



Biblical Manhood

Remembering Our Legacy, Fulfilling Our Destiny
July/August, 2019

The Longest Day

Joshua 10:1-15 tells us about the longest day this world has ever seen. This chapter records one of God's great miracles. He worked this miracle in order to help His people and to give them victory over their enemies. This chapter is a military report. However, it is also inspired Scripture, which teaches us about God and how we are to respond to Him. In this issue of **Biblical Manhood**, I want us to see the details of the battle and the truths that apply to us today.

The Coalition (10:1-5)

Adoni-zedek, the king of Jerusalem has learned that Gibeon had surrendered to Israel. This alarmed him (10:1). First, this meant that Israel had control of the strategic, central plateau of Canaan. In addition, Gibeon had a fortified city with many mighty warriors (10:2). This king wondered, "If Gibeon gave up without a fight, what hope is there for us?"

Because of this, Adoni-zedek formed a coalition with other area kings (10:3-5). The kings mentioned here ruled within a 30 mile radius southeast of Jerusalem. These kings joined their forces to go attack Gibeon. Part of this was revenge. They saw Gibeon's surrender as traitorous. Attacking the city was a way of exacting revenge. At the same time, they would be a united force against Israel. It would

be five against one. Surely five kings united could fight and overcome the Israelite forces.

In these verses, we see the mystery of God's providence. God is always working for the good of His people. This is true even when it doesn't appear that way. God was drawing these kings and forces out of their cities. All of these people lived in fortified cities. It would take a long, hard-fought campaign to defeat and take their cities.

Yet, notice what happens. They join forces and come out against Israel. This would give Israel the opportunity to defeat and conquer five kings in one day. Instead of a long, extended campaign against these kings, they could end the battle in one day. What looked ominous was actually God's working for the good of His people.

This text is a reminder that God works for your good even when it looks the exact opposite. He will work all things together for your good. We must learn to walk by faith rather than sight. When it looks like everything is against us, God is at work. He will turn it for our good in His time and way.

The Attack (10:6-11)

When these five kings came against Gibeon, Gibeon sent an urgent message to Joshua (10:6). They called on him for help.

Joshua and Israel had made a covenant with them. They now asked Joshua to be true to that covenant.

Joshua, being a faithful man, kept the covenant he made with Gibeon. He led the Israelite forces on a twenty mile, overnight march from Gilgal to Gibeon (10:7). At some point, God spoke to Joshua; He reaffirmed His promise to Joshua, “Do not fear them, for I have given them into your hands. Not a man of them shall stand before you” (10:8).

Joshua needed this promise. Faith in God’s promise is contrary to natural behavior. This had to be an unnerving time for Joshua. For the first time, Joshua would face an enemy out in the open. This would be the first battle where they had to take an enemy head-on. I’m sure that Joshua must have had some fear and doubt.

However, notice what God does. He reminds him of the promises that he’s already made. Throughout Joshua, the LORD reminds him of the promise he made in **Joshua 1**.

The same is true for us. What’s God’s people need is not fresh truth, but old truths freshly applied. We need to anchor ourselves in God’s timeless promises. God is faithful to His Word; He will not let His promises fail. Therefore, we need to remind ourselves of His promises, claim them, and cling to them.

The overnight march and appearance of Joshua and his forces caught these kings off guard. The emphasis in these verses is on how the LORD fought for His people. He threw them into a panic; he struck them with a heavy blow, and chased them away (10:9-10). The LORD even sent a hailstorm to destroy these fleeing forces. They were attempting to get back to their fortified cities. They could regroup and prepare to fight more against Israel.

These verses show us that the victory is the LORD’s but we fight the battle. He empowers us and enables us to fight, but we have to fight. We need to see that God’s sovereignty doesn’t eliminate our laboring and battling. I would say that it should energize our battling and laboring. It should strengthen our faith and embolden our confidence in the Lord.

God has promised to give us victory over temptation (1 **Corinthians 10:13**). This is a precious promise for every child of God. Yet, how should we respond? We should respond by claiming God’s promises, resisting the temptation, praying, abiding in the Word, being filled with the Spirit, fleeing and avoiding sin. God’s promise doesn’t eliminate our activity; it actually should stir us to action in faith.

The Miracles (10:12-15)

The closing verses of this section record some of God’s greatest miracles. Most people believe there was only one miracle. However, there were actually two. One miracle is more famous than the other. Yet, God works in a powerful way in these verses.

In **Joshua 10:12**, Joshua prays to the LORD. He asks the LORD to cause the sun to stand still. Joshua knew that these fleeing armies were attempting to get back to their fortified cities. He did not want this to happen and so prolong the campaign.

God answered and worked a miracle. The sun stopped in heaven and did not set for a whole day. What exactly happened in **Joshua 10**? Four basic explanations have been set forth:

- *The poetic language view* – These words should not be taken literally. Joshua is simply asking time to finish the battle.
- *The prolongation of light view* – In this view, a slowing of the earth’s rotation prolonged the sun’s light.
- *The prolongation of darkness view* – In this view, the words “stand still” are translated as eclipse. Since Israel’s enemies worshipped the sun and moon, an eclipse would have terrified them.
- *The supernatural stopping of the sun for a day.* This is the view that I personally hold. In my opinion, God prolonged the sunlight by stopping the earth’s rotation. Israel has 24 hours of sunlight to finish this battle. I realize that many would respond by saying that this would be catastrophic for the earth. It would cause disasters all over this earth. Yet, if God can stop the earth’s rotation, surely He can also prevent these disasters and hold this world together? It was an amazing miracle. It was a day like no other in the world.

As amazing as this miracle was, there’s one other in the text. It’s found in **10:14**. The Bible tells us that God heeded the voice of a man. Doesn’t that stir your heart? The LORD listened to and did what a man asked. Could there be anything more amazing? In answer to our prayers, God works in mighty power.

This text should ignite our prayer lives. We see what God can do. He can stop the rotation of the earth. He is the sovereign God of the universe. He does hear and respond when we pray. This should rebuke our laziness in prayer. It should also convict us about our flippancy in prayer. In prayer, we approach the sovereign God, the Creator and Sustainer of everything. Prayer is the amazing privilege

that God gives to every believer. We can petition the everlasting, powerful God. Don’t waste this amazing opportunity!

World Prayer Plan

September

- 1-Poland-The Lost
- 2-Portugal
- 3-Puerto Rico
- 4-Qatar
- 5-Reunion
- 6-Romania-The Church
- 7-Romania-The Lost
- 8-Russia-The Church
- 9-Russia-The Lost
- 10-Russia-Mission Efforts
- 11-Russia-Freedom and Peace
- 12-Russia-Spiritual Awakening
- 13-Rwanda
- 14-Western Sahara
- 15-Samoa
- 16-San Marino
- 17-Sao Tome
- 18-Principe
- 19-Saudi Arabia-The Church
- 20-Saudi Arabia-Open Doors
- 21-Saudi Arabia-Persecution
- 22-Senegal
- 23-Seychelles
- 24-Sierra Leone
- 25-Singapore
- 26-Slovenia
- 27-Solomon Islands
- 28-Somalia
- 29-South Africa-The Church
- 30-South Africa-The Lost

October

- 1-South Africa-Political Future
- 2-Spain-The Church

- 3-Spain-The Lost
- 4-Sri Lanka
- 5-St. Helena and Ascension Island
- 6-St. Kittis and Nevis
- 7-St. Lucia
- 8-St. Pierre and Miquelon
- 9-St. Vincent
- 10-Sudan-The Church
- 11-Sudan-Persecuted Believers
- 12-Suriname
- 13-Svalbard
- 14-Swaziland
- 15-Sweden
- 16-Switzerland
- 17-Syria
- 18-Tajikstan
- 19-Tanzania-The Church
- 20-Tanzania-The Lost
- 21-Thailand-The Church
- 22-Thailand-The Lost
- 23-Togo
- 24-Tokelau Island
- 25-Tonga
- 26-Trinidad and Tobago
- 27-Tunisia
- 28-Turkey-The Church
- 29-Turkey-The Lost
- 30-Turkey-Mission Efforts
- 31-Turkmenistan

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