



"REASONS TO REJOICE"

"Your Words were found and I ate them, and Your Word was to me the joy and rejoicing of my heart." Jeremiah 15:16

KEEP CALM AND MARCH ON!

Marching through the Book of Joshua: Lesson 13

In chapter 9 of Joshua, the Israelites made a peace treaty with their neighbors, the Gibeonites. Even though the Israelites were deceived and this treaty was not commanded or endorsed by the Lord, Joshua and the Israelites kept their word and honored that commitment. God's great name was at stake because it was in His name that the covenant was agreed upon. Now, in chapter 10, we find the Gibeonites in trouble, and who else do they call on for help? You guessed it! Joshua himself. The Israelites were put in the place of having to defend a people that they themselves were supposed to have annihilated. Interesting things happen when we take things into our own hands instead of trusting the Lord.

Before you begin your lesson today, remember to ask the Holy Spirit to give you understanding, knowledge, and wisdom as you study. He wants to show you great and mighty things in His Word. Ask Him to give you an "ear to hear."

First Day

1. Read Joshua chapter 10. Mark any words you don't understand or questions that you have. Ask yourself the following questions as you study, writing the answers below:
 - a. Who are the main characters? Are any of them new to us?
 - b. Are there any key words, phrases, or thoughts?
 - c. Where is this taking place?

- d. When is this happening? (What time of day?)
 - e. Why is this happening?
2. How many miracles can you find in this chapter? List them.
 3. Who was the instigator of this battle?
 4. What emotion do you think the king of Jerusalem was acting on?

We can learn many lessons from this pagan group of people. This king allowed fear, and possibly anger, to affect his ability to make decisions. When we let our emotions get the best of us, we make terrible mistakes that hurt others, destroy friendships, and ruin lives. What God was doing in the lives of the Israelites was having varied effects on the people of Canaan. Some attributed their successes to God. Rahab (2:9-11) and the Gibeonites (9:9) were of this group. Others, like these kings in chapter 10, and the group of people in 9:1, became "faint hearted" and greatly afraid.

5. What are the dangers of making decisions based on our emotions of fear or anger? What can be some of the consequences?
6. Think of a decision that you made out of fear or anger. How did it affect everyone involved? What were the consequences?
7. In 1 Samuel 25, David almost makes a terrible decision when reacting emotionally. Read this chapter. What emotion was he reacting to? How did God change his heart? What was the result?

8. What application do you see for your own life from 1 Samuel 25?

9. Have you recently been allowing your emotions to control you in any area of your life? What do you need to do about it?

Women are influenced so much by their emotions. If we choose to respond in our flesh and allow ourselves to be controlled by our emotions, we can create much havoc in our homes.

10. As parents, what can happen when we discipline our children according to our emotions, rather than God's Word? What can be the results?

11. What would you title this chapter?

This ends our lesson for today. These kings should never have tried to come against God's protected people. What were they thinking? (I guess they weren't!) Tomorrow we will take a closer look at the battle, but for now, what's your "**Reason to Rejoice**" today? I'm rejoicing that God keeps His Word. Can you rejoice with me?

Memory Verse of the Week: "So the sun stood still, and the moon stopped, till the people had revenge upon their enemies." **Joshua 10:13**

Second Day

Review your memory verse.

1. Read Joshua 10:1-8. Why did the kings want to attack Gibeon? List a few possible reasons.

These Amorites were ancient enemies of God's people (Numbers 21:21-23). They were descendants of Canaan (Genesis 10:15-16) and were one of the seven nations of Canaan. They were a wicked people (Genesis 15:16) and they worshipped idols (Judges 6:10). The names of the kings have interesting meanings:

1. Adoni-Zedek "lord of righteousness"
2. Hoham "Jah (God) protects"
3. Piram "wild" or "fierce"
4. Japhia "high" or "elevated"
5. Debir "speaker"

2. What three things does verse two say about the city of Gibeon?
3. Jarmuth and Eglon are never mentioned again in Scripture. But what else happened at Hebron? Read Genesis 13:14-18, 23:2, 19; Numbers 13:21-25; and 2 Samuel 3:2, 2:1-4.

The coalition of the five kings represented the area of southern Canaan, which Israel still needed to take.

4. What did the kings have to gain by joining together?
5. What attitude do you sense when the Gibeonites asked for help?
6. Why do you think Joshua responded so quickly? Why did he respond at all?
7. How did the Lord encourage Joshua to go for it? Was it a new promise?

God often encourages us by reaffirming promises that He has already given. Dale Davis said, **"That is what God's people usually need, not new truth, but old truth freshly applied to their current need."**

8. Has God been using an "old truth" to encourage you lately? Have you been applying it?

9. What does Psalm 119:89 say about God's Word? How does this relate to the above question?

10. What is God's Word called in Philippians 2:16?

Just as Joshua responded quickly to the Gibeonites' cry for help, our God responds to us when we call. Tomorrow we will look at God's response to the cries of His children. What a comforting thing to think about.

Third Day

What's your memory verse? Do you know it? How does it minister to your heart?

1. Read Joshua 10:1-15. How long did it take for Joshua and the troops to march to Gibeon?

From Gilgal, Gibeon was about a 20-mile march up a road which ascended 3,300 feet. Yikes! They must have been tired!

2. What do you think kept the Israelites going?

3. Do you have a specific promise that keeps you going when you're weary? (One of mine is Galatians 6:9.) Can you share yours?

God strengthened His people to do His work. God always equips His kids for whatever He calls them to do. Whether we are weak or tired,

scared or confused, God will empower us with His Spirit to accomplish His divine purpose.

4. Has God ever supernaturally given you the ability to stay awake all night and minister? (Did you complain about the lack of sleep or rejoice in His awesome power?)

We've already learned that Joshua is a type of Christ. The name Joshua means "Jehovah is Salvation." Joshua responded quickly when the Gibeonites called him for help. He didn't have to, but he did. Our Savior responds quickly when we call upon His name. He hears our cries and comes to our rescue. He is our deliverer and a very present help in time of trouble (Psalm 46:1).

5. According to these verses, what happens when we call upon the Lord?
 - a. Psalm 4:3
 - b. Psalm 18:3
 - c. Psalm 55:16
 - d. Psalm 86:7
 - e. Psalm 145:18

6. Is there a time when God won't hear your cries? What does Isaiah 59:2 say about this?

Just as Joshua protected the Gibeonites from the Amorites, the Lord also protects us from our enemies, as well as from other dangers and temptations.

7. What kinds of things does God protect us from?
 - a. 2 Thessalonians 3:3
 - b. 1 Corinthians 10:13
 - c. Psalm 56:9
 - d. Jude 24
 - e. Psalm 91:3-7

8. How have you seen God's protection in your life? What specific things has the enemy been attacking you with? How has God protected you?

When I was a kid, I played hide-and-seek just about every day! It was one of my favorite games. In fact, I still like to play! God likes us to play "hide-and-seek" with Him, too! When we are afraid, He wants us to "hide" in Him (Psalm 32:7) and "seek" His face (Psalm 27:8). Just as the Gibeonites ran to Joshua when they were afraid, we should immediately run to our Lord! Let's rejoice that God can save us from anyone and anything!

Fourth Day

What's your memory verse? Can you recite it to someone?

Panic overtook the enemies as Israel came upon them! They didn't even attempt to make a united stand. They fled as fast as they could. I'm sure I would, too, if huge hailstones were falling from Heaven.

Verse 10 gives us a quick summary of what happened. More details are given in the next few verses.

1. Read Joshua 10:10-21
2. How were most of the enemies killed?
3. Who gets the credit for these victories? Is it the strength of Israel's army? Is it Joshua's awesome military plan? Give the verse that supports your answer.

This battle was taking place on the "descent" of Beth Horon. Beth Horon is the name of two towns, an "upper" and a "lower." The upper village is about four miles from Gibeon, the road always on the "ascent." The "descent" begins from the upper to the lower village, and that road is the roughest and the steepest in Palestine. It is still used as the road from the coast. The road that these two cities were built on was very important. It

was the main approach to the interior of the country from the hostile neighbors on both sides.

Azekah was a town in the plains of Judah with many suburban villages (Nehemiah 11:30) and was of considerable strength (Jeremiah 34:7).

4. What did Joshua pray for? Why? Did God answer his prayer?
5. What does Joshua's prayer tell us about his faith?
6. Do you think Joshua was surprised when God answered that prayer?
7. What do your prayers say about your faith? Would you even think about praying for something that big?
8. If you believe something enough and have enough faith, will you get it?
Read Matthew 21:21-22, 1 John 5:14-15, and James 4:2-3.
9. Imagine being there to see the sun stand still. What do you think they were thinking?
10. Has the sun ever "stood still" for you? Think about it!

Probably most of you answered "no" to the above question. Well, I don't know about you, but I've often prayed that God would "lengthen my days" and cause time to stand still so that I could get everything done that I had to do. I've never actually seen the sun stand still, but I tell you, it sure seemed like it! God has always seemed to lengthen my days. He is my provider, even of time. He can do anything!

How the "sun stood still" and "the moon stopped" isn't known for sure. Many argue that Joshua needed the daylight to be prolonged, so he prayed for the sun to stay up. Others argue that Joshua may have been asking for more darkness, because they attacked in the early hours of the morning, when it was still dark. Did the calendar lose a day? What happened? It doesn't matter at all how it happened, just that it happened! God's miracles can't be fully explained, can they? The most important fact about this whole thing is found in verse 14, "for the Lord fought for Israel."

11. Where are we told that this event is recorded?

Who is this "Jasher"? Jasher means "righteous" and could be a righteous man or a book written of an upright man, godly in behavior. Many believe that this book is a collection of poems in praise of certain heroes. It is also quoted from in 2 Samuel 1:18. It is thought that this book may have been lost in the captivity.

Verse 15 says that they all went back to Gilgal, but in verse 21 we are told that they went to Makkedah. This is not a contradiction. Most scholars think of verse 15 as just a completion of that story. The story opens again in verse 16 with the rest of the chapter describing the follow-up of the initial battle. This is common in Hebrew narratives.

12. What do you think is the most important thing that is relevant to us today from this incident?

13. During the battle, where did all the kings go?

14. What did Joshua first have his men do? What purpose did this serve?

Earlier we discussed "hiding in Christ." These men did hide, but not where they should have. Often we run to other things to hide our troubles or our pain.

15. What are some other things that we run to when we're in trouble, other than the Lord? Think back on your day. What, or who, were you hiding in?

This ends our lesson for today. This whole event reminds me of **Psalm 19:1**, "The Heavens declare the glory of God, and the firmament shows His handiwork." **Psalm 113:3** says, "From the rising of the sun to its going down, the name of the Lord should be praised." Those Israelites sure saw God's handiwork in the Heavens. Are you looking for Him today?

Fifth Day

Write your verse by memory.

Hey! Whatever happened to the kings? Are they still in the cave? Let's find out!

1. Read Joshua 10:15-43.
2. What were the men told to do to the five kings? Why?

"This was a widespread eastern custom for victorious kings to put their feet upon the necks of conquered enemies. The aim was to publicly humiliate their foes. The ancients considered the foot to be the lowest part of the body, in status as well as physically. The head (after the neck) was the most honorable, exalted part. Hence, this gesture implied that the enemy's most honorable parts were lower than the victor's least ones."

(Joshua, Lifechange Series) Paul tells us in 1 Corinthians 15:24-25 "that Jesus puts an end to all rule and all authority and power, for He must reign until He has put all enemies under His feet."

3. What happened to the kings after they were killed? (Deuteronomy 21:22-23)
4. Another stone memorial was set up. What was this one supposed to remind them of?
5. Read verses 28-39. Describe the pattern you see. What phrases are repeated?
6. Name the cities that are taken.

In 10:29-35, the army is fighting in the foothills. In verse 36, they move to the mountains. The conquest of southern Canaan is now finished. Joshua and the Israelites have taken possession of it. Their plan was to cut across the land and divide it, then conquer the southern cities, then move to the north. Remember that the possession of this land was not a fruit of their labors, but a gift from God!

7. Read Joshua 10:40-43. From verse 42, discuss man's role and God's role in our battles.
8. What is the emphasis of this entire chapter?
9. What specifically spoke to your heart from this week's lesson?
10. What is your personal prayer regarding this truth?

11. What did you learn about God this week?

Joshua and the troops return to Gilgal once more. Next week we continue moving north with Joshua as he takes possession of even more of the Promised Land. The miracle of the sun standing still and the stopping of the moon is the last recorded miracle in the Book of Joshua. But it's not God's last miracle! We can "**rejoice**" in that!

12. Read Psalm 124:1-8. (David wrote this psalm, but it sure sounds like it could have been written by Joshua.) Have you had a day this week when you've felt like you could've been overwhelmed by the waters? What should we remember at times like that? Can you bless the Lord, because He's on your side?