



# PITWM VERSE BY VERSE

## JOSHUA 10:1-15

### JOSHUA COMMANDS THE SUN TO STAND STILL— June 6, 2021

#### INTRODUCTION:

Ai was a small Canaanite town about 12 000 people living there. And according to **chapter 7**, the Israelites were defeated by Ai because of Achan's sin. He had kept some of the valuable things (accursed things) that he found in Jericho, therefore judgment came upon the Israelites. They had defied the Lord by sinning against Him. God had told the Israelites that they had to destroy the accursed from among them. Later Achan confessed, *"It is true! I have sinned against the Lord, the God of Israel. This is what I have done"* (7:20). He commenced to explain. Achan and his entire family were to be stoned and after stoning, then burned with fire so that no trace of Achan or his family would remain in Israel (7:25). Then stones were piled upon the ashes to remind the people of what sin would bring (7:26). When going into a battle, make sure God is in the battle with you; meaning, our heart has repented of sin because sin should not be taken lightly because it causes you to be defeated before you even start. God gives Israel another chance in **chapter 8** against Ai, telling Joshua every step to take, and as the people followed exactly what God told them to do, none in Ai escaped. All 12,000 in Ai fell that day (8:25).

As we come to **chapter 9**, kings of the surrounding areas heard what happened to Jericho and they quickly combined their armies to fight against Joshua and the Israelis. But, the Gibeonites resorted to trickery and devised a plan to become friends with Israel. The *"Gibeonites"* were a group of people, descended from the Amorites. Though the Gibeonites deceived Israel by saying that they were from a distant land, which they were not. But 3days later the Gibeonites trickery was discovered by Israel. Joshua and his advisors had seen that they had made a mistake by making a covenant with them, and did not even seek the Lord about this. You see, God had told the Israelites not to make agreements with the inhabitants of Canaan (Deuteronomy 7). At the beginning Joshua had believed the lie of the Gibeonites; that they were from a far distance place, but hey were from a short distance, like in the mountains of Canaan. Israel had vowed to protect the Gibeonites, and so they kept their word. God had commanded that vows be kept (Lev.5:4; 27:9, 10), and a vow is serious. The Gibeonites told this lie because they had feared for their lives because of Israel defeating Jericho and Ai and even former friends and now their neighbors were attacking them. So, Joshua did not allow the people of Israel to kill them because of the covenant made with them.

#### LESSON: I. THE THREAT JOSHUA 10:1-5

**10:1** Now it came to pass, when Adonizedec king of Jerusalem had heard how Joshua had taken Ai, and had utterly destroyed it; as he had done to Jericho and her king, so he had done to Ai and her king; and how the inhabitants of Gibeon had made peace with Israel, and were among them;—.

Jerusalem is first mentioned in the Bible as Salem, or Shalem, in Genesis 14:18, which describes a meeting between Abraham and Melchizedek. Jerusalem became the seat of power for the land of Israel during the time of King David and later known as *"the city of David."* However, Adoni-zedek, the king of Jerusalem is mentioned here.

<sup>1</sup>*"Adonizedek"* comes from two Hebrew words **Adonai** which means *"sovereign"* and is translated *"Lord"*, and **Zedek** which means *"righteousness."* How is it that the Lord of righteousness who is king of Jerusalem can come against God's people the Israelites to destroy them?

Well, the king of Jerusalem had heard how Joshua had taken Ai and utterly destroyed them as he had also

<sup>1</sup> <http://livingwordin3d.com/discovery/2018/01/24/adonizedek-the-mysterious-king-of-jerusalem/>  
<http://www.pitwm.net/pitwm-sunday-school.html>





# PITWM VERSE BY VERSE

done to Jericho and her king. Well, word gets around, even the part about the trickery of the Gibeonites making peace with Israel and living among them.

**10:2 That they feared greatly, because Gibeon was a great city, as one of the royal cities, and because it was greater than Ai, and all the men thereof were mighty.** The king and his people were very afraid, because Gibeon was a great and an important city. It was like a king's city; a royal city, and bigger than Ai. All its men were mighty and fought well. So, them establishing a league together, something had to be done.

**10:3 Wherefore Adonizedec king of Jerusalem, sent unto Hoham king of Hebron, and unto Piram king of Jarmuth, and unto Japhia king of Lachish, and unto Debir king of Eglon, saying,—** King Adonizedec of Jerusalem sent for some allies to be with him. **Sending for other kings whose positions were threatened by Gibeon's association would put him in a better position. So he called for the kings of the nations of:**

- Hoham king of Hebron, • Piram king of Jarmuth, • Japhia king of Lachish, and • Debir king of Eglon

**10:4 Come up unto me, and help me, that we may smite Gibeon: for it hath made peace with Joshua and with the children of Israel.** The king wanted all of them to come and help him smite (kill) Gibeon because they had made peace with Joshua and with the children of Israel. The king of Jerusalem makes a desperate plea and cry—*"Come help me destroy Gibeon."*

**10:5 Therefore the five kings of the Amorites, the king of Jerusalem, the king of Hebron, the king of Jarmuth, the king of Lachish, the king of Eglon, gathered themselves together, and went up, they and all their hosts, and encamped before Gibeon, and made war against it.** So these 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 combined their armies for a united attack and went up with all their armies, and camped by Gibeon and fought against it. The threat has been made against Gibeon.

## II. THE RESPONSE JOSHUA 10:6-11

**10:6 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.** There was a cry that went out to Joshua. The men of Gibeon hurriedly sent for Joshua to the camp at Gilgal— *"Come up quickly and save us—help us for all the kings of the Amorites that dwell in the mountains are gathered together against us."* The response from Gibeon was made to Joshua.

**10:7 So Joshua ascended from Gilgal, he, and all the people of war with him, and all the mighty men of valour.** Joshua didn't ask any questions. It says he ascended! And Joshua and all the people of war with him, including the mighty men of valour came up from Gilgal. This alliance of enemy kings from the south actually helped Joshua and his army because the enemies were united and making an attack on Gibeon. Joshua didn't have to spend the time and resources required to wage separate wars against each fortified city represented in the league.

**10:8 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.**<sup>2</sup>When the Gibeonites first came to Joshua he did not ask God about them (Joshua 9:14). Now that the Gibeonites had asked Joshua for help, God spoke to Joshua

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.easyenglish.bible/bible-commentary/joshua-lbw.htm>  
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# PITWM VERSE BY VERSE

and said *"I have delivered them into thine hand; there shall not a man of them stand before thee."* Whenever God says *"fear not"*, that meant that Joshua didn't have anything to worry about. That's assurance! He placed the battle in their hands, fights the battle, and gave them the victory in spite of them not coming to Him first, He still honored their covenant with Gibeon because Joshua honored his covenant!

**10:9 Joshua therefore came unto them suddenly, and went up from Gilgal all night.** Joshua and all of his army came suddenly and surprised the kings and their armies for they had marched or rode all night from Gilgal to Gebeon. The Lord had said that not a man will be able to stand up to him! I know the five kings thought they were prepared to fight, but going up against God's man, you will be surprised!

**10:10 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 Bethhoron, and smote them to Azekah, and unto Makkedah.** The Lord confused the kings and their armies before Israel, and threw them into a panic, slaughtering great numbers at Gibeon, and chasing all the others all the way up to Bethhoron, to Azekah, and to Makkedah, killing them along the way. God did three things to help Joshua:

1. He confused the enemies.

**10:11 And it came to pass, as they fled from before Israel, and were in the going down to Bethhoron, 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.** As they ran down to Bethhoron, the Lord attacked them with large (hail) stones to fall on them from the sky continuing all the way to Azekah. The Lord killed more men with the (hail) stones than the Israelites killed in the fight with the sword.

2. He sent hail stones to kill the enemy

### III. TOTAL VICTORY JOSHUA 10:12-15

**10:12 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.** *"Joshua spoke to the Lord in the day when the Lord delivered up the Amorites before the children of Israel, and said in the sight of Israel, Sun, stand thou still upon Gibeon; and thou, Moon stand, in the valley of Ajalon"* Joshua has said *"stand still"* on another great occasion as they embarked to cross the Jordan River. He told the people that the Lord will do a great miracle. Joshua 3:8 *"And thou shalt command the priests that bear the Ark of the Covenant, saying, When ye are come to the brink of the water of Jordan, ye shall "stand still" in Jordan."* If God did it for Joshua then, God was able to do it again.

**10:13 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.**

3. The sun and moon stood were still, until the Israelites had defeated the enemy. Joshua asked God to do this.

How did the sun stand still and the moon stayed? The Scripture says that his prayer or request was answered and the sun and moon did indeed stand still. A quote of Pink, pg.282 says *"The host of heaven, as well as the inhabitants of the earth are entirely at His disposal. The whole source of nature moves or stands still at the mere Will of its Maker."* The day was prolonged long enough by a miracle of God to turn the battle for His people! The Word speaks it in the book of Jasher. Because God guided the writer to select this material, His message comes with divine authority.





# PITWM VERSE BY VERSE

**10:14** 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. This was such an unusual day in history, no other day like it or after it. It shows God using Joshua, and how God heard and heeded to this one man's voice. He's letting us know how the Lord fought for Israel. God will always listen to our prayers. We should pray to God often. Like Joshua, we too should have faith in God.

**10:15** And Joshua returned, and all Israel with him, unto the camp to Gilgal. Joshua returns with all Israel with him to the camp of Gilgal. From the threat, to the response came total victory from God!

## SUMMARY:

The king of Jerusalem had heard how Joshua had taken Ai and utterly destroyed them as he had also done to Jericho and her king. Well, word gets around, even the part about the trickery of the Gibeonites making peace with Israel and living among them. King Adonizedec and his people were very afraid, because Gibeon was a great and an important city and all its men were mighty and fought well. King Adonizedec of Jerusalem sent for some allies to be with him. The king wanted all of them to come and help him smite (kill) Gibeon because they had made peace with Joshua and with the children of Israel. The king of Jerusalem makes a desperate plea and cry—"Come help me destroy Gibeon." So these 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 combined their armies for a united attack and went up and camped before Gibeon and fought against it (**10:1-5**).

There was a cry that went out to Joshua. The men of Gibeon hurriedly sent for Joshua to the camp at Gilgal— "Come up quickly and save us—help us for all the kings of the Amorites that dwell in the mountains are gathered together against us." Joshua didn't ask any questions. It says he ascended! And Joshua and all the people of war with him, including the mighty men of valour came up from Gilgal. Now that the Gibeonites had asked Joshua for help, God spoke to Joshua and said *"I have delivered them into thine hand; there shall not a man of them stand before thee."* He placed the battle in their hands, fights the battle, and gave them the victory. Joshua and all of his army came suddenly and surprised the kings and their armies for the had marched or rode from Gilgal to Gideon. The Lord had said not a man will be able to stand up to him! The Lord confused the kings and their armies before Israel and threw them into a panic, slaughtering great numbers at Gibeon, and chasing all the others all the way up to Bethhoron, to Azekah, and to Makkedah, killing them along the way. As they ran down to Bethhoron, the Lord attacked them with large hail stones to fall on them from the sky continuing all the way to Azekah. The Lord killed more men with the hail stones than the Israelites killed in the fight with the sword (**10:6-11**).

*"Joshua spoke to the Lord in the day when the Lord delivered up the Amorites before the children of Israel, and said in the sight of Israel, Sun, stand thou still upon Gibeon; and thou, Moon, in the valley of Ajalon"* The sun stood still and the moon stayed until the Israelites had defeated the enemy. The *sun "standing still and the moon stayed"* because Joshua requested; asked in prayer making this such an unusual day in history, no other day like it or after it. It shows God using Joshua, and of how God heard and heeded to this one man's voice, letting us know how the Lord fought for Israel. Joshua then returns with all Israel with him to the camp of Gilgal (**10:12-15**).

