



The Book of Joshua



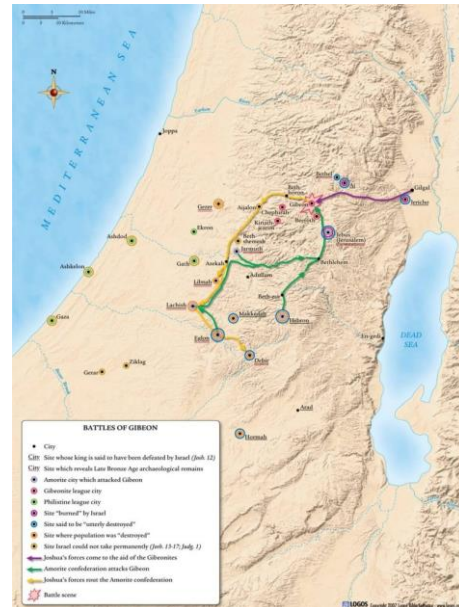
The Battle for Canaan

The Battle with the Amorites

Text: Joshua 10

I. The Five Amorite Kingdoms (Joshua 10:1-5)

- A. The Amorites became afraid after witnessing the defeat of Jericho and Ai.
- B. When the people of Gibeon made an alliance with Israel, the Amorites knew they had to act.
- C. Thus, the kings of five cities joined their armies together to fight against Gibeon.
 1. Jerusalem (Adoni-Zedek)
 - a. Adoni means, "Lord."
 - b. Zedek means, "Justice or righteousness."
 - c. This name may be a title given to kings of Jerusalem in imitation of the name Melchizedek.
 2. Hebron (Hoham)
 3. Jarmuth (Piram)
 4. Lachish (Japhia)
 5. Eglon (Debir)



- D. The people of Gibeon called upon Israel to help them - leading to a massive battle on a remarkable day.

II. The Lord Fights for Israel (Joshua 10:6-15)

- A. The entire army of Israel came from Gilgal and traveled through the night to fight at Gibeon.
- B. They came with the promise of God that not one man would be able to stand against them.
- C. Thus, the Lord actively and miraculously fought for Israel.
- D. First, He caused the Amorites to become confused and panicked - resulting in their slaughter and flight.
- E. Then, as they fled, He caused great hailstones to fall from the sky - killing more men than had died in the fighting!
- F. Finally, He caused the sun and the moon to stand still in the sky - prolonging daylight until Israel could soundly defeat their enemies! (Cf. Hab. 3:11)
 1. For some reason, many who accept the other miracles of the Bible seek to disprove or discredit this one.
 2. God delayed the setting of the sun until the battle was completed.
 3. However He chose to do this is a matter of His sovereignty!
 4. Yet, it must be remembered that it was an answer to Joshua's prayer.
- G. Thus, the enemies of Israel were defeated and Joshua and the people returned to Gilgal.



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- III. The Defeat of the Five Kings (Joshua 10:16-27)
- A. This battle took place in three stages:
 - 1. The surprise attack at Gibeon (10:9-10a)
 - 2. The pursuit from Gibeon (10:10b-14)
 - 3. The pursuit from Makkedah (10:16-20)
 - B. As Israel pursued their enemies, the kings of the five cities hid in a cave at Makkedah.
 - C. Joshua ordered large stones to be placed at the entrance to the cave and men to guard it so those kings would not escape.
 - D. Israel continued to pursue and defeat their enemies before returning back to the cave at Makkedah - where no one dared speak against them (cf. Exo. 11:7).
 - E. Joshua brought the five kings out of the cave and ordered the captains of Israel to put their feet upon the necks of their enemies - as a reminder of God's promise to give them victory.
 - F. Then, the kings were killed and hanged upon five trees until evening.
 - G. As the sun set, the dead bodies were removed from the trees and sealed in the cave where they had hidden.
- IV. The Southern Campaign (Joshua 10:28-43)
- A. On that same day, Israel defeated the city of Makkedah - beginning the southern campaign of Israel into Canaan.
 - B. From Makkedah they journeyed to Libnah, Lachish (where Gezer was also defeated), Eglon, Hebron, and Debir - defeating each city as they went.
 - C. Thus, the entire southern region of Canaan was defeated and conquered by Israel - from Kadesh-barnea to Gaza, Goshen to Gibeon.
 - D. God fought for Israel and drove out their enemies from before them.