

Capturing The Heartland

I. Announce:

- A. Welcome to those **online**.
- B. **Slide1** This Sunday, Dec.3rd **Tacos for Toys event!** Jimmy and Tiffany's Tacos will be selling taco plates after each service. All proceeds will go to CFLC to buy toys for their toy drive. Be sure to come on out and **fellowship** as well as **support foster kids** in our community.
- C. **Slide2** Prayer:

II. **Slide3a Intro:** *Capturing The Heartland* (the central or most important part of a country)

- A. While I was away Jason B shared on ch.8 *The Defeat of AI*. Andrew P followed up with *the Gibeonite Deception* (to make a peace treaty w/Israel) Remember, there's no end to the problems you create for yourself, when you make an agreement with the enemy.
 - 1. **Tonight** Brian B will talk about **5 Amorite Kings** that *allied together* and attacked the Gibeonites after learning about their peace treaty with Israel.
- B. Israel's conquest of the Promised Land began around 1450 bc & lasted approx 5-7yrs
- C. Remember Joshua's battle plan or military campaign was *divide and conquer*. (middle of Israel, then South, then North).
- D. *Amorites* - non-Israelite peoples living in the land before the Israelites. **Why is God so mad at them to utterly destroy them?**
- E. **Slide3b** Genesis 15:13-16 *Amorites*. *Then the Lord said to Abram, "Know for certain that your offspring will be sojourners in a land that is not theirs and will be servants there, and they will be afflicted for four hundred years. 14 But I will bring judgment on the nation that they serve, and afterward they shall come out with great possessions. 15 As for you, you shall go to your fathers in peace; you shall be buried in a good old age. 16 And they shall come back here in the fourth generation, for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete."*

1. God took this pagan gentile Abraham and created from him a **new race**.
 2. God was, and still is, *into reaching all people*.
- F. Like we saw in **Egypt**, back in the book of **Exodus**. As the Jews were enslaved for 400 years, God sends the 10 plagues, each of them representing one of their gods. *Why?* to show them that *He is the Lord*.
1. God in His **love**, tries to reach them, **but** when they *refuse over and over again*, He deals with them.
 2. Talk about the term **A Just War**, our God is a **Just God**.
- G. How do we know the **Amorites** understood who God was?
1. **Slide3c** Because of Rahab's testimony. Joshua 2:10,11 *I know that the Lord has given you the land, and that the fear of you has fallen upon us, and that **all the inhabitants of the land melt away before you**. 10 For **we have heard** how the Lord dried up the water of the Red Sea before you when you came out of Egypt, and what you did to the two kings of the Amorites who were beyond the Jordan, to Sihon and Og, whom you devoted to destruction. 11 And as soon as we heard it, our hearts melted, and there was no spirit left in any man because of you, for the Lord your God, he is God in the heavens above and on the earth beneath.*
 2. She tells us, *they knew!*

III. **Slide4 WE 5 KINGS (1-6) READ**

- A. When **Adoni-zedek**, the king of Jerusalem, heard about the destruction of Ai **and** the peace treaty between Israel and the Gibeonites, **he was afraid because the Gibeonites were warriors**.
1. The king of Jerusalem decided to attack the city of Gibeon and he enlisted the help of 4 other kings.
- B. **Slide5 See map** - Gilgal to Gibeon (20 miles). **Note 5 cities**.
- C. When the **Gibeonites** learned about the 5 kings coming to attack them, they sent to **Joshua** for help.

1. The meanest and most feeble who have just begun to trust the Lord, are as much entitled to be protected as those who have long and faithfully been his servants.
 - a) It is our duty to defend the afflicted, who, *like the Gibeonites*, are brought into trouble on our account, or for the sake of the gospel.
 - b) Joshua would not forsake his new vassals. How much less shall our true Joshua fail those who *trust in Him*.

IV. Slide6a I WISH I HAD MORE TIME (7-15) READ

- A. Joshua and the army *marched all night* from Gilgal to Gibeon and attacked the 5 kings (20 miles, prob 10-12 hours).
- B. (8) Vs.8 could have read, *You got yourself into this, so you can get yourself out! But instead*, He gave His people *encouragement* (8) and *fought for them, from heaven* (10,11). Take about having the *High Ground* advantage.
- C. God threw the armies of the 5 kings into a panic and the Israelites defeated them.
- D. God caused *large stones* to *fall from heaven* and kill Israel's enemies.
- E. At Joshua's request, *God made the sun and moon stand still* so the Israelites would have daylight to pursue the retreating soldiers from the armies of the 5 kings.
- F. **Historically**, the ancient Egyptians, Babylonians, Greeks, native American Indians, Aztecs, and even a Chinese emperor in the 14th century ... all wrote historically about a long day.
 1. **But let's remember**, the primary purpose of the Bible **isn't** to tell us about *miracles, supernatural phenomenon, and heavenly oddities*.
 2. **If it were**, the text would have spent a lot more space talking about **the giant stones that fell from heaven, and the sun and moon standing still**.
 3. **The Bible is meant to tell us the story of how God is saving the world. Yes, miracles** are a part of that story, **but** God didn't write this book just to *entertain people with a curiosity for the supernatural*.

G. (13) **Book of Jashar** - don't have, but believed to be a book of *Hebrew Poetry and songs*.

H. **Slide6b (14) The Lord fought for Israel** - the Lord loves to fight for us. You don't have to fight alone (it may feel like that at times).

1. Like when the Hebrews were leaving Egypt, Pharaoh changes his mind. And they find themselves with their back against the Red Sea, watching the Egyptian Army flying at them. Moses says, *Fear not, stand firm, and see the salvation of the Lord, which he will work for you today. For the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall never see again. 14 The Lord will fight for you, and you have only to be silent.* Ex.14:13,14

2. *God is a God of Justice, but also a God of Mercy* - **what** we receive depends on if we *humble ourselves* before **Him**.

V. **Slide7 5 KINGS IN A CAVE (16-27) READ**

A. **The 5 allied kings hid themselves in a cave at Makkedah.** Lack of leadership there. Ended up choosing their own tomb.

B. (21) **None moved his tongue against any of the children of Israel** - this shows their perfect safety.

C. *Here is a **type** and **figure** of **Christ's victories** over the powers of darkness, **and** of **believers' victories** through Him.

1. In **our spiritual conflicts** we **must not** be satisfied with obtaining some important victory. We must pursue our scattered enemies, searching out the remains of **sin** as they rise up in our hearts, **and thus** pursue the conquest.

D. (25) **Where do you think Joshua got that from?** God in ch.1.

1. Maybe we can share how God has encouraged us, to encourage others.

VI. **Slide8 7 KINGS AND ALL SOUTHERN ISRAEL (28-43) READ only 40-43**

- A. The end of Joshua 10 lists a series of **kings** and **territories** the Israelites conquered as they pressed further into Canaan.
1. Makkedah, Libnah, Lachish, Gezer, Eglon, Hebron, Debir, Goshen, Kadesh-barnea, Gaza, the hill country, the Negev/south, the lowlands, and the slopes.
 2. All these territories and cities were *devoted to destruction* by Joshua and the Israelites.
- B. (42) Joshua captured all these kings and their land at one time, because *the LORD God of Israel fought for Israel*.
- C. Victory over the 5 kings opened the way for Joshua to attack the whole southern Canaan region. *What started as a defensive maneuver ended up a glorious series of victories. Slide9 If God is for us, who can be against us?*
- D. *The Lord fought for Israel*. They could not have gotten the victory, if God had not undertaken the battle. *We conquer, when God fights for us; if he be for us, who can be against us?*
- E. Keywords: Joshua, battles,