

GOD OF THE IMPOSSIBLE

Pray for the Impossible

Joshua 10:6-14

Joshua Gets a Call for Help

[6] And the men of Gibeon sent unto Joshua to the camp to Gilgal, saying, Slack not thy hand from thy servants; come up to us quickly, and save us, and help us: for all the kings of the Amorites that dwell in the mountains are gathered together against us. [7] So Joshua ascended from Gilgal, he, and all the people of war with him, and all the mighty men of valour.

- The king of Jerusalem had heard that Joshua and his army has successfully conquered the cities of Jericho and Ai and how the Gibeonites had made a peace treaty with Joshua
- The peace treaty also concerned the king of Jerusalem because Gibeon had well-trained soldiers that used to provide protection for region
- The king of Jerusalem reached out to the kings of four neighboring nations to form a coalition to recapture Gibeon and regain their military power from Israel
- This army of made up of five cities surrounded Gibeon and they had no way out
- Gibeon is now serving God, they are learning to live holy and their former buddies want them back
- The devil “makes war” against everyone who *makes peace* with God
- The men of Gibeon send word to Joshua for help; “*don’t abandon your servants now, please come quickly and help us*”
- The Gibeonites are the same people who *deceived* Joshua and his army into forming an oath of alliance with them
- When the deception was discovered, there was nothing Joshua could do to the Gibeonites, so Joshua made them servants at the Temple
- The people that deceived you, now *need* your help, what are you going to do?
 - Joshua could have let the coalition forces destroy Gibeonites and spiritualize it by saying “they are reaping”
- But Joshua didn’t do any of these things because his *integrity* wouldn’t let him do it
- Gibeon calling on Joshua says a lot about the Gibeonites, too, they could have gone back to rejoin the coalition, but they called on Joshua for help
- Joshua immediately responds and gets together his best fighting men
- God is looking for you to help others, even when they may have hurt you in the past ***Matthew 5:44 (KJV) But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;***
- Question: When you and you and I were enemies of God and we needed help, how did God treat us? ***Romans 5:8 (NLT2) But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners.***

God’s Command and Promise to Joshua

[8] And the Lord said unto Joshua, Fear them not: for I have delivered them into thine hand; there shall not a man of them stand before thee.

- God *commands* Joshua not to fear the five armies he’s about to fight
- We may face strong enemies; God has still commanded us not to fear
- Joshua has gone to war before
- But Joshua has *never fought 5 armies at the same time* and won before

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- That's why God says *fear not*
- God tells Joshua although you are fighting five armies at the same time there is no need to fear
- God then makes a *two-fold promise* to Joshua:
 1. Although you've never fought 5 armies at once, *I already given you the victory*
 2. God says *not a man will be standing* when this battle is over
- This scripture implies Joshua prayed to the Lord about this situation

Joshua Acts on the Promises of God

[9] Joshua therefore came unto them suddenly, and went up from Gilgal all night. [10] And the Lord discomfited them before Israel, and slew them with a great slaughter at Gibeon, and chased them along the way that goeth up to Beth-horon, and smote them to Azekah, and unto Makkedah. [11] And it came to pass, as they fled from before Israel, and were in the going down to Beth-horon, that the Lord cast down great stones from heaven upon them unto Azekah, and they died: they were more which died with hailstones than they whom the children of Israel slew with the sword.

- Joshua began to act on the promise of God
 - Our faith is activated by the promises of God
- Many Christians believe the word of God
 - But the only way anyone can tell what you *believe* is by your *actions*
 - Our faith can't be in "park", and we say we *believe* God
- We can tell Joshua really believed in the promises of God by his actions
 - Joshua and his army marched *all night* from Gilgal to Gibeon
- By marching under the cover of darkness Joshua and his army was able to take the enemy by *surprise*
- As Joshua and his army were fighting these 5 armies, *the LORD* sends hailstones from heaven
- The hailstones are both an *act of nature* and *miracle from God*
- What happened was the LORD *partnered* with Joshua in the battle
- God honored the faith of Joshua
- When you put the promises of God into action through faith, you will see God come along side of you bring His promises to pass
- If there is going to be a victory, God *must* be involved

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[12] Then spake Joshua to the Lord in the day when the Lord delivered up the Amorites before the children of Israel, and he said in the sight of Israel, Sun, stand thou still upon Gibeon; and thou, Moon, in the valley of Ajalon. [13] And the sun stood still, and the moon stayed, until the people had avenged themselves upon their enemies. Is not this written in the book of Jasher? So the sun stood still in the midst of heaven, and hasted not to go down about a whole day. [14] And there was no day like that before it or after it, that the Lord hearkened unto the voice of a man: for the Lord fought for Israel.

- Joshua and his army have been chasing the coalition forces, but the sun is going down

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- When it gets dark, Joshua's army wouldn't be able to see their enemy, this would give the enemy time to *escape, hide, rest, and regroup*
- Joshua went to God and made an unusually *bold* prayer request
- Joshua prayed **and he said in the sight of Israel, Sun, stand thou still upon Gibeon; and thou, Moon, in the valley of Ajalon.**
- Joshua **publicly** asked God to stop the sun and the moon for him
- Joshua asked God to change the laws of nature, science and the solar system, because He made the sun and the moon
- Joshua's prayer took the *human restrictions* off God
- Joshua prayed a prayer of all out faith
- Joshua needed more time for the promise of God to be fulfilled
- Joshua didn't pray a "safe" prayer
- Joshua prayed for a miracle
- Joshua prayed a prayer in line with God's will **Jeremiah 32:27 Behold, I am the Lord, the God of all flesh: is there any thing too hard for me?**
- The sun stood still, and the moon stayed in place until Joshua and his army had won the complete victory that God promised
- The battle is not over until you win!
- Some Biblical scholars and scientists try to explain away what happened as *metaphorical or poetic language* of the Bible
- The sun and the moon standing still is not metaphorical or poetic language, it is a historical event
- I don't know how God made the sun and the moon stand still, all I know is that He is the God that created the sun and the moon
- Take the limits off God!
- What God did was miraculous, and a *miracle* is when the normal pattern of our lives, situations, or nature are changed or interrupted by God's *supernatural* intervention
- If you rule out this miracle, then you must rule out some others, too
- Are there some promises God has made to you that have not been fulfilled and it looks like your window of opportunity is closing?
- Are you *bold enough* to ask God for more *daylight*, more *opportunity* to complete the promises He's made to you
- He's the God of the impossible
- He's the God that still hears and answers bold prayer
- **Who can make a request like Joshua's?**
 - You can!
- The Bible says there's never been a day like before or after, where God responded to the voice of a man
- God is listening to you pray
- God is *still* doing the miraculous
- God is still listening for the voices of His people who will dare to pray for the impossible