

# “God’s Power to Bring Victory”

## Joshua 10:1-43

### Discussion Qs

1. What are some of the forces allied against a Christian worldview?
2. What are some of the promises of God that encourage you (especially regarding victory)?
3. How can we appropriate God’s power for victorious Christian Life?
4. How do we renew our minds?

Intro. What are some struggles in life that can be overwhelming?

**Subject:** The battle against the five kings

**Object:** Experience a victorious Christian life

**Context:** Ch. 9 treaty with Gibeonites [trick or treaty]. After capture of Ai Bethel & Jericho - central cities, north and south were cut off -> beginning of southern campaign

### A. The forces allied against God’s people [1-5]

#### 1. The five kings attack God’s people.

1. Attempt to muster huge force to defeat Israel [1-2]: King of Jerusalem [1], they [2]
  - a. Fear Upon 5 Kings re Israel’s victories [1]. When Gibeon, a great city, yielded to Israel [2]
    - i. King of Jerusalem organizes “unholy alliance.” Perhaps he felt he lost a potential ally & others would also yield to Israel. cf. **9:1-2** Canaanite kings of northwest agreed to unite v. Israel
    - b. Prior enemies come together against those united with Israel
      - i. Sadducees & Pharisees against Jesus
      - ii. Muslim/Arab states against Israel and U.S.
    - c. Siege of Gibeon by unholy alliance [5]. Maybe kings thought Joshua would be too concerned re kings of north to come south & Gibeon would be easy battle

**? What are some of the forces allied against a Christian worldview?**

**1Jn. 3:13** Do not marvel, my brethren, if the world hates you.

### B. God’s plan for victorious Christian life [6-43]

#### 1. Call on Yeshua [6-7] Joshua as a picture of Jesus our Deliverer

**9:15** - peace treaty between Israel & Gibeonites: ruling country to provide defense for servant nation [6]. Gibeonites did not renounce treaty with Israel & seek to rejoin the 5 kings

**Joshua (Yeshua): come quickly save us and help us [6]** Seeking a savior

#### a. Yeshua will come and deliver

- i. Joshua “Yahweh is Salvation” [Jesus] comes to deliver with all his resources to defend [7]
- ii. Cast your cares upon Him for He cares for us [**1 Pet. 5:7, Rom.10:9, 8:31**]

#### 2. Trust God’s promises of victory [8-9]

**a. Promise of total victory Do not fear them ... not a man shall stand [8]**

i. cf. federation of 5 kings = big army cf. Ai & Bethel were small [cf. Joshua's fears]

**a. Respond in faith with actions of obedience and an attitude of dependence**

i. Joshua and the army march at night 10-20 miles and surprise the enemy [9]

? What are some of the promises of God that encourage you (especially regarding victory)?

**3. Rely on God's power [11-15]**

**a. God's power to give victory displayed in miracles of hail & sun standing still [11-15]**

i. **Large hailstones [11]** cast down from heaven. More die from hail than sword.

ii. 7th plague upon Egypt [**Ex. 9:22-26**], Israel spared @ G'oshen.

iii. **Sun stood still:** God promised complete victory, but sun was going down. Joshua prays before the people for God to stop the sun [12] (great faith), and the sun stopped [13] like no other day [14]. cf. **Ex 10:22** - 3 days darkness @ Egypt, **Mt. 27:45** - Jesus on cross & 3 hrs. darkness at mid-day. Book of Jasher = poetic/historical, not scripture [13]

? **How can we appropriate God's power for victorious Christian Life?**

iv. God's power is related to faith + prayer: Spirit is willing but the flesh is weak [**Mt. 26:41**]

**4. Capture the kings, fight the armies, and destroy the kings [16-26]**

**a. Capture the kings: The battle against the world starts in the mind**

i. The kings are captured [16-18]: kings represent the head(s)

**2Cor. 10:5 bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ**

**b. Continue to do battle against the forces opposed to God [19-21]**

i. Continued the fight to seek total destruction before the enemy takes refuge within

**Gal. 5:16 I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.**

**c. Destroy the kings [22-27]** the heads were destroyed [executed] by Joshua as the people participated. Most likely cut-off heads with sword [26] cf. 1.Sam. 17:51 David and Goliath

**i. God's authority to prevail and rule our will begins in the mind [Matt. 6:10]**

**Rom. 12:2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.**

ii. God's further assurances of victory through Joshua [25] [cf. Josh 1]

**v. 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."

? **How do we renew our minds?**

**5. Continue the campaign and seek to overcome strongholds [28-43]**

**a. The Lord gives victory in the Southern Campaign**

**i. Some strongholds are more difficult to overcome** At Lachisch, victory = 2nd day [32], cf. all other were one day. Cf. some parts of our flesh are harder to reckon dead than other battles

**ii. Reason for victory: God fought for them [42]**

iii. 8x ref. to God fighting for or delivering His people [**8,10, 14, 19, 25, 30, 32, 42**]

iv. God wants you to experience victorious Christian life. He will do mighty works for his people to give you victory ...