



Joshua 10

The Sun Stands Still

June 23rd

Joshua 10 – The Sun Stands Still

Joshua Series

☀ Victory at Ai

☀ Covenant renewal

☀ Gibeonite Deception

☀ Enemy's tricks... Discouragement & deception

☀ People grumble against leaders

☀ Joshua chooses to honour the covenant even though deception was used to get it

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Joshua 10:1-15

As soon as Adoni-zedek, king of Jerusalem, heard how Joshua had captured Ai and had devoted it to destruction, doing to Ai and its king as he had done to Jericho and its king, and how the inhabitants of Gibeon had made peace with Israel and were among them, ² he 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 warriors. ³ So Adoni-zedek king of Jerusalem sent to Hoham king of Hebron, to Piram king of Jarmuth, to Japhia king of Lachish, and to Debir king of Eglon, saying,

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⁴ “Come up to me and help me, and let us strike Gibeon. For it has made peace with Joshua and with the people of Israel.” ⁵ Then 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 their forces and went up with all their armies and encamped against Gibeon and made war against it.

⁶ And the men of Gibeon sent to Joshua at the camp in Gilgal, saying, “Do not relax your hand from your servants. Come up to us quickly and save us and help us, for all the kings of the Amorites who dwell in the hill country are gathered against us.”

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⁷ So Joshua went up 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 given them into your hands. Not a man of them shall stand before you.” ⁹ So Joshua came upon them suddenly, having marched all night from Gilgal. ¹⁰ And the LORD threw them into a panic before Israel, who struck them with a great blow at Gibeon and chased them by the way of the ascent of Beth-horon and struck them as far as Azekah and Makkedah. ¹¹ And as they fled before Israel, while they were going down the ascent of Beth-horon, the LORD threw down large stones from heaven on them as far as Azekah, and they died.

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There were more who died because of the hailstones than the sons of Israel killed with the sword. ¹² At that time Joshua spoke to the LORD in the day when the LORD gave the Amorites over to the sons of Israel, and he said in the sight of Israel, “Sun, stand still at Gibeon, and moon, in the Valley of Aijalon.” ¹³ And the sun stood still, and the moon stopped, until the nation took vengeance on their enemies. Is this not written in the Book of Jashar? The sun stopped in the midst of heaven and did not hurry to set for about a whole day. ¹⁴ There has been no day like it before or since, when the LORD heeded the voice of a man, for the LORD fought for Israel. ¹⁵ So Joshua returned, and all Israel with him, to the camp at Gilgal.

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God Redeems Mistakes

- ☀ Joshua's big mistake did not hinder God's plan
 - ☀ Ownership of their sin and genuine repentance opened the way for God to redeem their error
 - ☀ The covenant secured through deceit is honored
 - ☀ Saving Gibeon from the Amorites opened up the door to the rest of Canaan
 - ☀ In one day, the major threats and armed resistance is eliminated from 5 major strongholds
 - ☀ God uses the enemy's tactics to defeat them...
Discouragement of super army = Everyone together

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God Chooses to Involve Us

- ☀ God chooses to partner with his people to fulfill his purposes
 - ☀ The invitation from God is always for us to join him in his mission/work
- ☀ God doesn't need us – it's for our benefit not his
 - ☀ The sun standing still was for the benefit of Israel to assure them of God's ability to deliver on his promise and to strike fear into the hearts of their enemies
 - ☀ Our greatest fulfillment comes as we accept his invitation to join him in his work

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The Call for Us Today

- ☀ Jesus extends a similar invitation to us to join him on his mission of salvation
 - ☀ God is still in the business of redeeming, making what is ugly beautiful and redeeming what is meant for evil (baptism is a reminder of this)
 - ☀ Jesus promises to build his church – our part is to make disciples
 - ☀ We are his witnesses – his agents of reconciliation who have been reconciled to God ourselves bringing a message of hope to the world