

Joshua 10 - WEEKS 1& 2

YAH 4/26/20 Stream It.

THE DEFEAT OF THE AMORITES - THE SOUTHERN CAMPAIGN

Intro: Life is complicated. We all do foolish things and must make lifetime adjustments for earlier errors. God does not let us navigate alone.

A. The Enemy Assembles 1- 5

- Regarding Gibeon: The children of this world are often wiser. Luke 16:8. See Mat. 5:25, Lk 14:31-32.
- Some see Adoni-zedek (Lord of Righteousness) as an antitype of anti-christ. Notice that his “spin” makes his cause sound righteous! In any case, notice that he is king of Jerusalem.
- This brings to mind a former king of Jerusalem named Melchizedek (King of Righteousness.)
- In any case, Satan has assembled his hosts against us as surely as Adonizedek assembled his.

B. The Gibeonites Appeal 6

- We cannot change the past and we should go the extra mile to maintain our present integrity. This teacher has seen many folks who have honored their obligations even though they had been defrauded or taken advantage of.
- Even so, there is a larger lesson. Alliances can be very dangerous things. We must never mutually obligate ourselves to others with about absolute confidence that God is in it. He has never looked lightly on alliances of any form. Can you think of any place in scripture where God approves an alliance?

C. Joshua Ascends 7

- Keep the big picture in the back of our minds. The Lord is gracious and slow to anger. He waited four generations to fulfil His promise to Abraham (Genesis 15:16). Joshua was now obeying a specific commandment given by God through Moses.
- “Though the mills of God grind slowly; Yet they grind exceeding small; Though with patience He stands waiting, With exactness grinds He all.”
George Herbert - 1652
- Remember that Joshua is doing more than just keeping his word to Gibeon. He is obeying God’s direct command and claiming God’s specific promise.
- Some older folks have noticed how glib younger generations can be when speaking about the great depression. Recent events have added a new sobriety to this discussion. In the same way, we can be glib when we picture

Joshua running off to battle. This was a major encounter which would have petrified any of us. And just to add an extra helping of terror, Satan adds five fully established, royal city states along with their subordinates. [The battles which other folks are going through are never as important as ours!]

D. The Lord Assures • We too have been blessed with all spiritual blessings in HEAVENLY places - Ephesians 1:3.
8

- God always sees the victory as already won - and He expects us to do the same. Sin: We reckon ourselves dead unto sin and alive unto God. We ARE more than conquerors through Him that loves us!

E. The Battle Approaches • Notice the perfect compatibility of the sovereignty of God “I have delivered them” and our responsibility “Joshua came up unto them suddenly.”
9

- Consider how this plays into our present circumstance. There are those who expose themselves blindly assuming God will protect. There are those who are neutralized by fear. Neither are wise.
- Remember the P’s (not necessarily in any order) of good success:
 1. Promise
 2. Prayer
 3. Plan
 4. Perform
 5. Praise
- We are not “home alone,” and we are not merely “home alone together.” We are home alone together with God.

F. The Lord Attacks • I would like to remind you that this God we serve is the Lord of both HEAVEN and EARTH. God is going to rain down from HEAVEN on nations who served their provincial, earthly gods. They had no divine program, no explanations for the events of history or grand scheme.
10-11

- While I can’t appeal to a single passage I CAN tell you that it is the general consensus that both Jehovah God and Joshua are mocking these elohim - whose favorite objects of worship were the sun and moon and stars!
- Remember how God mocked the gods of Egypt in the 10 plagues. Recently, I heard our local rabbi say “ God is not in the plague. He is in our response to the plague.” Wow, man, that’s heavy! It’s also wrong. God uses both sunshine and rain to effect His ultimate and grand purpose, and He does so with love and compassion.

**G. Joshua Appropria-
tes 12-14**

I do not believe Joshua was either arbitrary or impulsive when he commanded the heavenly orbs to fall in line with God's battle plan. Neither was he presumptuous. But I'll coin a phrase for the occasion. I believe Joshua was "assumptuous." He simply believed that this was both fitting and appropriate - and it was no big deal for our God to accomplish!

- In contrast to Joshua's childlike "assumptuous" faith we have endured the speculations of tens of thousands of God's children who have exposed their own incredulity when it comes to this passage. WE DON'T REALLY CARE HOW GOD DID IT! It's no big deal!
- HAVING SAID THAT, I still need to protect you from falling into some of the traps by telling you a thing or two that the Bible *does* make absolutely clear.

A good place to look, for example, is Psalm 148 where the Lord God draws the lines makes it indelibly clear that both HEAVEN and EARTH are under His dominion - right now! He is not waiting for us to reclaim them for Him through love, as some dominionists are declaring today.

- God commanded and they were created - Verse 5.

- HE RULES the creation itself and all living things by His decrees and ordinances - Verse 6,

- And, all of the manifestations which we see from what we call astro mechanics, down to the minutest nano mechanics, yes, even viruses, *fulfill His Word* - Verse 7.

- Now, you may be saying, "Jim, I know all of that, so what's your point?" If you accept what has been taught by science around you, you believe in **the laws of nature**.

When we speak of those laws, we are by default saying that nature governs itself. Nature does not have a single law *inherent* in it. Jesus Christ is carrying forward all of these decrees (which we may just as easily call processes or ordinances) and He executes them on an ongoing basis, in perpetuity.

He is not beholden to those processes or decrees, they are beholden to Him. He can interrupt, speed up, slow down, any object or process as He jolly well pleases and He can do so independently from all of the other processes which are interdependent upon each other. He doesn't need the gas pedal, He can throttle the engine under the hood at any time.

If you believe Jesus Christ is carrying the creation forward interactively at His will and under the direction of His Father, *miracles should not even amaze you*. Miracles should amaze unbelievers, but they should never amaze you.

Nail down the point: This universe is neither self creating nor self governing nor self perpetuating or self expanding or anything else! It fulfills the word of the living God. You cannot even text and drive at the same time. Your Lord Jesus texts and drives simultaneously.

- H. The Kings • Evacuate 15-21** • I cannot declare it as fact, but I believe that when these kings separated off and hid themselves Satan was offering a shortcut to Israel. I think the temptation was there to quit before the job was done and celebrate victory over these kings... kind of like coming out of quarantine early. Israel stayed the task. She completed her work to the last detail. She did what had to be done and it was not a pretty task. No one enjoyed it.

Do what you've been called to do - do it thoroughly and completely. An unfinished task is no victory at all. Do God's will. Do it thoroughly. Do it completely. The day of rejoicing will come.

- I. The Elders Participate 22-25** We can only speculate why Joshua took these steps, but our speculation is probably pretty solid.

First, he was sending a message of impunity to the enemy.

Secondly, he was sending a message of unity to Israel. They were all in this together.

Thirdly, I believe God was sending a message to us! You see, we live in a super sweet, soppy, flabby culture which threw its hands up in the air this past week when two dogs were diagnosed with Covid.

You get my point. Folks, its time to stand up and say, Yes! God does judge sin. He is infinitely patient. This may not be our time, but then again it may! In any case, an ark is being built before the eyes of the world! Board by board it is being assembled and pitch is being applied.

The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. 10 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up, 1 Peter 3:9,10

Today is the day of salvation.

WEEK TWO We're treating these remaining verses from two perspectives. First, we'll cover the campaign extended in verses 29-40. Then, we'll discuss "genocide" from God's perspective as we scan verses 41-43.

J. (The Amorites Terminated 29-43) The rest of the Southern Campaign.

A. The Campaign Extended *See associated slides.*

- 29 Then Joshua passed from Makkedah, and all Israel with him, unto Libnah, and fought against Libnah: 30 And the LORD delivered it also...

- 31 And Joshua passed from Libnah, and all Israel with him, unto Lachish, and encamped against it, and fought against it: 32 And the LORD delivered Lachish into the hand of Israel...

- 33 Then Horam king of Gezer came up to help Lachish; and Joshua smote him and his people, until he had left him none remaining.

- 34, 35a And from Lachish Joshua passed unto Eglon, and all Israel with him; and they encamped against it, and fought against it: And they took it on that day...

- 36 And Joshua went up from Eglon, and all Israel with him, unto Hebron; and they fought against it:

- 38 And Joshua returned, and all Israel with him, to Debir; and fought against it:

- 41 And Joshua smote them from Kadeshbarnea even unto Gaza, and all the country of Goshen, even unto Gibeon.

---42 And all these kings and their land did Joshua take at one time, because the LORD God of Israel fought for Israel. 43 And Joshua returned, and all Israel with him, unto the camp to Gilgal.

B. Genocide from God's Perspective **Now, about that animal in the room.**

- In each case, the Lord God fought for Israel even before Israel fought for Him.
- Each city in the southern incursion was destroyed in the same manner as the previous.
- The king of each city was destroyed.
- Everything that breathed within each city was destroyed.

Was this Genocide?

This was genocide if we use the U.N. definition which suggests any killing of people in any common group.

This was not genocide if, by that term, we suggest in any way that this was racially or ethnically motivated.

- The inhabitants of this land were from mixed ethnic origins.
- God loves every kindred, tongue, and nation and is unwilling that any should perish.
- Some entire people groups have, however, aligned themselves against God.

Note the ethnic composition of Canaan and the surrounding area. It is good to avoid calling this area Palestine.

We must not charge God foolishly.

God both gives and takes away human life. (Job 1:20-21)

20 Then Job arose, and rent his mantle, and shaved his head, and fell down upon the ground, and worshipped, 21 And said, Naked came I out of my mother's womb, and naked shall I return thither: the LORD gave, and the LORD hath taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD. 22 In all this Job sinned not, nor charged God foolishly.

God's baseline for judgment (the Noahic Covenant) is first predicated on violence. God cannot and does not wink at the shedding of innocent blood. (Genesis 6:5,11; 9:5,6)

5 And GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

11 The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence. 12 And God looked upon the earth, and, behold, it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted his way upon the earth.

5 And surely your blood of your lives will I require; at the hand of every beast will I require it, and at the hand of man; at the hand of every man's brother will I require the life of man. 6 Whoso sheddeth man's blood, by man shall his blood be shed: for in the image of God made he man.

God has judged in the past and promises do it again. (2 Peter 3:9-10)

9 The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. 10 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.

God does not destroy arbitrarily at a whim. (Matthew 10:28-29)

28 And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell. 29 Are not two sparrows sold for a farthing? and one of them shall not fall on the ground without your Father.

- When God takes life it is for the benefit of mankind. (Romans 9:22-24)

22 What if God, willing to shew his wrath, and to make his power known, endured with much longsuffering the vessels of wrath fitted to destruction: 23 And that he might make known the riches of his glory on the vessels of mercy, which he had afore prepared unto glory, 24 Even us, whom he hath called, not of the Jews only, but also of the Gentiles?

- The Canaanites, for example were destroyed because their iniquity was full, not because God wanted their land. (Genesis 15:16)

16 But in the fourth generation they shall come hither again: for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet full.

God knows the end from the beginning.

God, in His wisdom, destroys groups of people:

- He accelerates consequences that are already in play. (James 1:13-15).

13 Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man: 14 But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. 15 Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.

- He protects future generations.

- He executes justice for clearly stated reasons (Genesis 6:13.)

13 And God said unto Noah, The end of all flesh is come before me; for the earth is filled with violence through them; and, behold, I will destroy them with the earth.

- He does so with clearly stated warnings (Genesis 9:4-6)

4 But flesh with the life thereof, which is the blood thereof, shall ye not eat. 5 And surely your blood of your lives will I require; at the hand of every beast will I require it, and at the hand of man; at the hand of every man's brother will I require the life of man. 6 Whoso sheddeth man's blood, by man shall his blood be shed: for in the image of God made he man.

God does not play by our rules.

When men accuse God of injustice:

- We turn a blind eye to our own allegiances. Notice how false religion is always given a pass on the issue of sin.

We claim “free agency” and then blame God for the consequence.

- Without exception, we fail to see the insidious nature of sin. (By His mercy we are not all consumed) – Lam. 3:22,23)

22 It is of the LORD'S mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. 23 They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness.

We have found the elephant, and it is us.

When confronting this issue remember that self-justifying men will try to impose their flawed moral compass on God. (Rom. 9:20)

20 Nay but, O man, who art thou that repliest against God? Shall the thing formed say to him that formed it, Why hast thou made me thus? 21 Hath not the potter power over the clay, of the same lump to make one vessel unto honour, and another unto dishonour? 22 What if God, willing to shew his wrath, and to make his power known, endured with much longsuffering the vessels of wrath fitted to destruction: 23 And that he might make known the riches of his glory on the vessels of mercy, which he had afore prepared unto glory, 24 Even us, whom he hath called, not of the Jews only, but also of the Gentiles?

- Use the scriptures lovingly, but boldly. (2 Tim. 2:24-26)

24 And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient, 25 In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth; 26 And that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will.

- Do not apologize for God or mitigate what He has said or done. God is righteous, and He is not embarrassed by His actions. Matt. 10:34-36)

34 Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword. 35 For I am come to set a man at variance against his father, and the daughter against her mother, and the daughter in law against her mother in law. 36 And a man's foes shall be they of his own household. 37 He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me.

- God loves the world and did not send His Son to condemn it – but to redeem it. (John 3:16-19).

16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. 17 For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. 18 He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. 19 And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.

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