

**“Against All Odds”**

**Joshua chapter 10**

**Scripture Ref: Rev 6:15-17; 1 Cor 15:15-28**

1. So far in Joshua...
  - a. **Declaration** – “Be strong and of good courage”
  - b. **Investigation** – The spies go out to Jericho
  - c. **Motivation** – Crossing the Jordan – no turning back!
  - d. **Sanctification** – “Prepare yourselves”
  - e. **Initiation** – Engaging Jericho
  - f. **Violation** – The sin of Achan
  - g. **Reconciliation** – Dealing with sin
  - h. **Prevarication** – The deception of the Gibeonites
2. Tonight we come to one of the more interesting accounts in the bible -  
The day the sun stood still
3. The account opens with – interestingly enough – the King of  
Jerusalem...

10:1 Now it came to pass when Adoni-Zedek king of Jerusalem heard how Joshua had taken Ai and had utterly destroyed it -- as he had done to Jericho and its king, so he had done to Ai and its 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, like one of the royal cities, and because it was greater than Ai, and all its men were mighty. 3 Therefore Adoni-Zedek king of Jerusalem sent to Hoham king of Hebron, Piram king of Jarmuth, Japhia king of Lachish, and Debir king of Eglon, saying, 4 "Come up to me and help me, that we may attack Gibeon, for it has 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, and the king of Eglon, gathered together and went up, they and all their armies, and camped before Gibeon and made war against it.

4. Situation where Adoni-Zedek sees what has been happening...
  - a. Israel has been victorious against all of these formidable cities...
  - b. And he decides that it's time to put together an alliance that can deal with the situation
  - c. So Adoni-Zedek convinces the other kings to set aside their differences to come together against Gibeon.
5. Few thoughts...
  - a. #1: An old lion is at it's fiercest when it senses the end...

- i. I think these guys know that something big is happening, and they are not about to sit around and wait for Joshua and his army to come knocking!
    - b. #2: Instead of going head on against Israel, they decide to attack Gibeon.
      - i. Could be that they want to eliminate the weaker army first.
      - ii. Maybe they want to set an example for any other cities that may consider making an alliance
      - iii. Perhaps they are a little skeptical of taking on Israel, and they want to overtake Gibeon, and perhaps win some additional resources before going against Joshua
    - c. But I think what is significant is that they decide to come together and work as a team... something the church does not do very well.
- 6. See the thing is, Adoni-Zedek was wise enough to understand that while he may have differences with the other kings, his enemy was the same.
  - a. While he may not fully trust those guys, working with them in a common purpose could help them defeat their enemy...
- 7. That's the thing we often miss – most evangelical churches are from 80% - 95% in agreement on doctrine...
  - a. But we let the 5-20% keep us from working together
  - b. And I'll be honest – I don't know how to overcome that...
  - c. Because there is a genuine concern that we don't become corrupted with some of "what we consider to be errant doctrine" of other churches...
  - d. While at the same time I feel I grieves the heart of God to see how segregated the church has become.
- 8. Let's see how Joshua responded...

6 And the men of Gibeon sent to Joshua at the camp at Gilgal, saying, "Do not forsake your servants; come up to us quickly, save us and help us, for all the kings of the Amorites who dwell in the mountains have gathered together against us."

7 So Joshua ascended 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 delivered them into your hand; not a man of them shall stand before you." 9 Joshua therefore came upon them suddenly, having marched all night from Gilgal.

**9. 25 miles, 4000 ft elevation, one night march**

**10. Note that the Gibeonites had deceived the Israelites, yet the Israelites will go and help**

- a. **Joshua could have said “this is God giving you what you deserve for deceiving us”**
- b. **But instead...**

**11. Do WE have these kinds of friends?**

10 So the LORD routed them before Israel, killed them with a great slaughter at Gibeon, chased them along the road that goes to Beth Horon, and struck them down as far as Azekah and Makkedah. 11 And it happened, as they fled before Israel and were on the descent of Beth Horon, that the LORD cast down large hailstones from heaven on them as far as Azekah, and they died. There were more who died from the hailstones than the children of Israel killed with the sword.

**12. Note – NO Israelites were hit!**

**13. Partnership...**

- a. **Israel did what was right...**
- b. **Israel marched all night, up a mountain...**
- c. **Israel armed up and went into battle**
- d. **GOD routed the enemy**

**14. Do we sometimes want to sit back and do nothing, and expect God to do all the work?**

12 Then Joshua spoke 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 still over Gibeon; And Moon, in the Valley of Aijalon." 13 So the sun stood still, And the moon stopped, Till the people had revenge Upon their enemies.

Is this not written in the Book of Jasher? So the sun stood still in the midst of heaven, and did not hasten to go down for about a whole day. 14 And there has been no day like that, before it or after it, that the LORD heeded the voice of a man; for the LORD fought for Israel.

**15. Often viewed as “one of the claims of the bible that are obviously not true...” many dismiss this claim.**

- a. **However, the accounts from more than one early civilizations of Meso America (e.g. from the Annals of Cuauhtitlan) which refer to a day when the sun rose slightly, set again in the east, and then after an extended night rose again**
- b. **In addition an Andean tradition that during the third year of the reign of Titu Yupanqui Pachacuti II, the fifteenth monarch in Ancient Empire times, there occurred an extended night of some additional 20 hours.**

- c. Legend was found among the Ancient Mexicans to the effect that one of their holy persons commanded the sun to stand still, which command was obeyed
  - d. Chinese history speaks of Yao, their king, declaring that in his reign the sun stood so long above the horizon that it was feared the world would have been set on fire; and fixes the reign of Yao at a given date, which corresponds with the age of Joshua the son of Nun
  - e. The ancient Orphic hymns (Orpheus), wherein it says that the god Bacchus arrested the course of the sun and the moon.
  - f. An Indian legend relates that the sun stood still to hear the words of Arjouan after the death of Crishna.
  - g. Buddhist tradition hold the a monk by the name of Matanga prevented the sun, at his command, from rising
  - h. Interesting that accounts derived from the eastern hemisphere speak of a long day, and the western hemisphere a long night.
16. (Yes, there is a story about NASA finding the missing day, but it has not been able to be substantiated)
17. But bigger – the stopping of the sun and moon was a huge blow to these people who worshipped the sun and the moon!

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

#### **The Amorite Kings Executed**

16 But these five kings had fled and hidden themselves in a cave at Makkedah.  
17 And it was told Joshua, saying, "The five kings have been found hidden in the cave at Makkedah."

#### **18. Parallel –**

##### ***Rev 6:15-17***

*15 And the kings of the earth, the great men, the rich men, the commanders, the mighty men, every slave and every free man, hid themselves in the caves and in the rocks of the mountains, 16 and said to the mountains and rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb! 17 For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?"*

18 So Joshua said, "Roll large stones against the mouth of the cave, and set men by it to guard them. 19 And do not stay there yourselves, but pursue your enemies, and attack their rear guard. Do not allow them to enter their cities, for the LORD your God has delivered them into your hand." 20 Then it happened, while Joshua and the children of Israel made an end of slaying them with a very great slaughter, till they had finished, that those who escaped entered fortified

cities. 21 And all the people returned to the camp, to Joshua at Makkedah, in peace. **No one moved his tongue against any of the children of Israel.**

22 Then Joshua said, "Open the mouth of the cave, and bring out those five kings to me from the cave." 23 And they did so, and brought out those five kings to him from the cave: the king of Jerusalem, the king of Hebron, the king of Jarmuth, the king of Lachish, and the king of Eglon.

24 So it was, when they brought out those kings to Joshua, that Joshua called for all the men of Israel, and said to the captains of the men of war who went with him, "Come near, put your feet on the necks of these kings." And they drew near and put their feet on their necks. 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." 26 And afterward Joshua struck them and killed them, and hanged them on five trees; and they were hanging on the trees until evening. 27 So it was at the time of the going down of the sun that Joshua commanded, and they took them down from the trees, cast them into the cave where they had been hidden, and laid large stones against the cave's mouth, which remain until this very day. 28 On that day Joshua took Makkedah, and struck it and its king with the edge of the sword. He utterly destroyed them -- all the people who were in it. He let none remain. He also did to the king of Makkedah as he had done to the king of Jericho.

**19. A very visual communication...**

**20. These kings were not the nice guys you see in movies – evil and wicked... debased...**

**a. And they had opportunity to repent**

**1 Cor 15:20-28**

*But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. 21 For since by man came death, by Man also came the resurrection of the dead. 22 For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive. 23 But each one in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, afterward those who are Christ's at His coming. 24 Then comes the end, when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father, when He puts an end to all rule and all authority and power. 25 For He must reign till He has put all enemies under His feet. 26 The last enemy that will be destroyed is death. 27 For "He has put all things under His feet." But when He says "all things are put under Him," it is evident that He who put all things under Him is excepted. 28 Now when all things are made subject to Him, then the Son Himself will also be subject to Him who put all things under Him, that God may be all in all.*

**21. Guess what – THIS IS DONE!**

**a. The evil, wicked, spiritual kings that exist in the spiritual realm... demons we call them... they have been vanquished!**

- b. If you had a mental picture, Jesus is standing there with his foot on the neck of Satan and all his kings...**
- c. The problem we often have is we sometimes listen to them...**
- d. They're lying there, Jesus foot on them, and their talking to you...**
- e. "your no good – you'll never be victorious"**
- f. Think about that mental picture the next time those thoughts come to your mind!**

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