

Joshua

Lesson #11, Chapter 10

As you work on this lesson, ask the Lord to help you think as He thinks. Seek His wisdom as you study Joshua Chapter 10.

1. Fear, courage, blood, bravery, destruction and obedience spill out upon the page in Chapter 10. It is good to be mindful of how God viewed the people of the land and what His intentions were for the Israelites. See Gen. 15:12-21; Ex. 19:3-6; Lev. 18:1-5, 24-30; 20:22-26; Deut. 9:4-5; 20:16-18. Record your findings.
2. Why is the king of Jerusalem fearful (verses 1-2)?
3. What does King Adoni-zedek's fear spur him on to do (verses 3-5)?
4. Locate the cities mentioned on the map at the end of this lesson. Take note of the route the 5 kings took to arrive at Gibeon.
5. With the armies gathering to attack, what do the Gibeonite's do? See verse 6.
6. How does Joshua respond to their plea for help (verse 7)? Why didn't he just ignore the plea and let the Gibeonites be destroyed (9:15, 18-20)?

7. What consequences does Joshua face because the leaders of Israel failed to consult the Lord first before making a covenant with the Gibeonites?

8. Sometimes the outcome of a foolish act stays with us for a long time. How has God used the consequences of a foolish act for good in your life? How has suffering the consequences of your own foolishness or sinfulness helped you to never commit that act of folly again?

9. For the sixth time in this book God encourages Joshua that He is with him. What does God remind Joshua in verse 8?

10. How does Joshua respond to that promise in verse 9?

11. Many times, we are guilty of not really heeding and applying the promises of God to our lives. God intends for His word to be a help and encouragement to us. Read the following verses and ask yourself: Do these promises really make a difference in my life? How have they helped me? Is my life different because I understand and apply these verses to my thinking? Luke 12:7 *Indeed, the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Do not fear; you are more valuable than many sparrows.* Rom. 8:31 *What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who is against us?* Heb. 13:5-6 *Make sure that your character is free from the love of money, being content with what you have; for He Himself has said, "I will never desert you, nor will I ever forsake you," so that we confidently say, "The Lord is my helper, I will not be afraid. What will man do to me?*

12. Locate Gilgal and Gibeon on your map. What is the distance between the two cities? See if you can find out more about the trek that the warriors of Israel took from Gilgal to Gibeon and record it here.

13. Verses 10 and 11 record the battle. What is so unusual about this battle?

14. Verses 10-11 record the battle in a compressed, generalized manner. Verses 12-15 record more specific details of the battle that ensued. With God's promise of verse 8 in his head, what remarkable thing does Joshua pray concerning the battle (verses 12-13)?

15. The sun stopped! God suspended the physical laws of the universe and miraculously aided the Israelites. "Various natural explanations have been given as to what actually happened at this time. But it is enough to know that it was a miracle which resulted in an extended day for fighting. Spurgeon says, 'How He did it is no question for us. ...It is not ours to try and soften down miracles, but to glorify God in them (From the Believer's Bible Commentary).'" Read Is. 40:12-31. List ten things you learn about God from that passage.

16. Verse 14 records that *there was no day like that before it or after it, when the Lord listened to the voice of a man*. In what way did God listen to the voice of a man? Did Joshua's prayer move the unchangeable will of God to do his bidding? Or was Joshua praying in line with God's will? (Keep in mind 1 Jn. 5:14.) How do clues from the context show that it was already God's intention to do mighty things for Israel? See verse 8, 10-11, and the rest of verse 14.

17. In verses 16-17 what do you see of the character of the five kings?

18. Why does Joshua keep the kings trapped in the cave rather than kill them immediately (verses 19-21)? What priority did he give his captains?

19. After the battle, the 5 kings are retrieved from their hiding place. What does Joshua have the chiefs of the army do (verse 24)? Why (verse 25)?

20. What valuable truths are the people of Israel learning about God during this time?

21. Why did Joshua have the dead bodies of the kings removed at sunset? See Deut. 21:22-23.

22. Verses 28-39 give the details of each city that was conquered, while verse 40 provides a summary of the whole chapter. What is it? What leadership qualities did Joshua show throughout this whole chapter?

23. This chapter is a wonderful example of God's miracles and how the battle belongs to the Lord. However, the Israelites did have to go to battle. The Lord expected them to fight. Joshua sprinted uphill to fight for Gibeon, then he fought solidly for two days. How can you be as diligent in the battles the Lord has called you to fight? Do you get discouraged and tire too easily? Consider 1 Cor. 15:10 and Phil. 2:12-13 in light of what we have learned from this lesson.

