

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. Was it right or wrong for Israel to allow the Gibeonites to make peace with them?
2. How did the alliance of enemy kings from the south actually help Joshua and his army conquer Canaan?
3. The Gibeonites came to Joshua for help. Are we willing to ask others for help?
4. Are we as ready to help our brothers in time of need as Joshua was to help the Gibeonites?
5. How can we become more sensitive to the needs of others?
6. How did the sun stand still?
7. What was symbolic of placing a foot on the neck of a captive?
8. What principle can we learn from Israel's triumphant victory against five armies?

SUMMARY:

An alliance was made against God's people, but Joshua had faith and courage to trust God. God intervened and thwarted the enemy. He performed the miracle of stilling the sun and moon, at Joshua's request, thus showing what faith in Him can do. We must surrender to God and trust Him in all things if we are to live lives that will be examples to others.

NOTES:

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Bible Lesson #5

August 2, 2015

Third Quarter

OVERCOMING THE ODDS

LESSON TEXT: *Joshua 10:1-27*

LESSON SETTING: The men of Gibeon ask Joshua to help in defending their city.

TIME: Approximately 1451 B.C.

I. THE ENEMY'S PLOT. Joshua 10:1-5

- A. Know the Enemy.
 1. Father of lies. John 8:44
 2. Arch deceiver. Genesis 3:4-5; Matthew 4:6; 2 Corinthians 2:11; 11:14
- B. Know his Tactics. Luke 4:6-7; Acts 5:1-3; 8:18-19; 1 Peter 5:8
 1. Uses others.
 2. Usually has us outnumbered.
 3. Uses greed.

II. RESPONDING TO OTHERS' NEEDS. Joshua 10:6-9, 15-27

- A. According to Opportunity and Ability. Galatians 6:10; 1 Peter 4:11
- B. In Cooperation with God. Mark 16:20
- C. Willingly. Isaiah 1:19; 1 Thessalonians 2:8
- D. Carried to Completion. Galatians 6:9

III. GOD PROMISES TO HELP. Joshua 10:10-14

- A. Always Ready to Help. Psalm 145:18; Isaiah 41:10, 13
- B. A Complete Victory. Exodus 14:13-14

GOLDEN TEXT: *YE ARE OF GOD, LITTLE CHILDREN, AND HAVE OVERCOME THEM: BECAUSE GREATER IS HE THAT IS IN YOU, THAN HE THAT IS IN THE WORLD.*

1 John 4:4

NEXT SUNDAY'S LESSON: Joshua 24:1-28

SUPPLEMENTAL REFERENCES: 1 Kings 18; Luke 16:1-13;
Romans 6:16; 2 Timothy 4:1-8

QUARTERLY THEME: Early Days in Canaan

TOPIC: WHOM WILL YE SERVE?

INTRODUCTION:

Joshua was getting old and realized his days were numbered. His heart must have ached when he thought that his people would be left behind. So he stood before them encouraging them, pleading with them to remain close to God. He reviewed what God had done for them and renewed God's promises to care for them in like manner for the future, if they would obey God. If they were disobedient, destruction would follow swiftly. He asked them not to mingle with the heathen living so close to them.

Likewise, we plead to the youth of today. Seek to learn to know your God, cling to Him and refrain from mingling with the temptations so varied and alluring to the unconverted. You have been taught from childhood the way to eternal life by God-fearing parents, teachers and ministers. Your responsibilities in accepting Christ are much greater than many around you who never had the privilege of the teaching that you have had. You will be held more accountable than they and if you reject Him your punishment will be greater. Come to Him now, we plead, accept Him as your loving Savior and rejoice in His love. Take Him at His Word, believe His many promises, be obedient to His commands and you shall have life eternal.

CENTRAL TRUTH: Man's freedom to determine his own destiny presents him with the challenge of life's greatest decision.

GOLDEN TEXT: *CHOOSE YE THIS DAY WHOM YE WILL SERVE
... AS FOR ME AND MY HOUSE WE WILL SERVE THE LORD.*

Joshua 24:15

When Joshua was old and ready to give up his leadership of Israel he called all the leaders, elders, judges and officers together to review all that the Lord had done for them. He could show how God had given them victory over every nation, and kept every promise that He had made. He also reminded them that God would only fight for them as long as they remained true to His laws and serve Him. Joshua must have had a premonition that Israel would forsake God's ways and worship the gods of the nations around them. He realized that to serve God was a matter of free choice, because God wants willing servants, who do His will through love and not by force. "Take good heed therefore unto yourselves, that ye love the Lord your God."

(Joshua 23:11)

Now, in this day of grace, the example of Joshua is still the way of blessedness in this life and the life to come. "but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." (Joshua 24:15)

DAILY BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF August 3—9

M. *Joshua Challenges Israel. Joshua 24:1-17

T. The Challenge of Past Blessings. Joshua 23:1-9

W. The Challenge of God's Promises. Joshua 23:10-16

T. *The Challenge to Continued Faithfulness. Joshua 24:18-28

F. The Challenge to Responsibility. Luke 16:1-12

S. The Challenge to Holy Living. Romans 6:1-16

S. The Challenge of Eternal Reward. 2 Timothy 4:1-8

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