

"The Sun Stands Still" *Joshua 10:1-27*

Open: Story

- Jerusalem, at this time, was ruled by a pagan king, King Adonizedek. The children of Israel had not yet acquired this city for their own possession. **vs. 1**
- King Adonizedek heard about the fall of Jericho; the fall of Ai, and how Joshua made alliance with Gibeon, one of the most powerful cities in Canaan. (*One of the "Royal Cities"*) **vs. 2**
- King Adonizedek sends out messengers to 5 different cities to form an Alliance with them. **vs. 3**
- These 5 Amorite Kings gathered their troops and made ready for war and gathered against the city of Gibeon. They were going to try to divide and conquer. **vs. 4-5**
- Joshua receives a message from their alliance against Gibeon and immediately sets off with his army. They travel all night to get to the battlefield. **vs. 6-9**
 - On the way to the battle, God assures Joshua of the victory. **vs. 9**
- Almost immediately Israel begins to see the path of victory. Israel watches as God assists them in destroying the enemy. **vs. 10-11**
 - God sends hail stones big enough to kill men in armour.
- Joshua makes a crazy request and, an even more crazy, God grants the request. **vs. 12-14**
 - Joshua doesn't ask; he simply tells the sun and the moon to stand still, and God hearkens to his voice.
- Joshua does not stop the battle for anything. **vs. 19**
 - They come across the kings of the armies they are facing and, instead of stopping, they blockade the cave they were hiding in. **vs. 16-18**
- After the battle, Joshua calls for the kings to be brought before him and sentences them to be hung. **vs. 22-27**

Tran:

- We should not be surprised when battles come, the Christian life is a battle between the flesh and the Spirit. **II Cor. 10:3, 6** *"For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: ... [6] And **having in a readiness to revenge all disobedience, when your obedience is fulfilled.**"*
 - We are not to be ignorant of the fact that the Christian life is a battle.
 - We are to live our Christian life with a "readiness" for the battles we will face.
- We should remain dependent on God when the battles come. **Ps. 18:29-35** *"For by thee I have run through a troop; and by my God have I leaped over a wall. [30] As for God, his way is perfect: the word of the LORD is tried: he is a buckler to all those that trust in him. [31] For who is God save the LORD? or who is a rock save our God? [32] It is God that girdeth me with strength, and maketh my way perfect. [33] He maketh my feet like hinds' feet, and setteth me upon my high places. [34] He teacheth my hands to war, so that a bow of steel is broken by mine arms. [35] Thou hast also given me the shield of thy salvation: and thy right hand hath holden me up, and thy gentleness hath made me great."*
 - Don't forsake the source of victories in the previous battles.
 - Stay in recognition by Whose hand victory comes.
- We should not quit till the battle is won. **II Cor. 4:16-18** *"For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day. [17] For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; [18] While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal."*
 - Yes, the battle will be difficult; but God will renew our strength.
 - We need to view this battle in light of eternity not in light of the convenience of the moment.

I. Recognize from where strength and comfort for battles come. vs. 1-9

- Israel, in **Joshua 10:1-6**, learn of a great force that has unified to fight against them (5 nations).
 - A close examination of the story reveals to us that they spent all night traveling (vs. 9) before spending all the next day fighting in battle. **Joshua 10:13-14**
- A. God has not given us the spirit of fear (**II Tim 1:7**), He has given us His promises to trust in during the time of fear and uncertainty. **Deu. 3:22** “*Ye shall not fear them: for the LORD your God he shall fight for you.*”
- i. Trust and not fear. Fear wears on the emotions, the mind, and the body. This is why Joshua is told by God to not fear (Joshua 10:8). **Gal. 6:9** “*And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.*”
 - ii. We need to not respond to fear the way the world does, uniting with man (**Joshua 10:1-4**), we need to respond by standing united on the truths of God’s promises.
 - iii. Fear is a direct result of not knowing what the one in control knows. **ILL: Flying in an airplane during a storm.**
- B. No matter how strong we are, we will get weary in the battle; that is why we must rely on Him as our source of strength. **Is. 40:29-31** “*He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increaseth strength. [30] Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall: [31] But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.*”
- Recognize comfort and strength in battle is a direct result of resting on a promise from God. **Is. 40:1, 9-10** “*Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, saith your God. ... [9] O Zion, that bringest good tidings, get thee up into the high mountain; O Jerusalem, that bringest good tidings, lift up thy voice with strength; lift it up, be not afraid; say unto the cities of Judah, Behold your God! [10] Behold, the Lord GOD will come with strong hand, and his arm shall rule for him: behold, his reward is with him, and his work before him.*”

II. Recognize from where victory in battle comes. vs. 10-14

- No battle in the Christian life can be won by our strength or wisdom. **II Cor. 10:4** “*(For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;)*”
 - Israel experienced victory because they recognized that victory could only come by God’s hand. **Joshua 10:10** “*And the LORD discomfited them before Israel, and slew them with a great slaughter...*”
- A. God had not left us here to fight the battle our own way; but by His might, power, and Spirit. **Zech. 4:6** “*Then he answered and spake unto me, saying, This is the word of the LORD unto Zerubbabel, saying, Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts.*”
- i. Recognize that supernatural strength comes as a response to our faith in a supernatural Being. **Ps. 18:26** “*For by thee I have run through a troop; and by my God have I leaped over a wall.*”
 - ii. Israel saw God work in a supernatural way because they, by faith, fought the battle God’s way. **Joshua 10:11** “*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.*”

B. Recognizing where victory comes from not only keeps us blessable, because we are humble (**James 4:6**); but it also removes the stress of trying to figure out how to bring victory by our own hand (**Ps. 98:1**). **I Chron. 29:11-12** *“Thine, O LORD, is the greatness, and the power, and the glory, and the victory, and the majesty: for all that is in the heaven and in the earth is thine; thine is the kingdom, O LORD, and thou art exalted as head above all. [12] Both riches and honour come of thee, and thou reignest over all; and in thine hand is power and might; and in thine hand it is to make great, and to give strength unto all.”*

- Our faith is not only a shield (**Eph. 6:16**) and defense in battle, but it is the avenue by which God delivers victory to the obedient. **I John 5:4** *“For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.”*

III. Recognize the importance of staying focused in battle. vs. 15-27

- We cannot get distracted by past victories or current success during battles. Celebration comes soon enough, and it will be sweeter if we stay focused on the task at hand. **Phil. 3:13-14** *“Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, [14] I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.”*
- Joshua led Israel to remain focused on total victory. He did not allow them to be satisfied with the capture of important military might. **Joshua 10:17-19** *“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.”*

A. Strength and comfort in battle is a direct result of staying focused on who God is. **Is. 40:12-25**

- **Is. 40:26** *“Lift up your eyes on high, and behold who hath created these things, that bringeth out their host by number: he calleth them all by names by the greatness of his might, for that he is strong in power; not one faileth.”*

B. Remaining focused on the finish line will keep our eyes focused on the task at hand during battle. **II Tim. 4:7-8** *“I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: [8] Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.”*

- **Heb. 12:2** *“Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.”*

Close:

- Recognize the source of strength.
- Recognize the source of victory.
- Stay focused in battle.

Ps. 18:29-35

“As for God, his way is perfect: the word of the LORD is tried: he is a buckler to all those that trust in him.”