

Joshua 10:1-43 **Defeat of the Amorites**

Five kings came against Gibeon – Fear of Amorite Kings

¹ Now it came to pass when Adoni-Zedek king of Jerusalem heard how Joshua had taken Ai and had utterly destroyed it--as he had done to Jericho and its king, so he had done to Ai and its king--and how the inhabitants of Gibeon had made peace with Israel and were among them, ² that they feared greatly, because Gibeon was a great city, like one of the royal cities, and because it was greater than Ai, and all its men were mighty. ³ Therefore Adoni-Zedek king of Jerusalem sent to Hoham king of Hebron, Piram king of Jarmuth, Japhia king of Lachish, and Debir king of Eglon, saying, ⁴ "Come up to me and help me, that we may attack Gibeon, for it has made peace with Joshua and with the children of Israel." ⁵ Therefore the 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 went up, they and all their armies, and camped before Gibeon and made war against it.

Gibeon requested help from Israel

⁶ And the men of Gibeon sent to Joshua at the camp at Gilgal, saying, "Do not forsake your servants; come up to us quickly, save us and help us, for all the kings of the Amorites who dwell in the mountains have gathered together against us."

Israel coming to the rescue with God's encouragement

⁷ So Joshua ascended from Gilgal, he and all the people of war with him, and all the mighty men of valor. ⁸ And the LORD said to Joshua, "Do not fear them, for I have delivered them into your hand; not a man of them shall stand before you."

Battle at Gibeon

⁹ Joshua therefore came upon them suddenly, having marched all night from Gilgal. ¹⁰ So the LORD routed them before Israel, killed them with a great slaughter at Gibeon, chased them along the road that goes to Beth Horon, and struck them down as far as Azekah and Makkedah. ¹¹ And it happened, as they fled before Israel and were on the descent of Beth Horon, that the LORD cast down large hailstones from heaven on them as far as Azekah, and they died. There were more who died from the hailstones than the children of Israel killed with the sword.

Sun and Moon stand still

¹² Then Joshua spoke 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 still over Gibeon; And Moon, in the Valley of Aijalon." ¹³ So the sun stood still, And the moon stopped, Till the people had revenge Upon their enemies.

Is this not written in the Book of Jasher? So the sun stood still in the midst of heaven, and did not hasten to go down for about a whole day. ¹⁴ And there has been no day like that, before it or after it, that the LORD heeded the voice of a man; for the LORD fought for Israel. ¹⁵ Then Joshua returned, and all Israel with him, to the camp at Gilgal.

Kings hid in cave

¹⁶ But these five kings had fled and hidden themselves in a cave at Makkedah. ¹⁷ And it was told Joshua, saying, "The five kings have been found hidden in the cave at Makkedah." ¹⁸ So Joshua said, "Roll large stones against the mouth of the cave, and set men by it to guard them. ¹⁹ And do

not stay there yourselves, but pursue your enemies, and attack their rear guard. Do not allow them to enter their cities, for the LORD your God has delivered them into your hand."

Escapees enter fortified cities

20 Then it happened, while Joshua and the children of Israel made an end of slaying them with a very great slaughter, till they had finished, that those who escaped entered fortified cities. 21 And all the people returned to the camp, to Joshua at Makkedah, in peace. No one moved his tongue against any of the children of Israel.

Five kings example of God's help

22 Then Joshua said, "Open the mouth of the cave, and bring out those five kings to me from the cave." 23 And they did so, and brought out those five kings to him from the cave: the king of Jerusalem, the king of Hebron, the king of Jarmuth, the king of Lachish, and the king of Eglon. 24 So it was, when they brought out those kings to Joshua, that Joshua called for all the men of Israel, and said to the captains of the men of war who went with him, "Come near, put your feet on the necks of these kings." And they drew near and put their feet on their necks. 25 Then Joshua said to them, "Do not be afraid, nor be dismayed; be strong and of good courage, for thus the LORD will do to all your enemies against whom you fight."

Five kings killed, hanged, and buried in cave

26 And afterward Joshua struck them and killed them, and hanged them on five trees; and they were hanging on the trees until evening. 27 So it was at the time of the going down of the sun that Joshua commanded, and they took them down from the trees, cast them into the cave where they had been hidden, and laid large stones against the cave's mouth, which remain until this very day.

Makkedah destroyed

28 On that day Joshua took Makkedah, and struck it and its king with the edge of the sword. He utterly destroyed them--all the people who were in it. He let none remain. He also did to the king of Makkedah as he had done to the king of Jericho.

Libnah destroyed

29 Then Joshua passed from Makkedah, and all Israel with him, to Libnah; and they fought against Libnah. 30 And the LORD also delivered it and its king into the hand of Israel; he struck it and all the people who were in it with the edge of the sword. He let none remain in it, but did to its king as he had done to the king of Jericho.

Lachish destroyed

31 Then Joshua passed from Libnah, and all Israel with him, to Lachish; and they encamped against it and fought against it. 32 And the LORD delivered Lachish into the hand of Israel, who took it on the second day, and struck it and all the people who were in it with the edge of the sword, according to all that he had done to Libnah.

Gezer destroyed

33 Then Horem king of Gezer came up to help Lachish; and Joshua struck him and his people, until he left him none remaining.

Eglon destroyed

34 From Lachish Joshua passed to Eglon, and all Israel with him; and they encamped against it and fought against it. 35 They took it on that day and struck it with the edge of the sword; all the people who were in it he utterly destroyed that day, according to all that he had done to Lachish.

Hebron destroyed

36 So Joshua went up from Eglon, and all Israel with him, to Hebron; and they fought against it. 37 And they took it and struck it with the edge of the sword--its king, all its cities, and all the people who were in it; he left none remaining, according to all that he had done to Eglon, but utterly destroyed it and all the people who were in it.

Debir destroyed

38 Then Joshua returned, and all Israel with him, to Debir; and they fought against it. 39 And he took it and its king and all its cities; they struck them with the edge of the sword and utterly destroyed all the people who were in it. He left none remaining; as he had done to Hebron, so he did to Debir and its king, as he had done also to Libnah and its king.

Territory conquered

40 So Joshua conquered all the land: the mountain country and the South and the lowland and the wilderness slopes, and all their kings; he left none remaining, but utterly destroyed all that breathed, as the LORD God of Israel had commanded.

41 And Joshua conquered them from Kadesh Barnea as far as Gaza, and all the country of Goshen, even as far as Gibeon. 42 All these kings and their land Joshua took at one time, because the LORD God of Israel fought for Israel. 43 Then Joshua returned, and all Israel with him, to the camp at Gilgal. NKJV

Facts Revealed:

Five kings came against Gibeon – Fear of Amorite Kings

✧ 1 Now it came to pass when **Adoni-Zedek king of Jerusalem** heard how Joshua had taken Ai and had utterly destroyed it--as he had done to Jericho and its king, so he had done to Ai and its king--and how the inhabitants of Gibeon had made peace with Israel and were among them, 2 that **they feared greatly**, because Gibeon was a great city, like one of the royal cities, and because it was greater than Ai, and all its men were mighty. [Joshua 10:1-2]

✧ 3 Therefore Adoni-Zedek king of **Jerusalem** sent to Hoham king of **Hebron**, Piram king of **Jarmuth**, Japhia king of **Lachish**, and Debir king of **Eglon**, saying, 4 "Come up to me and help me, that we may attack Gibeon, for it has made peace with Joshua and with the children of Israel." 5 Therefore **the 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 went up, they and all their armies, and camped before Gibeon and made war against it. [Joshua 10:3-5]

✧ The **Amorites** are well aware of what is happening around them and how it impacts themselves and their people as well as their land.

✧ God had said to Abraham concerning the Amorites: "Now as for you, you shall go to your fathers in peace; you shall be buried at a good old age. But in the fourth generation they shall return here, **for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete.**" [Genesis 15:15-16]

✧ By this time the iniquity of the Amorites has gone beyond complete, and it is time for Yehowah to deal with them according to their folly, and they know about it, and now it is happening.

- ✧ The fear causes them to hope that if they attack and present a united front they may have a chance to come out victorious, especially if they attack a people who are included in the ones to be destroyed along with themselves.
- ✧ They know that Gibeon is named among the nations to fall before Israel. [Exodus 3:7-10, 16-17, 13:3-5, 23:20-28, 33:1-2, 34:11, Leviticus 18:1-30, Deuteronomy 7:1-2, 20:16-18]

Gibeon requested help from Israel

- ✧ 6 And the men of Gibeon sent to Joshua at the camp at Gilgal, saying, "**Do not forsake your servants; come up to us quickly, save us and help us, for all the kings of the Amorites who dwell in the mountains have gathered together against us.**" [Joshua 10:6]
- ✧ Israel is still encamped at Gilgal. [Joshua 10:6]
- ✧ Gilgal is the name given to the first encampment on the east border of Jericho after crossing the Jordan River. [Deuteronomy 11:29-30, Joshua 4:19-20, 5:9]
- ✧ The name Gilgal means: "rolled away," as the reproach was rolled away. [Joshua 5:9]
- ✧ Gilgal is the place where they set up the twelve stones taken from the midst of the Jordan River as they crossed over on dry ground. [Joshua 4:20]
- ✧ Gilgal is the place where the new generation of the Sons of Israel were circumcised. [Joshua 5:2-9]
- ✧ Gilgal is the place where they stayed until the circumcision was healed, and they celebrated their first Passover in the Promised Land. [Joshua 5:2-10]
- ✧ Gilgal is the place where the manna ceased and the Children of Israel ate the first fruit of the Promised Land. [Joshua 5:11-12]
- ✧ Here the men of Gibeon sent to Joshua with a plea for help against the five kings of the Amorites who have come to attack them.

Israel coming to the rescue with God's encouragement

- ✧ 7 So **Joshua ascended from Gilgal, he and all the people of war with him**, and all the mighty men of valor. 8 And the **LORD** said to Joshua, "**Do not fear them, for I have delivered them into your hand; not a man of them shall stand before you.**" [Joshua 10:7-8]
- ✧ The encouragement from Yehowah was needed because of the immensity of the opposing force.

Battle at Gibeon

- ✧ 9 Joshua therefore came upon them suddenly, having marched all night from Gilgal. 10 So **the LORD routed them before Israel, killed them with a great slaughter at Gibeon**, chased them along the road that goes to Beth Horon, and struck them down as far as Azekah and Makkedah. 11 And it happened, as they fled before Israel and were on the descent of Beth Horon, that **the LORD cast down large hailstones from heaven on them as far as Azekah, and they died. There were more who died from the hailstones than the children of Israel killed with the sword.** [Joshua 10:9-11]
- ✧ Yehowah fought for Israel here as He had fought for Israel against Egypt at the Red Sea. [Joshua 10:11, Exodus 14:15-31]

Sun and Moon stand still

- ✧ 12 Then Joshua spoke 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 still over Gibeon; And Moon, in the Valley of Aijalon." 13 So the sun stood still, And the moon stopped, Till the people had revenge Upon their enemies.
- ✧ Is this not written in the Book of Jasher? **So the sun stood still in the midst of heaven, and did not hasten to go down for about a whole day.** 14 **And there has been no day like that, before it or after it, that the LORD heeded the voice of a man; for the LORD fought for Israel.** 15 Then Joshua returned, and all Israel with him, to the camp at Gilgal. [Joshua 10:12-15]

- ✧ Yehowah works miracles to demonstrate His power far exceeds the laws of nature that He had established at creation, and only God is able to change them as He wills. His work at the time of the Great Tribulation is the same demonstration, that the world may know the power of the Lord God Most High.

Kings hid in cave

- ✧ 16 But **these five kings had fled and hidden themselves in a cave at Makkedah.** 17 And it was told Joshua, saying, "The five kings have been found hidden in the cave at Makkedah." 18 So Joshua said, "Roll large stones against the mouth of the cave, and set men by it to guard them. 19 And do not stay there yourselves, but pursue your enemies, and attack their rear guard. Do not allow them to enter their cities, **for the LORD your God has delivered them into your hand.**" [Joshua 10:16-19]

Escapees enter fortified cities

- ✧ 20 Then it happened, while Joshua and the children of Israel made an end of slaying them with a very great slaughter, till they had finished, that **those who escaped entered fortified cities.** 21 And all **the people returned to the camp, to Joshua at Makkedah,** in peace. No one moved his tongue against any of the children of Israel. [Joshua 10:20-21]
- ✧ Apparently Joshua set up camp and stayed at **Makkedah** where the five kings were sealed in the cave and sent the army in pursuit of the escapees.
- ✧ When the escaping remnant entered fortified cities, the army returned to Joshua at **Makkedah.**

Five kings example of God's help

- ✧ 22 Then Joshua said, "**Open the mouth of the cave, and bring out those five kings to me from the cave.**" 23 And they did so, and brought out those five kings to him from the cave: the king of **Jerusalem**, the king of **Hebron**, the king of **Jarmuth**, the king of **Lachish**, and the king of **Eglon.**
- ✧ 24 So it was, when they brought out those kings to Joshua, that Joshua called for all the men of Israel, and said to the captains of the men of war who went with him, "Come near, put your feet on the necks of these kings." And they drew near and put their feet on their necks. 25 Then Joshua said to them, "**Do not be afraid, nor be dismayed; be strong and of good courage, for thus the LORD will do to all your enemies against whom you fight.**" [Joshua 10:22-25]
- ✧ This is an example of the power of Yehowah to fulfill His promise of victory for Israel.

Five kings killed, hanged, and buried in cave

- ✧ 26 And afterward **Joshua struck them and killed them, and hanged them on five trees;** and they were hanging on the trees until evening. 27 So it was **at the time of the going down of the sun that Joshua commanded, and they took them down from the trees,** cast them into the cave where they had been hidden, and laid large stones against the cave's mouth, which remain until this very day. [Joshua 10:26-27]
- ✧ A person hanged on a tree must be taken down before night. [Deuteronomy 21:22-23]
- ✧ A permanent memorial to the victory God gave Israel over the five kings of the Amorites.

Makkedah destroyed

- ✧ 28 On that day Joshua took **Makkedah**, and struck it and its king with the edge of the sword. He utterly destroyed them--all the people who were in it. He let none remain. He also did to the king of Makkedah as he had done to the king of Jericho. [Joshua 10:28]

Libnah destroyed

- ✧ 29 Then Joshua passed from Makkedah, and all Israel with him, to Libnah; and they fought against **Libnah.** 30 And the LORD also delivered it and its king into the hand of Israel; he struck it and all the people who were in it with the edge of the sword. He let none remain in it, but did to its king as he had done to the king of Jericho. [Joshua 10:29-30]

Lachish destroyed

✧ 31 Then Joshua passed from Libnah, and all Israel with him, to **Lachish**; and they encamped against it and fought against it. 32 And the LORD delivered Lachish into the hand of Israel, who took it on the second day, and struck it and all the people who were in it with the edge of the sword, according to all that he had done to Libnah. [Joshua 10:31-32]

Gezer destroyed

✧ 33 Then Hiram king of **Gezer** came up to help Lachish; and Joshua struck him and his people, until he left him none remaining. [Joshua 10:33]

Eglon destroyed

✧ 34 From Lachish Joshua passed to **Eglon**, and all Israel with him; and they encamped against it and fought against it. 35 They took it on that day and struck it with the edge of the sword; all the people who were in it he utterly destroyed that day, according to all that he had done to Lachish. [Joshua 10:34-35]

Hebron destroyed

✧ 36 So Joshua went up from Eglon, and all Israel with him, to **Hebron**; and they fought against it. 37 And they took it and struck it with the edge of the sword--its king, all its cities, and all the people who were in it; he left none remaining, according to all that he had done to Eglon, but utterly destroyed it and all the people who were in it. [Joshua 10:36-37]

Debir destroyed

✧ 38 Then Joshua returned, and all Israel with him, to **Debir**; and they fought against it. 39 And he took it and its king and all its cities; they struck them with the edge of the sword and utterly destroyed all the people who were in it. He left none remaining; as he had done to Hebron, so he did to Debir and its king, as he had done also to Libnah and its king. [Joshua 10:38-39]

✧ Not only did Israel at this time destroy the six kings and their armies that came out against him from **Jerusalem, Hebron, Jarmuth, Lachish, Eglon** and **Gezer**, but they also destroyed the cities and the people of **Makkedah, Libnah, Lachish, Eglon, Hebron** and **Debir**

Territory conquered

✧ 40 So **Joshua conquered all the land: the mountain country and the South and the lowland and the wilderness slopes, and all their kings; he left none remaining, but utterly destroyed all that breathed, as the LORD God of Israel had commanded.** [Joshua 10:40]

✧ 41 And Joshua conquered them from **Kadesh Barnea** as far as **Gaza**, and **all the country of Goshen**, even as far as **Gibeon**. 42 **All these kings and their land Joshua took at one time, because the LORD God of Israel fought for Israel.** 43 Then Joshua returned, and all Israel with him, to the camp at Gilgal. [Joshua 10:41-43]

✧ **Kadesh Barnea** was the wilderness area where Israel spent the 40 years after refusing to enter the Promised Land when first commanded to do so. [Numbers 14:26-35]

✧ **Goshen** is apparently a fertile area of the south country in the valley of Eshcol similar to the lush plain in Egypt where Joseph settled his family at the command of Pharaoh. This is probably the area from which the spies sent by Moses from Kadesh Barnea had been sent where they found the grape cluster requiring two men to carry it on a pole as they returned with samples of the fruit of the Promised Land. [Numbers 13:21-25]

✧ **Gibeon** is where the war started, an all night march from the camp at **Gilgal** at the east border of Jericho.

- ✧ **Gaza** is in the south west corner of the Promised Land, the land of the Philistines.
- ✧ The names entered here span their experiences from Egypt through the conquering of the Promised Land as far south as Gaza and Kadesh Barnea showing a complete circle back to the Wilderness of their wanderings.
- ✧ The northern portion of the Promised Land is still to be conquered.