

Joshua 9-12

“Conquering the Land – part two”

Introduction

- Tonight we going to continue our study in the book of Joshua - And as you remember from last week this book is divided into three sections

The Book of Joshua

Entering the promise land – Joshua 1-5

Conquering the promise land – Joshua 6-12

Possessing the promise land – Joshua 13-24

- God told Abraham hundreds of years before – I will give your descendants this land
 - And the book of Joshua is the story of how God keeps His promises

Now last week we looked at the beginning of the Southern Campaign with the victories of the children of Israel over Jericho and Ai

- but they have a long campaign yet to go, a long campaign of dealing with and fighting against their enemy, the people of the land
 - and as we fly over chapters 9-12 tonight we are going to see different aspects about the fight against their enemy
 - I want you to write them down and pray them in, because they relate greatly to the fights we all face against the enemy of our soul

Experiences with the enemy – Joshua 9-12

#1 – Tricked by the enemy – Joshua 9:1-15

#2 – Using the enemy – Joshua 9:16-27

#3 – Consequences of the enemy – Joshua 10:1-27

#4 – Victory over the enemy – Joshua 10:28-12:24

- lets look at those one at a time

Experiences with the enemy – Joshua 9-12

#1 – Tricked by the enemy – Joshua 9:1-15

- Now that Joshua is having some victories, the rest of the city states are having to make a coalition to fight against Joshua
 - You remember, some of you do, in our introduction to the book of Joshua that one of the interesting bits of archeological discovery has been the letters at Tel el Amarna
 - **Picture of Tel el Amarna**
- Where the people of Canaan ask Egypt to come and help them stop this invasion from a people they called the “Habiru”
 - But Egypt refused because they were in a weakened economic state, they had just lost 2 to 3 million slaves, 40 years before and the effects were still being felt
 - Plus they were fighting a war against the Hittites in the North, around what is today Turkey

So no one was coming for help – so those nations, who were normally at war with one another, teamed up to fight against the Hebrews, the Habiru

- but one group decided to go a different route
 - they were not going to join the coalition and fight, they came up with a plan to deceive the children of Israel, to trick them into making a treaty with them

We know from Deuteronomy 7:1-2 and 20:10-15 that the children of Israel were allowed to make treaties with nations not located in Canaan

- somehow the people of Gibeon find this out and they come up with a plan to put on old clothes and get some moldy bread, and old wineskins and worn out shoes and they

pretend they are from a far away country – even though they were just a few miles away

They come up with this elaborate plan, even down to what they don't say

- notice they don't mention the recent victories at Jericho and Ai
 - even though they were very aware those victories had happened, they don't mention them
 - just the victories over Egypt and the nations on the other side of the Jordan, because if they were coming from a far country, that would make sense, they wouldn't know about the recent victories
- So these guys are shrewd, they are smart

But you get the feeling that Joshua is uneasy about this, something inside him is telling him not to trust them

- notice what he says in verse 7

“Perhaps you dwell among us; so how can we make a covenant with you?” – Joshua 9:7

- something inside tells Joshua this isn't right
 - yes Joshua, that is called the Holy Spirit and He is screaming within you right now – don't do it, Josh, don't go that way

But I point out this story to you, because the enemy will work this way

- the enemy isn't all about frontal attacks and bomb warfare, oh he does that too
 - but the enemy's specialty is to deceive
 - he has been doing that since the garden of Eden, did God really say, don't eat of the fruit

The enemy loves to deceive

- but the Lord has given you weapons to fight this battle as well

“Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.” – Philippians 4:6-7

- Paul tells the Philippian church I have given you a peace from me that will guard your heart
 - The word there guard literally means “referee”
- We have the peace of God and the Spirit of God that says like a referee, fair – that is right, and foul – not okay
 - Don't do that, don't go there
 - Get away from that

The world calls it your conscience, the little angle on your shoulder

- In reality it is the Spirit of God helping you discern the way to go

The only problem is sometimes our heart can deceive us

- I remember reading DL Moody's biography and he felt like every time he went up to preach in crusades that someone was going to assassinate him
 - And his advisors would say, maybe the Lord is taking away your peace to protect you against something He knows is going to happen
 - And DL Moody would pray and say, no – the Lord has called me to do this
- And those of you that know DL Moody's story know he died of congestive heart failure, he died from being a big man, not being shot by a killer
 - So his lack of peace wasn't from the Lord, it was from the enemy
 - The lack of peace he had when he ate bad all the time, that was from the Lord but not the lack of peace about preaching

So bottom line God has given us His peace to guard or referee our hearts, but our hearts can deceive us, our enemy can deceive

- So what do we do about that
 - We need to pray
 - The problem is what we read in verse 14

“Then the men of Israel took some of their provisions; but they did not ask counsel of the Lord.” – Joshua 9:14

- They didn’t ask the Lord
 - I’m sure He would have told them about Achan and his sin before they were defeated at Ai
 - I’m sure God would have told them, these guy from Gibeon are faking you out
 - But they did not inquire of the Lord

You see way back in chapter 5, Joshua started this battle campaign out right when he said “What does my Lord say to His servant???” – Joshua 5:14

- and what followed was a very unusual but effective plan against Jericho, and victory, the walls come down
 - but with Ai, with Gibeon – Joshua doesn’t inquire of the Lord
 - and I believe at times He will let us fail so we learn not to depend on our own understanding

When I was in Highschool we had a huge Christian club, and I felt we need to do something to reach out, to see people get saved. And we had a big budget, \$3,000 from the school for our club, churches helping us with whatever we needed, it was great

- so I came up with “Party in the Park” – we booked a band, we bought food for 500 people, we invited our Youth Pastor to come share the gospel, we blanketed the campus with invites

You know how many people showed up to “Party in the Park” - 10, four club officers, my youth pastor, and the five guys in the band – not one person who was not in leadership or paid to be there

- so what did we do? – we ate 50 hamburgers a piece is what we did - no way – I went to sulk – Lord I’m trying to win souls for you – why did you have me fail?
 - and I just sensed from the Lord that day – did you ask me? – did you ask me for my plan?

And I had to be honest, I had never prayed about this idea, I just went for it. And though I’m sure the Lord smiled at a heart that just said, let’s see what the Lord wants to do, but He let it fail

- and over the next few weeks I just sought the Lord on what He wanted to do
 - and He impressed upon my heart, start a bible study
- you have club day, where you play games and do skits with a spiritual emphasis, but meet another day and just teach the Bible to your fellow students

And I argued - Lord don’t you understand we live in post modern, visual MTV generation society, we need “party in the park” to reach the kids, not bible study – and I felt like the Lord responded “okay – well since that worked so well for you in the past, keep doing it, you do have such great insight into modern culture Jason or you could listen to me”

- And reluctantly and with much resistance from the other leaders, and pastors, we started a Bible study and hundreds, hundreds of kids got saved
 - I have never seen anything like it since – I tried to recreate that again when I was in fulltime ministry on public school and it was never the same – a special move of God that He wanted to do
 - It didn’t cost thousands of dollars, it wasn’t flashy, but it came from inquiring of the Lord

The enemy that we are up against is really, really good and tricking us and deceiving us as the people of Gibeon tricked Joshua

- but we have weapons
 - that verse I quoted earlier which tells us about God giving us a peace

“Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.” – Philippians 4:6-7

- Paul tells us God will give us a peace
 - But he first says we must be anxious for nothing and pray about everything
 - Be anxious for nothing, but pray about everything
 - Such a great strategy for dealing with our enemy as well

Experiences with the enemy – Joshua 9-12

#1 – Tricked by the enemy – Joshua 9:1-15

#2 – Using the enemy – Joshua 9:16-27

- I love this, after three days the children of Israel find out – we have been tricked, we have been duped into making a covenant with the people of the land
 - But I love how Joshua responds to this

He honors the commitment he made before the Lord

- it would have been very easy for Israel to justify - what covenant, you lied to us, prepare to die
 - they could have made every excuse in the book, the covenant was under false pretense, you were not forthcoming about who you were, God didn't want us to make a covenant with people in the land, they could have come up with anything

But Joshua and the men of Israel keep their covenant, or in other words, they don't follow a failure, a failure not to pray with another failure, a failure to keep their Word before the Lord

- and this is important for us to notice because all of us have this tendency
 - we fall, we sin, and whether to cover up that sin, or to get out of the consequences of that sin, we sin some more
 - we follow one lie with another and then another
 - we follow one sin with another sin – let the Holy Spirit create examples in your own heart before I get in trouble by making my own

But this following sin with more sin doesn't help anyone

- like we have been looking at on our weekend services, we serve an awesome deliverer
 - We serve a God who can restore the years that the locusts have eaten
 - We serve a God who makes beauty for ashes

But we must learn not to take things into our own hands, but let the Lord work all the things, the good things, the mistakes I have made – we need to let the Lord work them for good in our lives

- not follow sin with more sin because we think we will set this right, we will figure this out

No doubt Joshua and the leaders of Israel pray, this time they pray and God has them make this people, the Gibeonites, water carriers and wood cutters for the temple

- they said with their own lips, we will be your servants and God has them serve, not just anywhere, but in the ministry of the tabernacle and their descendants eventually in the temple

As we continue in the scriptures we will eventually meet these guys again, but later the Bible calls the Gibeonites the Nethinim – Gibeonities = The Nethinim – “The given ones”

- and we will see these guys in the book of Nehemiah, and Ezra
 - The Gibeonities have their name changed to the Nethinim which means “the given ones”
 - And that is what they are, they are given to the service of the tabernacle and the temple – and the effects are amazing
- when Israel later in their history will be conquered and then return to the land, under the leadership of Nehemiah and Ezra - we read in those books of over 500 of these Nethinim return to serve in the temple – showing God had worked in their lives
 - Amazing how God works
 - Grace is truly amazing
- God will take my blunders and put them into a blender and I get blessed, and people around me get blessed
 - It’s great – Got is great

So then you are saying, I should just sin and let God turn my blunders into blessings – no

- don’t be dumb
 - God can and will restore, when we don’t take our sin into our hands and try to fix it with more sin
 - But even though God can bring blessings from blunders – there are also consequences to sin, that affect us and hurt us in deep ways
 - And we see that in chapter 10

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The Lord was certainly gracious in turning a blunder when the children of Israel did not pray about the Gibeonites into a blessing

- but just because God is amazing, doesn’t mean there won’t be lingering effects or consequences to our bad or sinful decisions
 - tricked into it or not – the children of Israel were now linked to this pagan people and what happened to them affected the nation of Israel

Paul the apostle makes it pretty clear in 2 Corinthians chapter 6

“Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness?” – II Corinthians 6:14

- that doesn’t mean we are not to reach out to the world, love the world, befriend the people in the world, get them to meet Jesus – we are absolutely to live like Jesus lived
 - but there is a difference between being friends, reaching out, loving and being yoked together, being linked together

“Flee also youthful lusts; but pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.” – II Timothy 2:22

- We are to be linked, yoked with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart
 - and listen to me precious ones – whether it is in business deals or especially in relationships like marriage
 - God is trying to spare you a lot of pain

God can work, God can turn our blunders into blessings

- but there will always be problems
 - and we see that here in chapter 10

Five Kings of Canaan come together as we saw Pastor Rob teach us on Sunday Morning

- and they see what the Gibeonites had done in making a treaty with Israel as treasonous
 - you see we are told in verse 2 that Gibeon was a great city
 - archaeology has discovered they had between 30,000 and 40,000 residents – 3 or 4 times the size of Ai and about half the size of Vista
 - and in ancient times that was huge
- So Adoni-Zedek who was the King of Jerusalem at the time
 - Remember Jerusalem was a Jebusite city, an enemy strong hold until the time of King David, years and years and years after this

So Jerusalem is a strong hold of the enemy in Joshua's day and its leader is a man named Adoni-Zedek

- which means – “The Lord of Righteousness”
 - but don't get the wrong idea about this guy he isn't righteous
 - The Lord of righteousness seems to be the title for the ruler of Jerusalem in Jebusite times
 - For remember years before, another ruler of Jerusalem meets with Abraham and his name was Melchizedek, which also means, the Lord of Righteousness
 - So it seems to be a title of the ruler of Jerusalem, not so much a description of his character

But Adoni-Zedek puts together a coalition of nations to come to destroy Gibeon, and the Gibeonites send for help from Joshua

- You see their relationship with this pagan nation God will bless, but there is still much trouble

The battle which ensues is what we call the long day of Joshua

- it begins with Gibeon crying out to Joshua for help
 - and Joshua it says, verse 9, travels all night to assist them
 - now I love the picture of this
- Joshua as some of you know is a Hebrew name Yashua, now if that sounds familiar, it is because in Greek Yashua is Jesus
 - And we have not taken the time to do this, but you can go through Joshua and see so many parallels between Joshua and the way Jesus operates
 - And one of the best is here

Here is a people who have deceived Joshua, and now that they are in trouble they are calling out to him

- Now again, it is one thing to honor a covenant, its one thing to say, we said we will not destroy you
 - But it is a completely other thing to say – now we will put our necks on the line to defend you, you who deceived us, tricked us
- But that is just what Joshua does – and more than that, He travels all night to come to Gibeon's defense
 - And I point this out, because this is such a great picture of the God you and I serve

We fail him, we let him down, we deceive him or at least we think we do, we try to pull the wool over His eyes

- and yet we are in a covenant relationship with Him
 - sealed not with our faithfulness which is seriously lacking
 - but with His faithfulness, with His blood

And so when we are in trouble, the best thing you and I can do is call upon the name of Jesus

- And this can be a battle, because our enemy says, you are a deceiver, you are a sinner – the Lord is not going to listen to you, the Lord is not going to help you
 - But see the picture in our text – our Joshua, our Jesus will go all night to come to my aid and your aid
- Not because you deserve it – but because He has a covenant with you, sealed in His blood, and even when we are faithless, He remains faithful
 - So call upon the Lord
 - Let Him fight for you

I love it that in the battle that ensues in verse 11 says that the Lord sent great hailstones, and they picked off the Canaanite soldiers without hitting one Israeli

- and more than that, the Bible says, more were killed by God's hailstones than by the sword of Israel
 - I love that

When you and I are in trouble – we need to call upon the Lord

- and let Him fight for us and defend us
 - that doesn't mean we don't have a part to play, it doesn't mean we sit on the sidelines and just take it, for Israel was in the battle
- But it does mean that the Lord has the ability to accomplish far more than they ever could on their own
 - And I have seen this in my life personally, someone wrongs me, someone comes against me – I can react in the flesh and just make the problem worse
 - Or I can let Him have the battle

Again I don't believe that doesn't mean we don't have a part to play, or that we do nothing to defend ourselves

- but sometimes we think that if we have been treated unjustly, that we need to behave unjustly in order to make it right
 - foolish precious ones
 - you keep being who you are in Christ
- You keep yourself unspotted from the world
 - And let the Lord fight – He is so much better at it than you

The Lord fights for Israel and what we have at the end of the day, the very long day, is a day like no other we are told in verse 14

- now this bible story is one of those that is really hard to believe, because we haven't seen it before

It reminds me of Tommy, who coming out of Children's ministry, his parents asked him, what did you learn today – oh we learned about how God delivered Israel from Egypt. They were by the Red Sea and the army of Egypt was bearing down upon them, but just then, the American forces showed up, and right when it looked like Israel was going to be taken over, the amphibious landing craft which was coming across the red sea, pulled up and ferried all the people across the sea, then the Apache Helicopters rained down fire of bullets upon the enemy and the Abrams A-1 tanks stirred up the dust so they couldn't see where they were going. The Mom said, 'is that really what they taught you in Children's ministry son' – and Tommy answered, "no Mom, but if I told you what they really told me, you would never believe it."

- That is so often how it seems
 - Hey can we really believe these stories of the parting of the Red Sea, or the Long Day of Joshua???

We are told in God's word that God made the sun and the moon stand still over the valley of Gibeon until the battle was won

- no right critics begin to attack

This right shows how dumb the Bible is, the Sun doesn't rotate around the earth, the earth spins on its axis and the sun stays still (while traveling on its own orbit through the solar system)

- so what about that Bible teacher?
 - First of all we need to give the Bible the same leniency of speech that we give ourselves

Eddie Hill is a real smart guy, and if I said to him tonight – man Eddie did you see that sun set? When the sun was going down it just lit up the sky.

- well actually Jason, the sun didn't move, we were rotating on our axis and that is what made the sun appear to set but it would be more proper to say, did you see that amazing earth rotation tonight?
 - But if Eddie really said that, no one would think he was more scientific and I was a big dummy, they would think He was a big nerd
 - Because everyone understands that sunset is a figure of speech

So we need to give the bible at least at much leniency of speech as we give one another

- but that said, what really happened on that battle field that day
 - there is really three theories embraced by believers
 - of course unbelievers just say it never happened, but that aside, there are 3 theories in the Christian community

3 Theories on the Long Day of Joshua

#1 – It was an eclipse

- this theory comes from the truth that the word “stand still” in verse 12 means to lesson or literally “retard”
 - and so what those who hold to this believe is that all the bible is saying is God gave the soldiers rest from the heat of the sun and that is why they could keep fighting

The problem in my opinion with this theory is even though it can fit the language of the text, the enemies would have had rest from the sun as well

- and it doesn't at all fit what we read in verse 14 and that is there was never a day like this before or after
 - eclipses happen all the time
 - that would not make this day totally unique

3 Theories on the Long Day of Joshua

#1 – It was an eclipse

#2 – It is poetic, not literal language

- the second way Christians look at this is to say, well the language was not literal, it was just poetic
 - the sun seemed to stand still because of the battle
 - you know we all have those days that seem to drag on – sometimes when you are in school or work, it is like come on, it's only been an hour
 - and sometimes it is a good thing, you feel like you accomplished a lot in the first part of the day
- so could this be all the Bible is really saying
 - well again I think we have a problem with the Bible then saying, there had never been a day like that before or after
 - we have days where much is accomplished many many times in our lives

3 Theories on the Long Day of Joshua

#1 – It was an eclipse

#2 – It is poetic, not literal language

#3 – God actually extended the light of the day

- The third view is that God actually did extend the light of the day for Joshua to fight the battle
 - Now I like that because I believe God says what He means and means what He says
 - but the debate on how God extended that light is just as divided as the controversy

How did God extend the sunlight?

#1 – Natural reflection

- Dr. Randal Short from Modern Discovery and the Bible, points out that because of the Krypton in the atmosphere it is possible to see the sun from wherever it is in the earth with the right atmospheric conditions
 - Krypton, not Kryptonite, this is not superman, but is a element on the periodic table that is present in our atmosphere with great reflective capabilities
 - Under the right conditions, Dr. Randal short suggests which the Lord obviously allowed, the sun didn't stop, the earth didn't stop, but the reflection from the sun off the Krypton would allow the sun to be seen from anywhere in the world, under those conditions

Now there is nothing wrong with this theory

- It eliminates all of the problems with what would happen on planet earth if the earth stopped spinning on its axis
 - Plus it still would be a unique day because the right atmospheric conditions to allow that to happen would be a miracle in itself
 - So if you like that theory, you can make it your own

How did God extend the sunlight?

#1 – Natural reflection

#2 – A gravitational pull from another planet

- Some believers hold to the theory that God extended the light not by a reflection but by the gravitational pull from another planet
 - In 1950 a scientist by the name of Immanuel Velikovsky wrote a book called "World's in Collision" – not a Christian

His hypothesis was that the orbit of the planets in our solar system have not always been the way they are today

- he believes that at one time Venus had an orbit around the sun that brought it within close proximity of Mars and the earth
 - and his theory is the close passes by Venus and then eventually Mars because its orbit was thrown out of whack is what explains many of the myths as he called them in ancient religion
- He blames the close pass of Venus for the plagues of Egypt in the book of Exodus and 52 years later a close pass of Mars, which would have slowed the rotation of the earth enough to elongate Joshua's long day

Now His book is interesting and was a favorite of Pastor Chuck's not because he believed everything in it, but because Pastor Chuck had an amazing scientific mind

- but it's an interesting theory
 - Velikovsky points out that we did not discover that Mars had moons until 1877. Now telescopes were invented in 1610, so 250 years later we discover Mars has moons, way after we discovered moons on Saturn and Jupiter, planets much further away
 - The reason for Mars' moon late discovery is because they are super small and their ability to reflect light, is also really small – so they are small and dark- so it took man 250 years to discover them – you say so what

Well Velikovsky points out that in the book Gulliver's Travels written in 1726, 150 years before we discovered Mars had moons, Jonathan Swift the author said Mars had two moons, he gives the exact dimensions and calls them "dark objects"

Velikovsky points out that Jonathan Swift based his book on old legends

- and in his theory, Mars because of Venus made a close pass to the earth in the time of Joshua, slowed the rotation of the earth, giving you a long day, plus the moons were visible to the naked eye and written down in ancient legend, picked later by Jonathan Swift before Mars moon's were discovered
 - Velikovsky also uses his theory to explain why the calendar shifted from a 360 day calendar that the Egyptians and Babylonia and Jews used in ancient times to what we have today
 - The orbits reset in his opinion where they are today and that is why we now have a 365 day year and no more close passes with Mars
- It interests nerds like me, but there are also many scientific problems with Velikovsky's theories
 - But you can get the book if you like and make the theory your own if you desire

How did God extend the sunlight?

#1 – Natural reflection

#2 – A gravitational pull from another planet

#3 – God slowed the rotation of the earth

- The other theory is God just did what He said, He slowed the rotation of the earth to allow for a long day
 - this causes some scientific problems for sure, for we are rotating at a rate of 1,000 miles per hour and if that suddenly slowed, the oceans would slosh out
- however God wouldn't have had to slam on the breaks – if you slowed the earth over a period of hours, and then brought it back to current rotation speed over a period hours, the effects on planet earth would be minimal

A jet traveling at 1,000 miles an hour, with a water glass in it, if the pilot slammed on the breaks that glass would go flying forward

- but if he slowed the plane at the rate of a half a mile per second
 - it would take 35 minutes to get the plane to speed of zero and the water wouldn't even slosh, let alone spill
- of course God has worked out all the problems with stopping suddenly as well.
 - I mean if He stacked water on top of each other in the Red Sea, it would scientifically fall down, unless the Lord in the miracle did something to stop it

I believe in the beginning God created the heaven and the earth, I have no problem with that

- and because I have no problem with that, then God can stop or slow the rotation of the earth
 - He can stack water on top of itself
 - I mean He could have the sun start moving to stay in the same position without the earth slowing its rotation at all
 - God is a big God

But the most interesting thing about Joshua's long day to me is the existence of long day stories and long night stories all over the world

- just like with the flood, there are flood legends in every culture which would make sense if 8 people made it through the flood and told their kids all about it before they repopulated the earth
 - well there are legends of either a long day or a long night all over the world
 - but check this out
- When you plot those legends on a globe – it fits

- **Picture of Tales on long day and night**

In other words it is not that in some places you have a long night and right next to it a tale of a long day

- you have these legends right in where they would be if it happen on one day
 - and this is amazing to me
 - does it take faith to believe the Bible – sure it does
- but as we dig and discover – we find that unlike what young Tommy believed, the record of the word of God stands as to the evidence we find

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- now I am going to leave you to read the rest of the section on your own
 - the rest of chapter 10 deals with what is called the southern Campaign, the battle for the cities around what we call today Jerusalem
- And chapter 11 deals with what we call the Northern Campaign, the battle for the cities around what we call today the sea of Galilee
 - Chapter 12 is a list of the Kings Israel defeated from its time wondering in the wilderness through the 7 year battle for the promise land

And again what is interesting to me is if you look at archeological evidence like those letters they found at Tel el Amarna - **Picture of Tel el Amarna**

- The cities that existed in that time, the Kings that ruled them, line up exactly with what the Bible tells us happened
 - You can trust the word of God – what it says about the past – and what it says about you – live for Him – link up with those who know Him and trust the Lord to fight your battles!