead (James 2:20), the Lord expects us to partner with Him in getting the job done.

Thirdly, in verse 12, Joshua called upon God. Jesus said "Without Me, you can do nothing". And James echoes that we have not because we ask not (James 4:2).