

On Mission: Empowered for Outreach

The Day the Sun Stood Still (Joshua 10:1-15)

Introduction: *As we delve into Joshua 10, it's important to remember the faithfulness of God to the Israelites. After their repentance and purification following the sin at Ai, God granted them a decisive victory, showing His mercy and commitment to His people. The Israelites continued to clear the land as God had promised, demonstrating His unwavering faithfulness and power.*

I. Victory in the Lord and Trusting in His Faithfulness

A. God's Promise and Joshua's Leadership

- **Scripture Reference:** Joshua 10:8 - "The Lord said to Joshua, 'Do not be afraid of them; I have given them into your hand. Not one of them will be able to withstand you.'"
- **Key Points:**
 - God assures Joshua of victory.
 - Joshua's trust in God's promise leads to bold action.

B. Application for Us:

- Trusting God's promises in our lives.
- Moving forward in faith, knowing God is with us.
- Reflect on examples of God's faithfulness.

II. The Sun and Moon Standing Still: A Sign of Divine Intervention

A. Joshua's Bold Request

- **Scripture Reference:** Joshua 10:12-14 - Joshua prays for the sun and moon to stand still.
- Joshua's faith and the miraculous nature of his request.

B. Traditional Interpretation

- The sun and moon literally stopped, extending the day for Israel's victory.
- Demonstrates God's sovereignty over creation.

C. Alternative Interpretation

• Cultural and Linguistic Context:

- The language used may denote a divine sign or omen.
- Importance of omens in biblical times and the ancient Near East.
 - Examples: Priests the Urim and Thummim (Exodus 28:30), disciples casting lots (Acts 1:24-26).
- Insights: The passage may describe a divine sign of God's support and power.

D. The True Miracle

- Not just the celestial event but God's response to Joshua's prayer (v14).

III. God Listening to Our Prayers: A New Testament Perspective

A. Jesus' Teachings on Prayer

• Scripture References:

- Matthew 7:7-8 - "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you."
- Assurance that God listens to the prayers of His people.

B. We Must come to Jesus:

- Jesus is the way the truth and the life (John 14:6)

C. Examples of Persistent Prayer

• Scripture References:

- James 5:16-18: "The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective."
- The Persistent Widow (Luke 18:1-8): Jesus' parable encouraging persistent prayer and faith.
- Mark 11:24 - "Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours."

Conclusion: *The story of Joshua and the day the sun and moon stood still is a powerful testament to God's faithfulness and responsiveness to prayer. Just as God listened to Joshua's bold request, He listens to our prayers today. Let us be encouraged to pray with faith, trusting that God hears us and is ready to act on our behalf. May we go forth with the assurance that our God is a living God, who listens, intervenes, and leads us to victory.*