

Study Guide



Joshua 10 – March 12, 2017

The Defeat of Five Kings and Seven Cities

Welcome (40 Minutes)

Be intentional to have authentic relationships...

Worship (5 Minutes)

As the group transitions from of a time of fellowship to a time of intentional study of the word, it is important to facilitate that transition with a time of worship. This can look like praying together, singing songs together, or rejoicing in what the Lord has done throughout the week.

Word (45 Minutes)

As we walk through Joshua we are going to see how Joshua relates to our everyday battle of faithfulness. **Our aim and our prayer for this study is to gain the wisdom we need for the battle of faithfulness.** During our time in Joshua we will be adapting our study guide from [Crossway's book, Knowing the Bible: Joshua, A 12-Week Study](#) by Trent Hunter. We recommend you purchase this book and use it in your Community Groups and for personal study as we go through Joshua. We have copies of the book available in our bookstore.

For this weeks study on Joshua please check out the following pages...

Walk Prayer & Missions

South Sudan Trip — For further information visit norrisferrychurch.org or contact Jared Clary (clary@norrisferrychurch.org)

Calendar

March 5th-April 9th— [Connection Group](#)
March 5th-April 9th— Kid's Shine
March 17th-19th— [DNow](#)
April 14th-15th— [Men's Canoe Trip](#)
May 26th-31st— [Student Life Camp](#)

Welcome (40 Minutes)

As you fellowship with one another, please be intentional about sharing what the Lord is doing in your lives. Get to know one another and encourage one another. Are your conversations pointing one another toward Christ?

Worship (5 Minutes)

If you are looking for a song to sing this week, here are the lyrics to "[God is Able](#)":

God is able
He will never fail
He is almighty God
Greater than all we seek
Greater than all we ask
He has done great things

Lifted up
He defeated the grave
Raised to life
Our God is able
In His name
We overcome
For the Lord
Our God is able

God is with us
God is on our side
He will make a way
Far above all we know
Far above all we hope
He has done great things

Lifted up
He defeated the grave
Raised to life
Our God is able
In His name
We overcome
For the Lord
Our God is able

God is with us
He will go before
He will never leave us
He will never leave us
God is for us
He has open arms
He will never fail us
He will never fail us

Lifted up
He defeated the grave
Raised to life
Our God is able
In His name
We overcome
For the Lord
Our God is able

Lifted up
He defeated the grave
Raised to life
Our God is able
In His name
We overcome
For the Lord
Our God is able
For the Lord
Our God is able
For the Lord
Our God is able

Read Joshua 10:1-15

Commentary

In the following paragraphs we will look at a summary of chapter 10 but turn our focus on verses 1-15 and see a picture of the Lord as a warrior who fights for and answers his people. Following this section is a brief discussion providing five possibilities for the sun standing still.

In chapter 10 we see God decisively intervenes to defend Israel's Canaanite ally. The battle is recounted first briefly in vs. 1–10, while vs. 11–15 provide additional details; vs. 16–27 add yet further details, focusing on the fates of the five kings; and, finally, vs. 28–39 recount the so-called “southern campaign” in which key southern cities are defeated. Because the events of chapter 10 are precipitated by Canaanite aggression, Israel's defeat of the south can be viewed as a defensive operation. The chapter concludes with a summary of the conquest so far (vs. 40–43).

In this battle the Lord has not called Joshua to lead Israel in a merely human battle fought by merely human means. He uses his people, but he also throws stones and stops the sun (vs. 11-13). For this reason, Joshua reminds the people, “Do not be afraid or dismayed; be strong and courageous. For thus the Lord will do to all your enemies against whom you fight” (vs. 25). **The Lord is the warrior who defeats the foe; Israel must not miss this. Christians can have this same confidence in the face of sin, death, and the Devil, because Jesus Christ suffered God's hail-throwing wrath that we deserve.** The author of Hebrews tells us Jesus came so that “through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil” (Heb. 2:14). Because of Christ's death, we can be fearless in the face of our own death, for Jesus has dealt decisively with our guilt before God as a “merciful and faithful high priest,” suffering God's wrath against our sin (Heb. 2:17).

In verses 12-14 we meet the miracle of prayer. The writer observes that “there has not been a day like that, before or since, when the Lord listened to the voice of a man, for the Lord fought for Israel” (vs. 14). That day was unique not for some unusual daylight or darkness but because the Lord listened to a man's prayer! Though it was spoken to the Lord, it was nevertheless a man's direct command to elements under only God's control. Yet, “the Lord listened to the voice of a man.” **Isn't it still amazing that God listens to the voice of a man or woman who comes to him?** Doesn't this view of prayer both rebuke both the flippancy and tedium with which we often approach our King? Ought we not to catch our breath to think that the God who is seated on high (Ps. 113:5) stoops down and bends his ear to lips of dust and ashes? “When he calls to me, I will answer him” (Ps. 91:15).

The Sun Stood Still (Joshua 10:12-14)

With stunning regularity the world works according to God's providential designs; however, God is pleased at times to break that regularity to demonstrate his sovereign rule. Miracles may present a difficulty for some, but the acceptance of miracles is basic to Christianity and to any reading of Scripture that honors it as God's Word. **God is the creator; everything else is his creation.** As Psalm 115:3 tells us, "Our God is in the heavens, he does all that he pleases." This includes hurling hailstones on his enemies and stopping the sun in the sky (Josh. 10:11, 13), miraculous acts of providence preparing the way for the virgin birth and Jesus' resurrection from the dead.

The ESV Study Bible gives us some more detail on the sun standing still by providing us with five possibilities:

"The traditional understanding of this passage is that it refers to a miracle of cosmic proportions, in which the earth ceased rotating for a time. Since the Bible unquestionably teaches that God brought the universe into existence (Genesis 1; Ps. 33:6) and that he owns and rules it all for his own purposes (cf. Ex. 19:5; Deut. 10:14), this certainly would be possible. As alternatives to the traditional understanding, a number of possibilities have been proposed: (1) a solar eclipse (problematic, however, as the sun and moon are described in opposition, not conjunction); (2) poetic imagery (a day that seemed prolonged by virtue of how much was accomplished); (3) a day in which the sun's heat was diminished (perhaps by cloud cover), allowing Israelite troops to continue fighting; and (4) a refraction of light (causing the light to linger until the battle was completed). An additional possibility proposed more recently suggests that (5) Joshua is exploiting the Canaanites' superstitious fear of a bad omen, related to the position of the sun and the moon "standing" on the opposing horizons (the sun "at Gibeon, and the moon in the valley of Aijalon," Josh. 10:12). None of these proposals are without difficulties, however, and each fails to do justice to the claim that there has been no day like it before or since (v. 14). Given the miracle-working God of the Bible, the traditional understanding is certainly possible (perhaps cf. 2 Kings 20:9–11, paralleled in Isa. 38:8, where the sun's shadow moves backwards 10 steps). **Although there is not enough information in the narrative to determine the precise nature of this exceptional day, the author's emphasis in any case is on the extraordinary answer that God gave to Joshua's prayer, and on the fact that the LORD heeded the voice of a man (Josh. 10:14).** Apart from the present context, the Book of Jashar is mentioned only in 2 Sam. 1:18. No longer extant, the book appears to have contained poetic accounts or songs of the deeds of heroes (Hb. "Jashar" may be related to the Hb. words "sing" or "upright")."

Discussion

1. Looking at verses 1-5 what three developments caused the king of Jerusalem to be very fearful of Israel?
2. What steps did the king of Jerusalem take to try to strengthen his position?
3. Why do you think the king of Jerusalem and his alliance decided to fight against Gibeon instead of against the army of Israel?
4. Looking at verses 6-11, on what basis did the people of Gibeon call for Israel's help to defeat the alliance of the five kings? Why did Israel come to Gibeon's defense?
5. What did God tell Joshua about this endeavor to defeat the five kings and protect Gibeon (vs. 8)?
6. What things did God do to assure their victory over the alliance of the five kings?
7. Look carefully at verses 12-14. To whom did Joshua speak in verse 12? To the sun and moon? To the people? To God?
8. How does verse 14 interpret the events of that day? How would you describe what Joshua did that day as part of his relationship with God?

9. What was the context of Joshua's prayer to God? Were they obeying God in their actions or disobeying him? Were they feeling secure in their situation or were they feeling severely tested?

10. How was their precarious situation on this special day related to their prior foolish decision regarding the Gibeonites? Does that influence God's answer to Joshua's prayer?

Application

1. What kind of prayers does God respond to?
 - a. See James 1:5-8, James 4:2b-3, James 5:17-18, and Luke 11:9-13. What does it mean that God "gives generously to all without reproach"? What is the significance of the statement that "Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain"? What does it mean that "If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"?

2. Is there something you are praying fervently for? Why? Why not?

3. What promises in scripture motivates you to pray? Why?

****Community Group Leaders, please take some time to pray with your group.***

Note: This weeks questions are based upon questions in the Book entitled "Joshua" by Trent Hunter (available in the NFCC bookstore, at Lifeway Bookstore, or online.)

Walk (30 minutes)

After enjoying fellowship, worship, and time in God's word together, it is now time to pray together as a group and encourage one another in the faith. It is very easy for this portion of the group time to be consumed by the other portions. However, this segment of the group time is crucially important. It answers the question, how do we apply what we are learning in Joshua to our lives today?

Many groups have found that it is helpful to sometimes break up into a men's group and a women's group for the purpose of being able to be more transparent and honest as we encourage one another and keep one another accountable. I encourage you to try this in your groups.

In addition to praying for, and encouraging, one another, this portion of the group time should also be used for planning how your group can participate in God's work outside the walls of our church – "neighbors and nations." Discuss with your group some ideas on how you can be intentional with building relationships with your neighbors and co-workers. What can your Community Group do to impact the area around you?

Here is a list of local ministries Norris Ferry is actively involved in:

Hub/purchased
Young life
Heart of hope
First priority
Ark-la-Tex crisis pregnancy center
Community renewal
Grief counseling
Celebrate recovery
Samaritan counseling
Last call ministries
Golden age ministries
Rescue mission
Luke's lighthouse
NOLA Baptist
FCA

May the Lord bless and encourage you as you are in your groups this week! Know that we are praying for you on a weekly basis and that we are here to help you in any way that we can!