

THE SUN AND THE MOON STAND STILL

[BIBLE TEXT](#) : Joshua 10:1-27

LESSON 175 Junior Course

MEMORY VERSE: "Whatsoever the LORD pleased, that did he in heaven, and in earth, in the seas, and all deep places" (Psalm 135:6).

[BIBLE TEXT in King James Version](#)

Joshua 10:1-27

¹ Now it came to pass, when Adonizedek king of Jerusalem had heard how Joshua had taken Ai, and had utterly destroyed it; as he had done to Jericho and her king, so he had done to Ai and her king; and how the inhabitants of Gibeon had made peace with Israel, and were among them;

² That they feared greatly, because Gibeon *was* a great city, as one of the royal cities, and because it *was* greater than Ai, and all the men thereof *were* mighty.

³ Wherefore Adonizedek king of Jerusalem sent unto Hoham king of Hebron, and unto Piram king of Jarmuth, and unto Japhia king of Lachish, and unto Debir king of Eglon, saying,

⁴ Come up unto me, and help me, that we may smite Gibeon: for it hath made peace with Joshua and with the children of Israel.

⁵ Therefore the five kings of the Amorites, the king of Jerusalem, the king of Hebron, the king of Jarmuth, the king of Lachish, the king of Eglon, gathered themselves together, and went up, they and all their hosts, and encamped before Gibeon, and made war against it.

⁶ And the men of Gibeon sent unto Joshua to the camp to Gilgal, saying, Slack not thy hand from thy servants; come up to us quickly, and save us, and help us: for all the kings of the Amorites that dwell in the mountains are gathered together against us.

⁷ So Joshua ascended from Gilgal, he, and all the people of war with

[BIBLE REFERENCES:](#)

[NOTES:](#)

Fighting for Gibeon

The Children of Israel were gaining possession of Canaan. Great fear filled the hearts of the inhabitants of the land when they heard of the miracles of Jericho and Ai and of the surrender of Gibeon. Because of that fear, the five kings of the Amorites went together to resist God and His people. There was no repentance in their hearts, only a fear which inspired them to retake Gibeon. It was a great city with mighty men and had escaped destruction at the hands of the Children of Israel because the Gibeonites had surrendered. The hosts of the Amorites encamped about Gibeon to make war against it because the Gibeonites had made peace with the Israelites.

The Children of Israel had been commanded to spare none of the inhabitants of Canaan. By craftiness and deceit, the Children of Israel were tricked into making a treaty which spared the Gibeonites. The Children of Israel had failed to ask advice of God. They had failed to pray concerning such an important matter as a peace treaty. Yet God held the Children of Israel to their agreement. When the Amorites made war upon the Gibeonites, the Children of Israel were called to protect them.

God's Help Promised

Because Joshua and the Children of Israel were keeping their league, God promised that not one of the enemy would stand before them. God promised to deliver the Amorites into Israel's hand, so the enemy could neither make resistance nor escape.

The Children of Israel did not delay. Quickened and encouraged by the Word of the Lord; they went to battle against the Amorites. They did not sit back and wait for God to do the fighting. They believed God and did their part.

Scattering the Enemy

The enemy was discomfited by the Lord. What confusion and terror there must have been! The hosts of the five kings of the Amorites, no doubt, had confidently gone to battle against the Israelites. But the confidence of the Amorites did not last long, for they were fighting against God's people who had a promise from the Lord. The enemy was depending upon its large army, its equipment, and skill. Yet against the God of Israel they were powerless and were scattered.

The Israelites were not content just to drive the enemy away from Gibeon, for then there would be the possibility of a repeated battle to protect the Gibeonites. The Children of Israel chased the enemy and slew many of them.

Hailstones

God helped the Children of Israel, too. As the Amorites were fleeing, God sent great hailstones from Heaven. Do not think this just happened — God sent the hailstones in judgment against the Amorites. This was no ordinary hailstorm, for only the Amorites were killed. We do not read that any of the Israelites were killed or even hurt by the hailstones. God directed them so that they hit to kill.

him, and all the mighty men of valour.

⁸ And the Lord said unto Joshua, Fear them not: for I have delivered them into thine hand; there shall not a man of them stand before thee.

⁹ Joshua therefore came unto them suddenly, *and* went up from Gilgal all night.

¹⁰ And the Lord discomfited them before Israel, and slew them with a great slaughter at Gibeon, and chased them along the way that goeth up to Bethhoron, and smote them to Azekah, and unto Makkedah.

¹¹ And it came to pass, as they fled from before Israel, *and* were in the going down to Bethhoron, that the Lord cast down great stones from heaven upon them unto Azekah, and they died: *they were* more which died with hailstones than *they* whom the children of Israel slew with the sword.

¹² Then spake Joshua to the Lord in the day when the Lord delivered up the Amorites before the children of Israel, and he said in the sight of Israel, Sun, stand thou still upon Gibeon; and thou, Moon, in the valley of Ajalon.

¹³ And the sun stood still, and the moon stayed, until the people had avenged themselves upon their enemies. *Is* not this written in the book of Jasher? So the sun stood still in the midst of heaven, and hasted not to go down about a whole day.

¹⁴ And there was no day like that before it or after it, that the Lord hearkened unto the voice of a man: for the Lord fought for Israel.

¹⁵ And Joshua returned, and all Israel with him, unto the camp to Gilgal.

¹⁶ But these five kings fled, and hid themselves in a cave at Makkedah.

More Amorites were killed by the hailstones than by the sword in battle. God disposed of the enemies who seemed to be escaping, for He fought for Israel.

Notice that the enemy was not put out of battle just temporarily. Some people say No to the enemy of their soul and at the same time imply that some other time they might be interested. When some children are invited to questionable places they say, "Not tonight," giving the impression that they will go some other time. Consequently they are tempted by the enemy of their soul time after time. By saying, "I never go to that place," or "I do not care to do those things," there is no encouragement for the occasion to be repeated. The Lord did not injure the enemies; He destroyed them.

A Prayer

No doubt the Children of Israel were tired, for they had traveled from Gilgal all night (Joshua 10:9) and had fought during the day. Yet Joshua was not eager to sleep. In the sight of the Israelites he prayed — for it was more of a prayer than a command. He prayed boldly, with assurance and faith. Although it seemed a strange prayer, God must have inspired it, for it was answered. No sooner was it spoken than it was done. God lengthened the day while the Children of Israel "avenged themselves upon their enemies." The earth stopped its rotation and the sun actually stood still in the heavens. So did the moon, to keep harmony in the sky. Darkness did not overtake the Children of Israel as they pursued and slew the enemy.

A Long Day

The sun and moon stood still for the space of about a day while God fought for Israel. The long day has been confirmed by the history of nations other than that of the Jews. The Aztecs of Mexico have a record of the long day, as well as the South Sea Islanders, Egyptians, and Chinese.

True science agrees with this Biblical account of a lengthened day. Scientists of standing, through their study of the solar system, have established the fact that the earth is a day out of schedule, a day has been lost out of time. According to the figures of an accomplished astronomer, the accounts in the tenth chapter of Joshua and in the thirty-eighth chapter of Isaiah furnish the missing time to the minute.

When the long day ended, the sun and moon resumed their courses. God had created these two great lights (Genesis 1:16), and surely to His word they were obedient, for God controls the universe. Never was there such a day before it nor after it that God listened to the voice of men in that respect.

No doubt this day had an alarming effect on other inhabitants of the land, too. Among the heathen are those who worship the creation of God rather than God the Creator. Some even worship the sun and moon. A miracle such as God performed for Israel — the lengthened day — would show those worshipers of the sun and moon that their gods are subject to the God of Israel.

Hiding in a Cave

In some way the five kings of the Amorites managed to escape both the hailstones and the sword. Even though they fled and hid in a cave, they did not escape long. The Apostle James, in the fourth chapter and the seventh verse, instructs a Christian: "Resist the devil, and he will flee from you." In like manner, when the Children of Israel began to fight, the kings of their enemies gave no resistance — they fled.

Some people would have been content to permit the kings to escape but Joshua was not satisfied until the root of the trouble was destroyed. When Joshua was told that the five kings were hiding in the cave, he told his men to roll great stones to the opening of

¹⁷ And it was told Joshua, saying, The five kings are found hid in a cave at Makkedah.

¹⁸ And Joshua said, Roll great stones upon the mouth of the cave, and set men by it for to keep them:

¹⁹ And stay ye not, *but* pursue after your enemies, and smite the hindmost of them; suffer them not to enter into their cities: for the Lord your God hath delivered them into your hand.

²⁰ And it came to pass, when Joshua and the children of Israel had made an end of slaying them with a very great slaughter, till they were consumed, that the rest *which* remained of them entered into fenced cities.

²¹ And all the people returned to the camp to Joshua at Makkedah in peace: none moved his tongue against any of the children of Israel.

²² Then said Joshua, Open the mouth of the cave, and bring out those five kings unto me out of the cave.

²³ And they did so, and brought forth those five kings unto him out of the cave, the king of Jerusalem, the king of Hebron, the king of Jarmuth, the king of Lachish, *and* the king of Eglon.

²⁴ And it came to pass, when they brought out those kings unto Joshua, that Joshua called for all the men of Israel, and said unto the captains of the men of war which went with him, Come near, put your feet upon the necks of these kings. And they came near, and put their feet upon the necks of them.

²⁵ And Joshua said unto them, Fear not, nor be dismayed, be strong and of good courage: for thus shall the Lord do to all your enemies against whom ye fight.

²⁶ And afterward Joshua smote

the cave and guard it so the kings could not escape.

Complete Victory -

After the battle came to an end, all the Children of Israel returned in safety and peace (Joshua 10:1). Apparently none were slain, wounded, nor even missing.

Joshua commanded the five kings to be brought from the cave. Captains of the men of war put their feet upon the necks of the enemy kings, as a symbol of complete victory: the enemy was under their feet.

That is the place to have the enemy of your soul, or the scene may change and you will find yourself in Satan's control.

From a place of honor as kings of the Amorites they came to a place of defeat, disgrace, and death. The cave to which they trusted became their prison and grave. The five kings were not spared; they were hanged and then buried in the cave which had been their hiding place.

There is no hiding place from God today either. He knows where everyone is taking shelter against the wrath of God in judgment. Some people have hoped to have security in the amount of wealth they have accumulated. Others work hard to be promoted to a good position, for in that they hope to be secure. Still others have placed their hope of security in their own ability, or in their friends. All these things have been known to fail in the time of need. None of these things will recommend one to God. That very thing on which they depended for safety, may be the thing that separates them from God and Heaven. Instead of a hiding place, these worldly things can be the cause of their spiritual death. A Christian may have a good position, ability, friends, or wealth, but his hope is in the Lord. Where are you? Are you covered by the Blood of Jesus or is your trust in that which will fail?

May Joshua's words to the Children of Israel be the spiritual encouragement to God's people today, too! "Fear not, nor be dismayed, be strong and of good courage: for thus shall the LORD do to all your enemies against whom ye fight."

QUESTIONS

1 Why did the five kings of the Amorites make war on Gibeon?

2 Why was Israel expected to fight for Gibeon?

3 Why was the day lengthened?

4 How was the day lengthened?

5 Who fought for Israel?

6 Why did God send hailstones?

7 What happened to the five kings?

8 Instead of a hiding place, what did the cave become?

9 What is meant by the expression: "Put the enemy under your feet"?

them, and slew them, and hanged them on five trees: and they were hanging upon the trees until the evening.

²⁷ And it came to pass at the time of the going down of the sun, *that* Joshua commanded, and they took them down off the trees, and cast them into the cave wherein they had been hid, and laid great stones in the cave's mouth, *which remain* until this very day.