

- I) V1-5 INTRO: Now it came to pass when Adoni-Zedek king of Jerusalem heard how Joshua had taken
 - a) Joshua was leading the armies of the Lord into the conquering of the promised land
 - 1) They took Jericho, and then they took Ai and continued their march of conquest

- II) AS THIS WAS TAKING PLACE: The inhabitants of the city of Gibeon knew they were on the list
 - a) Gibeon was a city near Jericho and Ai, and its inhabitants were a people called Amorites
 - 1) 2 Sa 21:2 says the Gibeonites were not of the children of Israel, but of the remnant *of the Amorites*

- III) WHEN THEY HEARD: That Israel was conquering, they came up with a plan and deceived the Israelites
 - a) They formed a treaty with them which kept them from being destroyed (9:27)
 - 1) Through their deception they were allowed to live, but became Israel's servants along with various other cities that they were part of: Chephirah, Beeroth, Kirjath Jearim (9:17)

- IV) AS THIS TOOK PLACE: Adoni-Zedek king of Jerusalem heard what had happened
 - a) Knowing Gibeon was a mighty city with a powerful army, yet was destroyed, caused him to fear
 - 1) INTERESTINGLY: It caused him to determine to attack Gibeon
 - 2) Because Gibeon was so powerful, he was afraid because they were now Israel's allies

- V) V3-5 THEREFORE: Adoni-Zedek king of Jerusalem sent to Hoham king of Hebron, Piram king of
 - a) He sends word to kings representing areas that are all south of Jericho/Ai
 - 1) This reveals that Joshua is moving south
 - 2) Five kings unite in opposition, led by the king of Jerusalem

- VI) V6-10 AND: The men of Gibeon sent to Joshua at the camp at Gilgal, saying Do not forsake your
 - a) Joshua responds to their request for at least two reasons
 - 1) FIRST: He had made a treaty with these people, so he would have a sense of obligation

- VII) SECOND: He was already commanded to conquer these people and to possess the land
 - a) Dt 7:1-4 When the LORD your God brings you into the land which you go to possess, and has cast out many nations before you, the Hittites and the Girgashites and the Amorites and the Canaanites and the Perizzites and the Hivites and the Jebusites, seven nations greater and mightier than you, and when the LORD your God delivers them over to you, you shall conquer them *and* utterly destroy them. You shall make no covenant with them nor show mercy to them. Nor shall you make marriages with them. You shall not give your daughter to their son, nor take their daughter for your son. For they will turn your sons away from following Me, to serve other gods; so the anger of the LORD will be aroused against you and destroy you suddenly.

- VIII) JOSHUA: Answered their call of distress and after an all night forced march, routed them
 - a) These locations are all south of Jerusalem

- IX) V11-13 AND: It happened as they fled before Israel and were on the descent of Beth Horon
 - a) It was the month of July, and temperatures would be over 100 degrees
 - 1) They had marched all night, and fought in the sweltering heat: they needed aid
 - 2) The Lord cast down hailstones, destroying much of the military but also providing coolness

- X) V12 THEN JOSHUA SAID: Sun stand still over Gibeon and moon in the Valley of Aijalon
 - a) KEY: God was continuing exalting Joshua in the sight of the people as He said He would
 - 1) Josh 3:7 And the LORD said to Joshua This day I will begin to exalt you in the sight of all Israel, that they may know that, as I was with Moses, so I will be with you

- I) KEY: This portion of scripture has been approached in a variety of ways

- a) Obviously it reports a miracle that staggers the imagination so there will be various ways to view it
 - 1) SOME: Just avoid giving it any interpretation at all, ignoring it
 - 2) SOME: Treat the language as simply poetic, which eliminates anything miraculous about it
 - 3) SOME: Believe a natural occurrence (an eclipse) coincidentally made it possible for them to fight
- II) KEY: If we admit to the miraculous, the obvious answer is God held the solar system in check
 - a) Joshua needed more light but less heat: God brought shade through the hail and stopped the sun
- III) INTERESTINGLY: Notice how the sun stood still and did not go down for about a whole day (13b)
 - a) When you look at 2 Ki 20, you read a very interesting passage
 - 1) 2 Ki 20:8-11 And Hezekiah said to Isaiah, "What *is* the sign that the LORD will heal me, and that I shall go up to the house of the LORD the third day?" Then Isaiah said, "This is the sign to you from the LORD, that the LORD will do the thing which He has spoken: *shall* the shadow go forward ten degrees or go backward ten degrees?" And Hezekiah answered, "It is an easy thing for the shadow to go down ten degrees; no, but let the shadow go backward ten degrees." So Isaiah the prophet cried out to the LORD, and He brought the shadow ten degrees backward, by which it had gone down on the sundial of Ahaz.
- IV) TAKING THIS INTO CONSIDERATION: Some make Joshua's longest day 23 hrs. and 20 minutes
 - a) The sun dial in 2 Ki 20:11 would account for 40 minutes, making up for the minutes lost
- V) OBVIOUSLY: If you do not believe in the God of the miraculous, such a story is simply ridiculous
 - a) Why would God stop the universe for the sake of one man
 - 1) STILL: We could also ask why would God send His Son to die for sinners
 - 2) This is much more wonderful than stopping the sun from shining
- VI) BOOK OF JASHER: Speaks of a book that may have been a compilation of songs related to battles
 - a) It is also mentioned in 2 Sa 1:18 and may be called Wars of the Lord in Nu 21:14
- VII) V14-15 AND: There has been no day like that before it or after it that the Lord heeded the voice of a man
 - a) Joshua is portayed as going back to the camp at Gilgal, but he has business to finish first
- VIII) V16-21 BUT: These five kings had fled and hidden themselves in a cave at Makkedah
 - a) The leaders all fled to preserve their own lives, which is natural for man to do
 - 1) Job 2:4 So Satan answered the LORD and said, "Skin for skin! Yes, all that a man has he will give for his life.
- IX) JOSHUA WAS INFORMED OF IT: And simply blocked them in
 - a) He then finished off the majority of the army, with a few scattering and finding refuge in cities
- X) V22-28 THEN: Joshua said Open the mouth of the cave and bring out those five kings to me
 - a) The judgment may seem harsh, but remember: they were aware of what God had done to Jericho
 - 1) Instead of having a faith like Rahab, they decided to fight against God's armies
 - 2) Ps 2:2-4 The kings of the earth set themselves, And the rulers take counsel together, Against the LORD and against His Anointed, *saying*, Let us break Their bonds in pieces And cast away Their cords from us." He who sits in the heavens shall laugh; The LORD shall hold them in derision.
 - 3) Pr 16:5 Everyone proud in heart *is* an abomination to the LORD; *Though they join* forces, none will go unpunished.
 - l) V24 SO IT WAS: When they brought out those kings to Joshua that Joshua called for all the men
 - a) There was still a fear in the hearts of the leaders of the army: they had thought they could not win

- 1) Joshua has them put their feet on their necks to give them courage: they enemy is defeated
 - 2) Their foes were helpless before them
 - 3) They were killed so that they would not gather an army to fight once again
- II) V28-39 RECORDS: Joshua's continuing conquest of cities in what is called the southern conquest
- a) He took Makkedah, Libnah, Lachish, Eglon, Hebron, Debir
 - 1) V33 Horem king of Gezer
- III) V40-43 SO: Joshua conquered all the land; the mountain country and the South and the lowland
- a) This is what he had been commanded to do, and he went about doing it
 - 1) Dt 20:16-17 But of the cities of these peoples which the LORD your God gives you *as* an inheritance, you shall let nothing that breathes remain alive, but you shall utterly destroy them: the Hittite and the Amorite and the Canaanite and the Perizzite and the Hivite and the Jebusite, just as the LORD your God has commanded you
- IV) THOUGH ISRAEL HAD VICTORY: God is the One given the credit
- a) Dt 20:4 for the LORD your God *is* He who goes with you, to fight for you against your enemies, to save you.
 - b) Ro 8:37 Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.