



## 21 Joshua Chapter 10 – Showers of Blessing

We all have battles all around us. Are you having battles with sin, the enemy, and just life? In the Book of Joshua, we're learning how to walk by faith and not by sight. We are learning over and

over how to have divine appointments in preparation for these battles. We are learning how to lean on the Lord and how to be in prayer and not be self-sufficient. We need to stay humble and in tune to what the Holy Spirit is saying to us. Somehow during this study of Joshua I truly am learning to pray differently than I have ever prayed. I am understanding more and more how my life must be centered on Christ to make any sense.

Do you remember when we first found Israel in Gilgal? That was right after Israel crossed the Jordan and Joshua circumcised all of the men. They put up an altar of stones with the plaster on it, and they inscribed the Torah in it. Then they celebrated the Passover at Gilgal. Gilgal is still the place where Israel camped after each battle. The Passover reminded Israel forever of what God had done for them there at the beginning in Egypt. "Returning to Gilgal" for us is going back to the bedrock of our faith. It is remembering again and again that we must seek the Lord's face to make it through the battles of life. We always go back to Gilgal, which for us, is the cross.

Each time Israel went out to fight, they went out from Gilgal, and would return to Gilgal. That is the place of remembrance and recommitment; where it all happens. For us that place is the cross. Each time we go out into the world and fight the good fight we come back to the cross. The cross reminds us that Jesus died for our sins (as believers we died with him as well). Our lives are not our own. We are new creations (2 Corinthians 5:17). So as we start into chapter 10, let's keep all of this in mind.

**10** Now it came about when Adoni-zedek king of Jerusalem heard that Joshua had captured Ai, and had utterly destroyed it (just as he had done to Jericho and its king, so he had done to Ai and its king), and that the inhabitants of Gibeon had made peace with Israel and were within their land, 2 that he feared greatly because Gibeon was a great city, like one of the royal cities, and because it was greater than Ai, and all its men were mighty. (Joshua 10:1-2, NASB).

We learn here that Gibeon was a strong kingdom. Remember on Wednesday, we studied how the Gibeonites basically tricked Israel into a truce. They went over to the side of Israel even though we learn here that they were mighty warriors. The text tells us that they were a "great city." They didn't make peace with Israel because of their weakness, but they realized, in spite of their strength, they could not beat the God of Israel on a battle field. Adoni-Zedek was downhearted because he realized that the Gibeonites had somehow made peace with Israel (even though they did it through a deception). Because of this, he created a confederation of city states to go against Israel.

*<sup>3</sup> Therefore Adoni-zedek king of Jerusalem sent word to Hoham king of Hebron, to Piram king of Jarmuth, to Japhia king of Lachish, and to Debir king of Eglon, saying, (Joshua 10:3, NASB).*

Remember now that Jerusalem would not fall to Israel until David's conquest when it would be called the City of David. That was hundreds of years later. I've put a timeline website in the footnotes below.<sup>1</sup> At this point, all of the kings in the area hatched out a plan to band together to come against Israel.

*<sup>4</sup> "Come up to me and help me, and let's attack Gibeon, for it has made peace with Joshua and with the sons of Israel." <sup>5</sup> So the five kings of the Amorites, the king of Jerusalem, the king of Hebron, the king of Jarmuth, the king of Lachish, and the king of Eglon, gathered together and went up, they with all their armies, and camped by Gibeon and fought against it. (Joshua 10:4-5, NASB).*

They needed to take Gibeon because it was central to the defense of Canaan. As we read, it was a powerful city. This was kind of the same phenomenon that happens now when a country makes a truce with Israel while all the other Arab countries turn on that country.

*<sup>6</sup> Then the men of Gibeon sent word to Joshua at the camp at Gilgal, saying, "Do not abandon your servants; come up to us quickly and save us and help us, for all the kings of the Amorites that live in the hill country have assembled against us."*

*<sup>7</sup> So Joshua went up from Gilgal, he and all the people of war with him, and all the valiant warriors. <sup>8</sup> And the LORD said to Joshua, "Do not fear them, for I have handed them over to you; not one of them will stand against you." (Joshua 10:6-8, NASB).*

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.matthewmcgee.org/ottimlin.html>

We don't really see Joshua falling on his face before the Lord, but from what we read it definitely looks like Joshua finally got the message about praying to the Lord before he went into battle because we see here that the Lord is speaking to him. Joshua had learned his lesson not only back there in Ai, but he also learned that he should have prayed before Israel made peace with Gibeon. And now, because of his mistake in sizing up Gibeon, he finds himself and Israel having to defend Gibeon.

He certainly had reasons to be disappointed with the situation he had gotten himself into, but here God tells him once again, "Do not fear them, for I have handed them over to you." You know, it is easy for us to also be disappointed with choices and mistakes we make. It is so easy to beat up on ourselves, and the enemy loves to accuse as well. Some of you may have forgotten, but the meaning of the Hebrew word "Satan" means "accuser." Satan accuses, but God redeems. God will use this incident to give Joshua and Israel SHOWERS OF BLESSING that they could not have ever imagined. I think part of the blessing of the peace treaty with Gibeon is that it caused most all of Israel's enemies to be gathered in one place where they could be dealt with.

This is why we chose the song "Showers of Blessing" to sing today. Sometimes even when we've made a mess of things, God overwhelms us with His goodness and His grace. That is when we experience "showers of blessing." The enemy wants to rub our noses in our mistakes, but God can use our multitude of mistakes to bring about showers of blessings in our lives. This is an Old Testament manifestation of exactly what believers experience in Romans 8:28 where scripture tells us, *<sup>28</sup> And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are called according to his purpose.* (Romans 8:28, KJV). God is so good to us. He is so forgiving of our many mistakes. Here God is taking the multiple mistakes of Joshua and is pouring out blessing on Joshua and on Israel in spite of mistakes that they have made.

You see, God is bigger than your mistakes. God is even bigger than the cumulative effect of ALL OF YOUR MISTAKES. The enemy wants us to dwell on our mistakes, but God is there to take all of our mistakes and turn them around. He can if we will let Him do so. Let's read what happens.

*<sup>9</sup> So Joshua came upon them suddenly by marching all night from Gilgal. <sup>10</sup> And the LORD brought them into confusion before Israel, and He struck them down in a great defeat at Gibeon, and pursued them by the way of the ascent to Beth-horon and struck them as far as Azekah and Makkedah. <sup>11</sup> And as they fled from Israel, while they were at the descent of Beth-horon, the LORD hurled large stones from heaven on them as far as*

*Azekah, and they died; there were more who died from the hailstones than those whom the sons of Israel killed with the sword. (Joshua 10:9-11, NASB).*

Wow! This shower of hailstones on their enemies was literally God's showers of blessing on Israel. As I read this, I remembered a hailstorm one time when I was out on Lake Somerville. I was out there in the middle of August swimming with a bunch of friends from TAMU. I looked off in the distance and saw something out on the water that looked like steam. We were all just wondering what in the world it was. I had never seen something so strange. Pretty soon, a huge hail storm came over us. The hail stones were so big that we had to go under the water to not get pelted in the head. This is what happened to Israel's enemies but in a gigantic way. The hail stones were so large it killed their enemies. Now if you think that was a miracle, look at what happened next.

*<sup>12</sup> Then Joshua spoke to the LORD on the day when the LORD turned the Amorites over to the sons of Israel, and he said in the sight of Israel,*

*"Sun, stand still at Gibeon,  
And moon, at the Valley of Aijalon!"*

*<sup>13</sup> So the sun stood still, and the moon stopped,  
Until the nation avenged themselves of their enemies. (Joshua 10:12-13a, NASB).*

The Hebrew says here that it SLOWED DOWN.

*Is it not written in the Book of Jashar? And the sun stopped in the middle of the sky and did not hurry to go down for about a whole day. <sup>14</sup> There was no day like that before it or after it, when the LORD listened to the voice of a man; for the LORD fought for Israel. <sup>15</sup> Then Joshua and all Israel with him returned to the camp at Gilgal. (Joshua 10:13b-15, NASB).*

We don't know exactly what went on here. I don't know about astronomy or eclipses, but something happened here (it doesn't matter what happened, just that God did a miracle). The writer is recording what he saw. May people love to point to this and say that the Bible can't be true because of this weird event that is described.

Let me tell you something. If you can believe that "God created the heavens and the earth," then you can believe that He can do anything He wants to do with His creation. As I told you all when we did our Torah study in Genesis 1, what matters is the WHO and not the HOW or WHEN. God can do whatever He wants to do. God is not limited by His own creation. He is not contained in space and time. He is the one upon whom all of creation depends. His power was manifested in the parting of the Red Sea, the crossing of the Jordan, and in the healing of the Gerasene Demoniac.

## **Victory at Makkedah**

*<sup>16</sup> Now these five kings had fled and hidden themselves in the cave at Makkedah. <sup>17</sup> And it was told to Joshua, saying, "The five kings have been found hidden in the cave at Makkedah." <sup>18</sup> So Joshua said, "Roll large stones against the mouth of the cave, and post men by it to guard them, <sup>19</sup> but do not stay there yourselves; pursue your enemies and attack them from behind. Do not allow them to enter their cities, for the LORD your God has handed them over to you." <sup>20</sup> It came about when Joshua and the sons of Israel had finished striking them down in a very great defeat, until they were destroyed, and the survivors of them who escaped had entered the fortified cities, <sup>21</sup> that all the people returned to the camp, to Joshua at Makkedah in peace. No one uttered a word against any of the sons of Israel. (Joshua 10:16-21, NASB).*

So Joshua closed them up in a cave and covered it with a stone. From verses 22 to 28 we have the final destruction of these kings. It involved the leaders of Israel putting their feet on the necks of these kings. This reminds us that through Christ we can put our feet on the necks of our enemies. This is both our enemies within and without.

This was an amazing, miraculous way in which Israel was able to rid the land of these kings. These Canaanite kings were doing all kinds of evil in the land, and God brought judgment on them. It's the same thing with sin in our lives. With the power of the Holy Spirit my sins and your sins cannot dominate us. We can have this kind of victory in our battles. God wants you to know that through the power of Christ, you can put your foot on the neck of your enemies (that includes your sins that want to take you over).

The rest of the chapter is the fall of Libnah, Lachish, Horem, Eglon, Hebron, Debir, ..... verse 40 we see Joshua bringing destruction from Kadesh-Barnea to Gaza and Goshen. And then look what the Bible says, *<sup>41</sup> Joshua struck them from Kadesh-barnea even as far as Gaza, and all the country of Goshen even as far as Gibeon. <sup>42</sup> Joshua captured all these kings and their lands at one time, because the LORD, the God of Israel, fought for Israel. <sup>43</sup> So Joshua and all Israel with him returned to the camp at Gilgal.* (NASB)

We always need to make our way back to Gilgal. We make our way back to the cross to be strengthened and to recommit ourselves. This is how we live in the Promised Land. These are the Showers of Blessing that we see when God is put in charge of the battles in our lives.

Let us pray.

Union Grove is one of the oldest Baptist communities of faith in the State of Texas dating back to 1844. Pastor Faber McMullen may be reached by email at [uniongrove362@gmail.com](mailto:uniongrove362@gmail.com) or by snail mail at: 15301 FM 362, Navasota, Texas 77868. Tel: 936-825-1227 (Edited and proofed by Amanda Neese- Webster, Texas.) All financial gifts to this ministry are tax-deductible as a 501 (c) (3) Corporation.

## THERE SHALL BE SHOWERS OF BLESSING



There shall be showers of blessing;  
This is the promise of love;  
There shall be seasons refreshing,  
Sent from the Savior above.

Showers of blessing,  
Showers of blessing we need;  
Mercy-drops round us are falling,  
But for the showers we plead.

There shall be showers of blessing-  
Precious reviving again;  
Over the hills and the valleys,  
Sound of abundance of rain.

There shall be showers of blessing;  
Send them upon us, O Lord!  
Grant to us now a refreshing;  
Come, and now honor Thy Word.

There shall be showers of blessing;  
O that today they might fall,  
Now as to God we're confessing,  
Now as on Jesus we call!

There shall be showers of blessing,  
If we but trust and obey;  
There shall be seasons refreshing,  
If we let God have His way.  
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