

Joshua 10

Joshua 10.1-5

V1 – Who was Adoni-zedek? King of Jerusalem

- What other king of Jerusalem have we already met in the Old Testament? Melchizedek
- Some think that Melchizedek was a "pre-incarnate" appearance of Jesus in the Old Testament, but that is not correct – because here is another king of Jerusalem....
- What had Adoni-zedek heard about? Defeat of Ai and defection of the Gibeonites

V2 - Why was he so afraid? Gibeon was a major city (even bigger than Ai)

- In other words, things were not looking good for the people of Canaan

V3 – Adoni-zedek sent word to the area kings

V4 – What was the plan of Adoni-zedek? He and 4 other kings would attack Gibeon

V5 – They all attacked Gibeon – Why?

- Whenever people align themselves with God, there will be opposition
- In the New Testament, we remember that after Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead, the Jews tried to kill Lazarus (*John 11.53*)
- How insane! But this is the same reason that the Gibeonites were attacked
- Notice how Adoni-zedek made no attempt to make peace with Israelites or repent of the sins of his people

Joshua 10.6-11

V6 – What message did the people of Gibeon send? Told Joshua and soldiers to come quickly

V7 – Joshua and warriors went to Gibeon

V8 – Message of God? Do not be afraid; not one of the enemy will stand before Israel

V9 – What tactic did Joshua use? Surprise – marched all night/attacked in early morning

- Joshua still had to do something – God just didn't destroy their enemies and say, "The land is all yours"

V10 – How did God help the Israelites? Confused the enemy

V11 – How else did God help? Threw large stones out of the sky

- God did not desert his people and did not desert the Gibeonites – he destroys those who rebel against him

Read Hebrews 10.31 – a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God

Joshua 10.12-15

V12 – The fighting continued all day

-What request did Joshua make? That the sun and moon would stand still

V 13 – What Joshua prayed for happened

-Much discussion – the sun doesn't literally stand still in the sky

- "It must have been that the earth stood still"

1. From Joshua's point of view, it stood still

2. This is an expression

-Look at the local newspaper this morning (August 11, 2010):

-Sunrise: 5:56 a.m./Sunset: 7:59 p.m.

-Moonrise: 7:54 a.m./Moonset: 8:39 p.m.

-we still use this language today

ILL: We don't say, "This morning in the rotation of the earth in its orbit around the sun and with the tilt of the earth at 23 degrees off the perpendicular, the sun appeared located at 44 degrees north latitude and 88 degrees west longitude on the eastern horizon at 5:56 a.m."

-We don't literally mean that the sun "rises" at a certain time and "sets" at another time

-From our point of view, the sun does rise in the morning and set in the evening

Read the *Reason and Revelation* article by Dudley Spears

God showed his power over nature

-**Where else had he shown this power over nature to the Israelites?** 10 plagues, Red Sea, manna in wilderness, crossing Jordan River, hailstones from the sky

-Also: When Elijah prayer that it would not rain (no rain for 3½ years)

V 14 – No day before or since like that one

V 15 – The enemy was defeated

Joshua 10.16-21

V 16 – **What happened to the five enemy kings?** Fled and hid in a cave

V 17 – It was reported to Joshua

V 18 – **Instructions of Joshua?** Put large stones over the opening of the cave and guard the cave

V 19 – **More instructions?** Continue the attack on the enemies; don't let them get to their cities

V 20 – A great slaughter of the enemy

V 21 – Joshua and soldiers went back to their camp

Joshua 10.22-28 – Instructions of Joshua:

V 22 – Joshua had the cave opened and the five kings brought out

V 23 – The five kings were brought out

V 24 – **Instructions of Joshua?** Told his chiefs to put their feet on the necks of the kings

V 25 – **Significance of that?** To encourage them to be more courageous

V 26 – Joshua killed the five kings – bodies were hanged on a tree until evening

Read Deut. 21.22-23

-Christ became a curse on behalf of us

-Remembers the red cord that Rahab was told to hand from her window (another reminder of the coming Christ)

-In other words, what Joshua did pointed the way to Christ on the cross (Messianic passage)

V 27 – **What was done with the dead bodies?** They were thrown back into the cave

V 28 – The defeat of another enemy

-Was this more brutal than what God has planned for people who are sent to hell?

Joshua 10.29-39

V 29-30 – The defeat of Libnah (near Lachish)

V 31-32 – The defeat of Lachish (about 25 miles SW of Jerusalem)

V 33 – The defeat of Horam

V 34-35 – The defeat of Eglon (between Gaza and Lachish – SW of Jerusalem)

V 36-37 – The defeat of Hebron (19 miles SW of Jerusalem)

V 38-39 – The defeat of Debir (10 miles west of Hebron – city of the Anakim – Giants)

Joshua 10.40-43

V 40 – The defeat of the people in the Negev

V 41 – The defeat of Gaza (closest city to Egypt – SW of Israel)

V 42 – **What was the reason for all these victories?** God was with the Israelites

V 43 – **Where were the Israelites camping?** Gilgal

Lessons from Joshua 10

We still worship the same God – he will not tolerate rebellion against Him - **Read Romans 11.22**

Had God given the people of Canaan time to repent? Yes, they had seen what happened to Sodom and Gomorrah, but they continued in their sin

God did allow sincere people to be saved (Rahab and the Gibeonites) – there is always provision for those seeking God

Rahab and the Gibeonites had called on the mercy of God and were saved
Read *Beacon Bible Commentary*, II, 63, line 4ff - for more comments

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