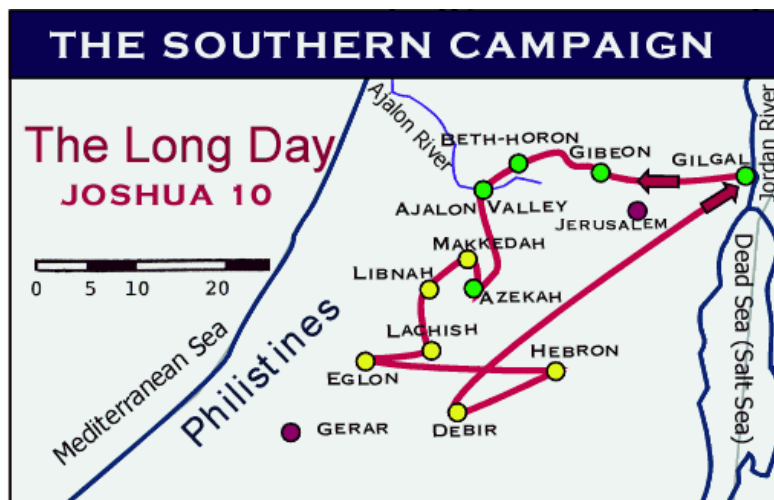


Joshua

The LORD is Salvation



Chapter 10:1-15 *The Longest Day* (Southern Campaign)

10:1-2 The king of Jerusalem, Adoni-Zedek (“Lord of Righteousness”), heard about the conquest and total destruction ^{Deuteronomy 20:16} of Ai and about Joshua’s “treaty of peace” ^{Joshua 9:15} with the people of Gibeon (an “important city” whose men were all “good fighters”).

This “king”, Adoni-Zedek, may be another example of Satan’s attempt to copy God, whose King of Salem (Jerusalem) was named Melchizedek (“King of Righteousness”) ^{Genesis 14:18-20}.

The King of Salem means “king of peace” ^{Hebrews 7:1-2}, and Jerusalem means teaching of peace.

10:3-5 Adonai-Zedek called on the kings from four other cities in the southern hill country (Hebron, Jarmuth, Lachish and Eglon) to help him attack Gibeon for not standing with the alliance against Joshua ^{Joshua 9:1-2} and making peace with him. So, the five Amorite kings attacked Gibeon.

10:6-8 During the attack, the Gibeonites sent a plea for help to Joshua at Gilgal (the main base of the Israelite army), and so Joshua went with “his entire army” toward Gibeon. Although the Israelites paid a price for their ill-advised alliance with the pagans in Gibeon ^{2 Corinthians 6:14-18}, the LORD told Joshua to “not be afraid” ^{Deuteronomy 3:2, Joshua 1:9}, because He had already provided the victory against the attacking army ^{Deuteronomy 7:24}.

God has promised Christians He will work for their good ^{Romans 8:28} in every situation, including those times when a Christian has fallen in sin. The Christian’s quickest return to victory in Jesus ^{1 Corinthians 15:57} will happen following a time of sincere repentance ^{Job 42:5-6,10-11}.

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What seemed tragic was actually an opportunity for the Israelites to decimate the armies of the five city-states all at once out in the open instead of one at a time behind closed gates.

10:9-11 After marching through the night, Joshua surprised the attacking armies. The LORD aided the Israelite victory by confusing the enemy troops ^{Exodus 14:24, Deuteronomy 7:23}. Israel not only had success near Gibeon, but they chased the remaining troops west toward Beth Horon and then south toward Azekah, killing them with swords along the way. In addition to confusion, the LORD provided hailstones ^{Exodus 9:18, Ezekiel 13:13} that killed more attackers than died by the sword. (Note: The hailstones only killed the enemies of the Israelites.)

The Law commanded that the punishment for idol worshippers was stoning ^{Deuteronomy 17:2-7}.

Suggestive of the 7th bowl judgement that will include 100 pound hailstones ^{Revelation 16:21}.

10:12-15 As promised, the LORD gave Israel victory over the Amorites ^{Amos 2:9}. In order to finish that day, Joshua asked the LORD for the sun and moon to stop in place (literally to “be still” or “be silent” ^{Exodus 14:14}). The sun (and the moon) stopped ^{Habakkuk 3:11} at about noon for as much as a day (the only time it has happened or will ever happen – a miracle of the LORD, the Creator of all things ^{Job 9:7, Psalm 74:16, Jeremiah 32:17}): another indication of the LORD’s support of Israel. Once the victory was complete, Israel returned to the base camp at Gilgal ^{v.43}.

Joshua stated this miracle was also mentioned in the non-Biblical “Book of Jashar” (Jasher?) (likely a collection of war songs ^{2 Samuel 1:18} = “Book of the Wars of the Lord” ^{Numbers 21:14}).

Miracles are at the core of Christianity ^{Matthew 8:1-4, 5-13, Luke 1:26-38, 8:22-25, 26-33, John 6:1-15, 16-21}.

“The mind which asks for a nonmiraculous Christianity is a mind in process of relapsing from Christianity into mere ‘religion.’” (C. S. Lewis, *Miracles*, p.133)

Chapter 10:16-28 *Five Amorite Kings are Killed*

10:16-19 Joshua’s men discovered the five Amorite kings ^{v.5} hiding in a cave near Makkedah. Joshua instructed them to trap the kings inside the cave by blocking the entrance with rocks and posting guards ^{2 Peter 2:9}. He instructed the rest of the army to continue pursuing their enemies.

The kings’ cave hiding was a foreshadowing of a similar scene in the Tribulation ^{Revelation 6:15-17}.

10:20-21 Joshua and the Israelites “almost” destroyed the enemies completely, but a few men escaped to their fortified cities ^{2 Chronicles 11:10, Jeremiah 5:17}. The Israelite army returned to Joshua at their camp near Makkedah, with the respect/fear of all those living in the region.

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10:22-25 Joshua ordered the men to open the cave and bring the 5 kings ^{v.5} to him ^{Deuteronomy 7:24}.

Joshua called together all of the men and allowed the commanders to show a common sign of victory by placing their feet on the necks of the kings ^{Malachi 4:3} (Satan's followers ^{Romans 16:20}).

Joshua repeated the encouragement the LORD had spoken ^{Joshua 1:6,9} about maintaining their confidence/courage/strength ^{Deuteronomy 31:6}, because they were fighting with and for the LORD.

In the end, all of God's enemies will be footstools for Jesus. ^{1 Kings 5:3, Psalm 110:1, 1 Corinthians 15:25}

10:26-27 Joshua then treated the kings in a similar way to their handling of the king of Ai ^{Joshua 8:29}:

he killed them, hung them on trees (indicating a curse ^{Deuteronomy 21:22-23}), removed them at sunset (so as not to desecrate the land ^{Deuteronomy 21:23}), and after throwing the bodies back into the cave, piled rocks as a fifth ^{Joshua 4:9,20, 7:26, 8:29} public monument (and permanent reminder).

10:28 The Israelite army then conquered Makkedah, totally destroying everyone ^{Deuteronomy 20:16}.

Joshua hung the king of Makkedah on a tree (the fate of the kings of Jericho and Ai ^{Joshua 8:2,29}).

Joshua's faith in the promise of the Lord ^{v.8, Matthew 28:20b} carried the Israelites on to victory ^{1 John 5:4}.

Joshua's strategy was to divide the land (Central Campaign) then conquer to the north, then south.

Chapter 10:29-43 *Southern Cities are Conquered*

10:29-39 Joshua continued their Southern Campaign, by conquering and destroying all of the people and things in the cities of Libnah ^{v.29-30}, Lachish ^{v.31-32} (also Horam, king of Gezer, and his army, who came to assist Lachish ^{v.33}), Eglon ^{v.34-35}, Hebron ^{v.36-37}, and Debir ^{v.38-39}.

10:40-42 These verses summarize the remaining victories the LORD ^{Psalm 21:1} gave to Joshua in the Southern Campaign ^{Deuteronomy 1:7-8}. The Israelites destroyed "all who breathed" from Kadesh Barnea (extreme southern Canaan, where Moses camped when the twelve spies were sent into the PL ^{Numbers 13}) to Gaza (coast of the Mediterranean Sea), and Goshen (west of the southern end of the Dead Sea) to Gibeon (west of the north end of the Dead Sea) ^{Deuteronomy 20:16-17}.

10:43 Once again ^{v.15}, all of the Israelites took the long trip back to their base camp at Gilgal.

Closing: God was, is and will always be Righteous and Sovereign.

God's commandment to annihilate the people of Canaan (the Amorites) was justified, because after 400 years ^{Genesis 15:16}, their sin (which effected themselves and the land they lived in ^{Leviticus 18:3,24-25, 2 Kings 16:3} had reached its "full measure" (implied in God's covenant with Abram) ^{Genesis 15:16} (another way of saying they had committed the "eternal sin" ^{Mark 3:29, Revelation 14:9-11}).

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