

JOSHUA

COURAGEOUS FAITH IN THE GOD OF PROMISE

¹ As soon as Adoni-zedek, king of Jerusalem, heard how Joshua had captured Ai and had devoted it to destruction, doing to Ai and its king as he had done to Jericho and its king, and how the inhabitants of Gibeon had made peace with Israel and were among them, ² he 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 warriors. ³ So Adoni-zedek king of Jerusalem sent to Hoham king of Hebron, to Piram king of Jarmuth, to Japhia king of Lachish, and to Debir king of Eglon, saying, ⁴ “Come up to me and help me, and let us strike Gibeon. For it has made peace with Joshua and with the people of Israel.”

⁵ Then 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 their forces and went up with all their armies and encamped against Gibeon and made war against it.

⁶ And the men of Gibeon sent to Joshua at the camp in Gilgal, saying, “Do not relax your hand from your servants. Come up to us quickly and save us and help us, for all the kings of the Amorites who dwell in the hill country are gathered against us.” ⁷ So Joshua went up 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 given them into your hands. Not a man of them shall stand before you.”

Joshua 10 (ESV)

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⁹ So Joshua came upon them suddenly, having marched up all night from Gilgal. ¹⁰ And the Lord threw them into a panic before Israel, who struck them with a great blow at Gibeon and chased them by the way of the ascent of Beth-horon and struck them as far as Azekah and Makkedah. ¹¹ And as they fled before Israel, while they were going down the ascent of Beth-horon, the Lord threw down large stones from heaven on them as far as Azekah, and they died. There were more who died because of the hailstones than the sons of Israel killed with the sword....

¹² At that time Joshua spoke to the Lord in the day when the Lord gave the Amorites over to the sons of Israel, and he said in the sight of Israel,

“Sun, stand still at Gibeon,
and moon, in the Valley of Aijalon.”

¹³ And the sun stood still, and the moon stopped,
until the nation took vengeance on their enemies.

Is this not written in the Book of Jashar? The sun stopped in the midst of heaven and did not hurry to set for about a whole day. ¹⁴ There has been no day like it before or since, when the Lord heeded the voice of a man, for the Lord fought for Israel.

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

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Questions to ask...

(After Joshua 9)

- Was it the right for the Israelites to honor the covenant with Gibeon?
- What does the covenant really require of them? (*Will the Gibeonites be overtaken OR will Israel fight for Gibeon?*)



Southern Campaign

Gibeon

Gilgal

Jerusalem

Jarmuth

Azekah

Libnah

Lachish

Makkedah

Hebron

Eglon

Debir

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The Lord gives Assurance of Victory

⁸ And the Lord said to Joshua, “Do not fear them, **for I have given them into your hands.** Not a man of them shall stand before you.”
Joshua 10:8

Commentator: “*God’s truth does not sedate, but **stirs up activity.***”

As you can imagine, there's some debate on this...

¹³ And the sun stood still, and the moon stopped, until the nation took vengeance on their enemies.

Is this not written in the Book of Jashar?

The sun stopped in the midst of heaven and did not hurry to set for about a whole day.”



...but here's the point:

The Lord answered Joshua's prayer.

¹⁴ There has been no day like it before or since, when the Lord heeded the voice of a man, for the Lord fought for Israel.



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The Lord Hears our Prayers

>> Audacious prayers are rooted in God's promises & character.

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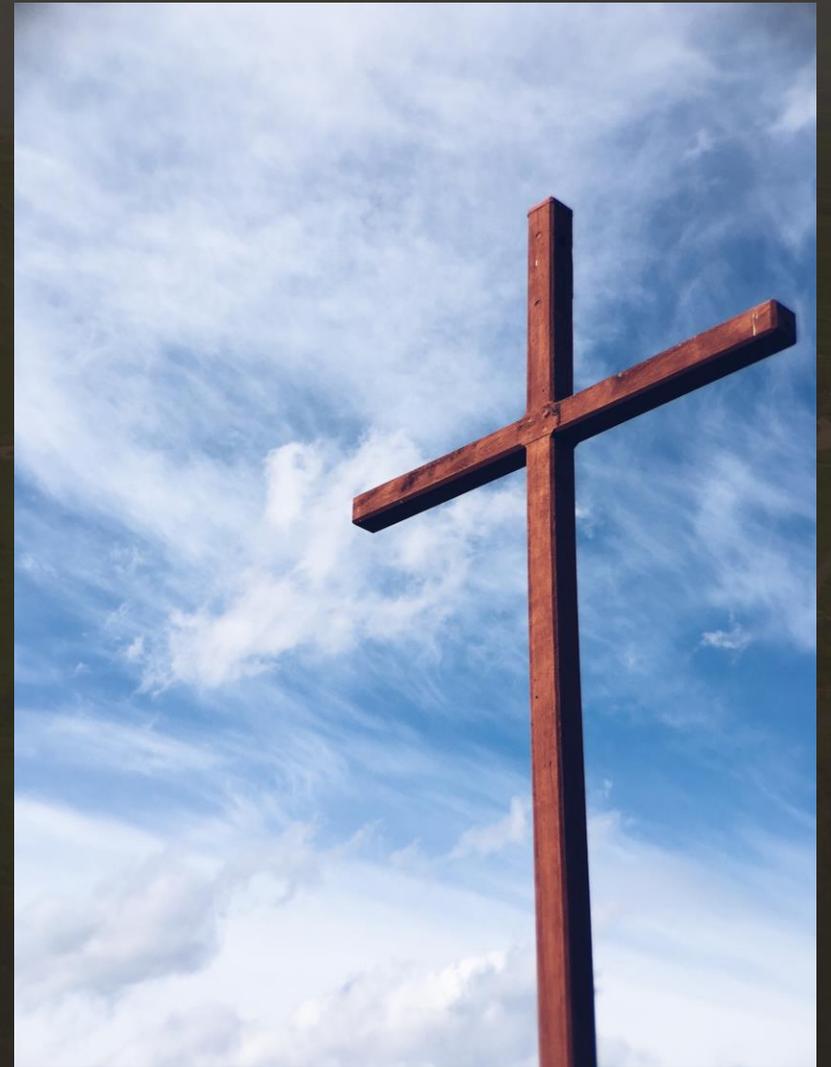
>> Joshua knows who he is praying to.

“Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father. Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it.”

John 14:12-14

“We know God will answer us when we call because one terrible day, he did not answer Jesus when he called. . . . Jesus’ prayers were given the rejection that we sinners merit so that our prayers could have the reception that he merits.”

- Timothy Keller



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Questions to Consider...

>> Do I view prayer in this way?

>> How would my life change if I prayed with this reality in mind?

The Lord Carries our Fears

²⁴ And when they brought those kings out to Joshua, Joshua summoned all the men of Israel and said to the chiefs of the men of war who had gone with him, “Come near; put your feet on the necks of these kings.” Then they came near and put their feet on their necks.

The Lord Carries our Fears

²⁴ And when they brought those kings out to Joshua, Joshua summoned all the men of Israel and said to the chiefs of the men of war who had gone with him, “Come near; put your feet on the necks of these kings.” Then they came near and put their feet on their necks. ²⁵ And Joshua said to them, “Do not be afraid or dismayed; be strong and courageous. For thus the Lord will do to all your enemies against whom you fight.”

A Sacrament..



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Taste & See!

⁸ Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good!
Blessed is the man who takes refuge in him!

>> **We are invited to taste and see the Lord's goodness - with our five senses!**

>> **It's a command...taste and see that the Lord is good!**

Look back...

²⁵ And Joshua said to them, “**Do not be afraid or dismayed**; be strong and courageous. For thus the Lord will do to all your enemies against whom you fight.”



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We have real reasons to fear...

*“...it feels like barbarians are rioting
in the streets of our minds..”*

- David Powlison



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...we have even better reasons not to fear.



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Five Tips for the Anxious

From David Powlison

- 1) Name the pressures you are facing
- 2) Identify how you express anxiety
- 3) Ask yourself, “Why am I anxious?”
- 4) Ask, “What are better reasons does Jesus give to not worry?”
- 5) Go to your Father. Talk with Him. PRAY.

Questions for Personal Reflection:

>> Are your prayers more shaped by your understanding of life or by the Lord's promises and character?

>> Where have you seen the Lord's victories - in big and small ways in your life?

>> What tangible ways can you daily, weekly, or periodically taste and see that the Lord is good?