

Joshua Chapter 10 Commentary

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.

Israel has proceeded westward into the land of promise, and is approximately halfway across the land of promise. These kings, who are coming together, are from south of the land, which God has already conquered and given into Israel's possession. Most of their rule is in land that belongs to Judah and Simeon.

These five Amorite kings hope to destroy Gibeon for enslaving themselves to Israel. They see the Gibeonites as traitors. Gibeon was one of the great royal cities in the land of promise.

Adam Clarke points out in his commentary, there seems to be no king over the Gibeonites, as scripture references in: Jos 9:11 "Wherefore our elders and all the inhabitants of our country spake to us, saying," and in: Jos 10:6 "And the men of Gibeon sent unto Joshua to the camp to Gilgal."

Notice, the urgency with which the Gibeonites send to Joshua for deliverance. When we are confronted with an attack, by the temptations of sin and satan, do we urgently turn to Christ for deliverance? How often I fail, forgetting God and trying to defend myself in my own power, then when I have failed, I am reminded that I should have sought the aid of Christ first. As we shall see, if we immediately turn to Christ for help there is great deliverance to be had.

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

Joshua immediately answers the call for help. They travel all night and immediately go to battle. God tells Joshua: I have given them into your hand. Not only does God give Israel the preeminence

over these kings and their men of war; God, himself, enters in the battle and cast down hailstones from heaven, which kill more men than Israel shall slay.

Some would say that there is a conflict here between stones and hailstones. I declare there is no conflict, the later phrase, which says hailstones, clarifies the type of stones which God casts down from heaven. Let's look at other scriptures where stones, hail, or hailstones are used for further clarification.

- **Ex 9:18-19; 18 "Behold, tomorrow about this time I will cause it to rain a very grievous hail, such as hath not been in Egypt since the foundation thereof even until now. 19 Send therefore now, and gather thy cattle, and all that thou hast in the field; for upon every man and beast which shall be found in the field, and shall not be brought home, the hail shall come down upon them, and they shall die."** This is what God did, in one of the plagues sent upon Egypt. Wherefore, we already know that God can make hail, which will kill man and beast.
- **Job 38:22-23; 22 "Hast thou entered into the treasures of the snow? or hast thou seen the treasures of the hail, 23 Which I have reserved against the time of trouble, against the day of battle and war?"** In this text, God ask Job if he has seen those things, which God has stored up in heaven against the day of battle and war. We notice that it is hail.
- **Ps 18:12-13; 12 "At the brightness that was before him his thick clouds passed, hail stones and coals of fire. 13 The LORD also thundered in the heavens, and the Highest gave his voice; hail stones and coals of fire."** David penned this Psalm when God had given him victory over all his enemies and over Saul. In describing the great deliverance of God, he used the descriptive words hailstones and coals of fire, which speak of the greatness of God's power. Not remembering a time in David's life when this happened, I believe, David is remembering what God did in Egypt: **Ex 9:23-25; 23 "And Moses stretched forth his rod toward heaven: and the LORD sent thunder and hail, and the fire ran along upon the ground; and the LORD rained hail upon the land of Egypt. 24 So there was hail, and fire mingled with the hail, very grievous, such as there was none like it in all the land of Egypt since it became a nation. 25 And the hail smote throughout all the land of Egypt all that was in the field, both man and beast; and the hail smote every herb of the field, and brake every tree of the field."**
- **Re 16:21 "And there fell upon men a great hail out of heaven, every stone about the weight of a talent: and men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail; for the plague thereof was exceeding great."** Here we see that God still has reserved great hail in the heaven.

I want to point out that the weight of a talent, by Jewish measure, was about 120 pounds. I have seen hailstones that were as big as hen eggs, up to the size of a baseball, which did terrible damage to everything they hit. Not only are they heavy, but they also have the force of the wind, and the gravitational weight of their fall behind them.

Do you now see; if we turn to and trust fully in God, and Christ, there is great deliverance to be had? Think about the hailstones God cast down from heaven, and destroyed more of the enemy than Israel. By what power do we overcome our enemies in our spiritual warfare today? It is by the power of Christ, in the form of the Word of God, which comes from above. If we use the Word of God effectively, the power of Christ will make that Word effectual, and our enemies will be overcome. Remember what our Commander in Chief, Jesus, did when tempted by satan: he always answered with **"thus saith the Lord."** and gave the scripture to fit the temptation.

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.

Joshua calls upon the Lord, in the presence of all Israel, and ask for something only God could do. He requests for time to stand still, until Israel is avenged of the Amorite enemies in this battle. God answers the prayer of Joshua, and time stands still for the space of about one day. How marvelous! To see the things God will do to accomplish his own will and purpose.

How great the mercies of our Saviour are toward us! Jesus has given us this example, and many more in scripture, of how we can trust fully, and confidently, in the power of Christ, for deliverance in the day of trouble. "***He that hath ears let him hear.***" We have no enemy that Christ Jesus cannot put down and overcome.

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. 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.

Joshua uses the extra time God has granted them to the best advantage. Trapping the kings in the cave, and moving on with the battle to slay as many of the enemy as they could before they got into their fenced cities for protection.

Do we make effective use of the time God has allotted us? I must freely, and ashamedly, admit that I waste a lot of time on unprofitable things. For instance, if the time I spent watching unprofitable videos, and movies on the internet, was spent studying God's word, or seeking to help others, I would be the recipient of many more blessings.

"*none moved his tongue against any of the children of Israel.*" Notice, how God has stilled even the tongues of the enemies of Israel at this time. When Christ moves against our enemies, by the word of his power, the voices of our enemies are stilled. We find evidence of this many times in scripture; demonstrated when Jesus was incarnate, and the evil spirits obeyed his voice. Praise and glory to God. Hallelujah!

The life lesson we can learn here is: When we are lifted in the Holy Spirit and doing the will of Christ, in our lives on earth in time, God stops the mouths of our enemies, and their master the devil, and they cannot accuse us before God. Praise God for our daily deliverances in the power of Christ.

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 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.

Having overcome the enemy, by the power of God, Joshua and Israel return to their camp. Joshua has them to bring the five kings out of the cave. Joshua uses them as a demonstration to the leaders of Israel. Joshua tells them; God has given all their enemies to be under their feet. However, God requires them to be strong and courageous in the faith and trust in God. Joshua kills the kings and hangs them up until sundown. Then, their bodies are placed in the cave where they had hidden themselves.

Some lessons we can learn from this scripture, so far, are the boldness we are commanded to have in scripture, seen in:

- Boldness to approach the throne of grace: ***Heb 4:16 "Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need."***
- Jesus set an example of speaking boldly for us to follow: ***Joh 7:26 "But, lo, he speaketh boldly, and they say nothing unto him. Do the rulers know indeed that this is the very Christ?"***
- Paul preached boldly in: ***Ac 9:29-30; 29 "And he spake boldly in the name of the Lord Jesus, and disputed against the Grecians: but they went about to slay him. 30 Which when the brethren knew, they brought him down to Caesarea, and sent him forth to Tarsus."*** Notice, though the hand of the devil may be stayed, our enemy is always plotting how he may attack us when he is unrestrained by God. Also, notice the help provided by the brethren when they knew of the present danger.
- The congregations of God's people should be praying for the ministers: ***Eph 6:18-20; 18 "Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints; 19 ¶ And for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel, 20 For which I am an ambassador in bonds: that therein I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak."*** Whereby, they may receive the gospel of Jesus Christ preached with boldness, rightly divided, in clarity and truth.
- Ministers and Christians should not fear what man can do to us: ***Heb 13:6 "So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me."***

28 ¶ And that day Joshua took Makkedah, and smote it with the edge of the sword, and the king thereof he utterly destroyed, them, and all the souls that *were* therein; he let none remain: and he did to the king of Makkedah as he did unto the king of Jericho.

Apparently, Israel during the battle had made camp outside of Makkedah. In the same extended day, they took this city and destroyed it and its king. The scripture says that Joshua did unto the king of Makkedah the same as he did to the king of Jericho, which means there is another monument of stones, for a memorial to Israel and her enemies, which demonstrates the great power of the God of Israel.

"And that day" Scripture here testifies; Makkedah was taken in this one extended day. I believe this is the end of the extended day.

29 Then Joshua passed from Makkedah, and all Israel with him, unto Libnah, and fought against Libnah: 30 ¶ And the LORD delivered it also, and the king thereof, into the hand of Israel; and he smote it with the edge of the sword, and all the souls that were therein; he let none remain in it; but did unto the king thereof as he did unto the king of Jericho.

Next, they proceed to Libnah, and God delivers it to Israel. Israel continues to follow God's orders and lets no person live. The scripture says that Joshua did unto the king of Libnah the same as he did to the king of Jericho, which means there is another monument of stones, for a memorial to Israel and her enemies, which demonstrates the great power of the God of Israel.

31 And Joshua passed from Libnah, and all Israel with him, unto Lachish, and encamped against it, and fought against it: 32 And the LORD delivered Lachish into the hand of Israel, which took it on the second day, and smote it with the edge of the sword, and all the souls that were therein, according to all that he had done to Libnah. 33 Then Horam king of Gezer came up to help Lachish; and Joshua smote him and his people, until he had left him none remaining.

Israel moves on to Lachish, and God delivers it to them. When the king of Gezer came to aid Lachish, God delivers him and his people to Israel.

"which took it on the second day," This is the first mention of it taking two days to take a city. Heretofore, each city was delivered up in one day, except for the one extended day mentioned above.

This is a good place to mention some note of the progression of time from when they began to invade the land of promise. We will find in Joshua 14:10; it has been a period of five years, since Israel entered the land of promise, until that point they are at. I mention this to help us get a grasp that we do not know all the spans of time between end of one battle to the beginning of the next.

After the extended day ended, we do not know how far they had to travel to get to the next place of attack. Some were near, and some were several days of journey.

34 And from Lachish Joshua passed unto Eglon, and all Israel with him; and they encamped against it, and fought against it: 35 ¶ And they took it on that day, and smote it with the edge of the sword, and all the souls that were therein he utterly destroyed that day, according to all that he had done to Lachish.

The next stop is Eglon, which falls to Israel by the power of God in one day.

36 And Joshua went up from Eglon, and all Israel with him, unto Hebron; and they fought against it: 37 ¶ And they took it, and smote it with the edge of the sword, and the king thereof, and all the cities thereof, and all the souls that *were* therein; he left none remaining, according to all that he had done to Eglon; but destroyed it utterly, and all the souls that *were* therein.

Israel proceeds from Eglon to Hebron, and they destroy them utterly.

38 And Joshua returned, and all Israel with him, to Debir; and fought against it: 39 ¶ And he took it, and the king thereof, and all the cities thereof; and they smote them with the edge of the sword, and utterly destroyed all the souls that *were* therein; he left none remaining; as he had done to Hebron, so he did to Debir, and to the king thereof; as he had done also to Libnah, and to her king.

Israel now takes Debir and destroys it utterly.

40 So Joshua smote all the country of the hills, and of the south, and of the vale, and of the springs, and all their kings: he left none remaining, but utterly destroyed all that breathed, as the LORD God of Israel commanded. 41 And Joshua smote them from Kadeshbarnea even unto Gaza, and all the country of Goshen, even unto Gibeon. 42 And all these kings and their land did Joshua take at one time, because the LORD God of Israel fought for Israel. 43 And Joshua returned, and all Israel with him, unto the camp to Gilgal.

"And all these kings and their land did Joshua take at one time" Here we see; beginning with the battle against the Amorite kings, Israel, under Joshua's leadership and the direct command of God, assisted by the power of God, has one continuous campaign, until all these mentioned heretofore have been taken and destroyed.

Not only did Israel destroy the named cities, but they also slew all the inhabitants of the land area, which belonged to these named cities. In other words, God empowered Israel to make a clean sweep and kill all their enemies, which God himself did not kill (remember God killed more people than Israel), in the land over which the five Amorite kings ruled.

What life lessons can we learn from this chapter? If we move, when called upon by God, we have the assurance of God that we will be victorious, because God will be fighting for us. We know this because our Saviour has already won the battle for us. Jesus, the Christ, has already overcome the temptations of satan; Jesus has already overcome the battle with death; Jesus has already overcome the torments of hell; Jesus has already overcome the grave by his resurrection from the dead, and ascension back into heaven from whence he came, as stated in scripture in: **1Co 15:20 ¶ "But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept."**

As we live out our Christian life and face the daily struggles and temptations; we have the promises of our Saviour and God of victory, as seen in:

- **Joh 16:33 "These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world."**
- **1Jo 4:4 "Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world."**

We must exercise faith, in the fullest degree. Consider these scriptures:

- **Heb 4:1-2; 1 ¶ "Let us therefore fear, lest, a promise being left us of entering into his rest, any of you should seem to come short of it. 2 For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it."** Here, we see; faith exercised has given them entrance into the rest of God.
- **Jas 1:5-6; 5 "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. 6 But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering."** We know, from the context of this scripture; we are to pray in faith, never doubting the power of Christ to deliver. We will receive if our prayer is in the will of God. We are told not to ask amiss.
- **1Ti 2:8 "I will therefore that men pray everywhere, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting."** We are to pray from a pure heart, not a heart that is filled with anger or doubt.

How thankful we should be, to our Saviour, for the victory we have in him, and his finished work. Having been given entrance to our land of promise, the church established by Jesus Christ, here in time; we should keep our Saviour, and his commandments, first and foremost in our lives. We should be giving thanks, and praying, with reverent fear of his power, that he will destroy our enemies before us, and/or deliver them to us for destruction, as he accomplishes the will of God the Father in our lives. Hallelujah! Amen!