

## Joshua - 3 - Leading Israel into Canaan

Israel's entrance into Canaan, not only fulfilled God's promised covenant to Abraham.

*Then He said to Abram: "Know certainly that your descendants will be strangers in a land that is not theirs, and will serve them, and they will afflict them four hundred years. 14 And also the nation whom they serve I will judge; afterward they shall come out with great possessions. 15 Now as for you, you shall go to your fathers in peace; you shall be buried at a good old age. 16 But in the fourth generation they shall return here, for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete." Gen 15:13-16*

It also brought God's judgment upon the nations that then possessed the land. In this respect, God used Israel exactly the same way He had used the flood on the ancient world, and fire and brimstone on Sodom. His wrath was being poured out upon them because of their wickedness.

*Do not say in your heart when the LORD your God has driven them out before you, 'Because of my righteousness the LORD has brought me in to possess this land,' but it is because of the wickedness of these nations that the LORD is dispossessing them before you. It is not for your righteousness or for the uprightness of your heart that you are going to possess their land, but it is because of the wickedness of these nations that the LORD your God is driving them out before you, in order to confirm the oath which the LORD swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Deut 9:4-5*

### Jericho

When Joshua crossed the Jordan, and began God's long planned "dispossessing," God used Jericho as an example to make a very powerful statement, both to Israel and to these nations. He did this by first sending the angel of Jehovah to reveal to Joshua the importance of this event in their eyes of God. This was something that needed to be done as a just retribution for their sins. God intended that nothing should go wrong by completely taking away the defenses of the city with overwhelming force.

Jericho did what all cities did at that time when threatened by a superior force outside their walls. They locked down the city and prepared to wait out a siege, trusting in their walls for protection.

*Now Jericho was securely shut up because of the children of Israel; none went out, and none came in. Josh. 6:1*

It was God's intention to remove one of the greatest comforts to the people of that day. The walls were designed to stop an attack. If they were strong enough, the city could not be taken. God sent a message to all the other cities that all their defenses would not help them. God used the first battle after crossing the Jordan to prove that this was a judgment upon them.

### God Promised the Walls would Fall

Since this was to be an example both to Israel and to all the nations, God did something similar to what He did to Egypt. In Egypt instead of immediately destroying them, he made a great name for Himself with the Ten Plagues and passage through the Red Sea. Now, God will take a full week to prepare Jericho for the coming destruction.

*You shall march around the city, all you men of war; you shall go all around the city once. This you shall do six days. 4 And seven priests shall bear seven trumpets of rams' horns before the ark. But the seventh day you shall march around the city seven times, and the priests shall blow the trumpets. 5 It shall come to pass, when they make a long blast with the ram's horn, and when you hear the sound of the trumpet, that all the people shall shout with a great shout; then the wall of the city will fall down flat. And the people shall go up every man straight before him." Josh 6:3-5*

The army of Israel marched around the city one time "early in the morning" each day for six days. During those six days no word or sound was to be made by anyone in the army. The only sound was the "continued blowing" of the seven trumpets carried by the priests who were with the ark.

*8 So it was, when Joshua had spoken to the people, that the seven priests bearing the seven trumpets of rams' horns before the Lord advanced and blew the trumpets, and the ark of the covenant of the Lord followed them. 9 The armed men went before the priests who blew the trumpets, and the rear guard came after the ark, while the priests continued blowing the trumpets. 10 Now Joshua had*

commanded the people, saying, "You shall not shout or make any noise with your voice, nor shall a word proceed out of your mouth... 12 And Joshua rose early in the morning, and the priests took up the ark of the Lord. 13 Then seven priests bearing seven trumpets of rams' horns before the ark of the Lord went on continually and blew with the trumpets. And the armed men went before them. But the rear guard came after the ark of the Lord, while the priests continued blowing the trumpets. Josh 6:8-9, 12-13

On the seventh day, they again rose early in the morning, about dawn and marched seven times around the city. This final day after the seventh time around the city, Joshua commanded them to shout, and the wall fell down, their defenses were swept away, and they took the city.

*15 But it came to pass on the seventh day that they rose early, about the dawning of the day, and marched around the city seven times in the same manner. On that day only, they marched around the city seven times. 16 And the seventh time it happened, when the priests blew the trumpets, that Joshua said to the people: "Shout, for the Lord has given you the city! ... 20 So the people shouted when the priests blew the trumpets. And it happened when the people heard the sound of the trumpet, and the people shouted with a great shout, that the wall fell down flat. Then the people went up into the city, every man straight before him, and they took the city. Josh 6:15-16, 20*

In this way, God made it clear to Israel, the inhabitants of that land, and all future servants of the LORD that He was casting these nations out and fighting for Israel. This was not done by their own power. They were working out God's plan and purpose.

### **Jericho was "Doomed to Destruction" - NKJV / "Under the Ban" -NAS!**

God also made Jericho special in a second sense. He had strictly charged them once the walls came down, they were to do to Jericho exactly what the flood did to the ancient world. They were to completely destroy it. Nothing was to be left alive, and all possession were to be burned or taken into God's treasury. The entire city was to be seen as accursed.

*17 Now the city shall be **doomed** by the Lord **to destruction (under the ban, - NAS)**, it and all who are in it. Only Rahab the harlot shall live, she and all who are with her in the house, because she hid the messengers that we sent. 18 And you, by all means abstain from the **accursed things (things under the ban - NAS)**, lest you become **accursed** when you take of the **accursed things (things under the ban, - NAS)** and make the camp of Israel a **curse (accursed - NAS)**, and trouble it. 19 But all the silver and gold, and vessels of bronze and iron, are consecrated to the Lord; they shall come into the treasury of the Lord." Josh 6:17-19*

It is very important for all servants of God to understand His intent and purpose in this. He had already explained it to them in the Law:

*Anything **devoted to destruction** is most holy to the LORD. No one who may **have been set apart** among men shall be ransomed; he shall surely be put to death. Lev 27:28*

When something is placed under the ban, it has been accursed or devoted to destruction. It cannot be ransomed or redeemed. It must be put to death or given to the Lord. The term is defined:

*"to ban, to devote, to destroy utterly, to completely destroy, to dedicate for destruction, to exterminate..."*

God had reserved this term for those things that belong only to Him. Man can dedicate things to Him so that they become devoted, as Jephtha did his daughter, but generally this term is used to describe those persons or things that were under God's divine judgment. When God decreed something no longer had a right to exist, no one was to stand in God's way. Those who refused to listen and take something that has been devoted to destruction become devoted to destruction themselves:

*25 You shall burn the carved images of their gods with fire; you shall not covet the silver or gold that is on them, nor take it for yourselves, lest you be snared by it; for it is an abomination to the Lord your God. 26 Nor shall you bring an abomination into your house, lest you be **doomed to destruction (come under the ban -NAS)** like it. You shall utterly detest it and utterly abhor it, for it is **an accursed thing (something banned - NAS)**. Deut. 6:25-26*

All of this was spoken before the children of Israel began their conquest. God had made it clear that

this city was different. It was to be an example of God's wrath. Much like the Amalekites were later.

## **Rahab was Spared**

As had been previously agreed, the promise of the men would be kept. The scarlet thread had been placed and all of Rahab's family had entered and remained in her home. Joshua made certain that the oaths that had been taken were fulfilled.

*And they utterly destroyed all that was in the city, both man and woman, young and old, ox and sheep and donkey, with the edge of the sword. 22 But Joshua had said to the two men who had spied out the country, "Go into the harlot's house, and from there bring out the woman and all that she has, as you swore to her." 23 And the young men who had been spies went in and brought out Rahab, her father, her mother, her brothers, and all that she had. So they brought out all her relatives and left them outside the camp of Israel. Josh 6:21-23*

## **The BAN was Violated!**

Yet with all the warnings, there was an Israelite who did not listen, and took something that was accursed and under the ban.

*But the children of Israel committed a trespass regarding **the accursed things (things under the ban - NAS)** for Achan the son of Carmi, the son of Zabdi, the son of Zerah, of the tribe of Judah, took of **the accursed things (things under the ban - NAS)**; so the anger of the Lord burned against the children of Israel. Josh 7:1*

Everything God had warned against was now put to the test. Achan did not resist the temptation to take something. But when he did so, God's anger burned not only against him, but against the entire camp of Israel.

Another important lesson had to be taught. Fellowship with God requires purity and holiness. This is true on an individual level, but Israel must now learn that it must also be on a national level as well. For God to be with Israel they must be pure. After what Achan did, the entire nation of Israel had been contaminated. What needed to be learned centered on the consequences of sin. Although the guilt for sin can only harm the individual, the consequences of sin can be far reaching. What they had to learn is that their sin would also impact the entire nation.

Sadly, though God's anger burned against Israel, there was only one man in all Israel (and perhaps some in his family), who could have warned the others that there was sin in the camp. When Achan took some things from Jericho, he made the camp of Israel accursed.

*And you, by all means abstain from the **accursed things (things under the ban - NAS)**, lest you become **accursed** when you take of the **accursed things (things under the ban, - NAS)** and make the camp of Israel a **curse (accursed - NAS)**, and trouble it. Josh 6:17-19*

## **Disaster at Ai**

After the great victory at Jericho, the faith of the people reached new heights. They now fully trust in God's power and are confident in the outcome. But with sin and its curse in the camp, God did not act for them and they were defeated. But far worse was the affect on the people. Their hearts have melted and became like water.

*And the men of Ai struck down about thirty-six men, for they chased them from before the gate as far as Shebarim, and struck them down on the descent; therefore the hearts of the people melted and became like water. Josh 7:5*

Joshua's leadership faced its first great test and he failed. As so many of God's people have done, he thinks first of a failure on God's part and not man's. While God would never fail or forsake, He had firmly warned that if they took something from Jericho, the camp would become a curse. But Joshua jumped to the wrong conclusion.

*Then Joshua tore his clothes, and fell to the earth on his face before the ark of the Lord until evening, he and the elders of Israel; and they put dust on their heads. 7 And Joshua said, "Alas, Lord God, why have You brought this people over the Jordan at all--to deliver us into the hand of the Amorites, to*

*destroy us? Oh, that we had been content, and dwelt on the other side of the Jordan! Josh 7:6-7*

He was blaming it all on God! He accused God of delivering them up to the Amorites. He bemoaned the fact that they had not been content to stay on the other side of the Jordan. Such lack of faith came from a lack of knowledge and a lack of proper application. Yet God does not rebuke, but only reproves.

*So the Lord said to Joshua: "Get up! Why do you lie thus on your face? 11 Israel has sinned, and they have also transgressed My covenant which I commanded them. For they have even taken some of **the accursed things(under the ban** NAS) , and have both stolen and deceived; and they have also put it among their own stuff. 12 Therefore the children of Israel could not stand before their enemies, but turned their backs before their enemies, because they have become **doomed to destruction**. Neither will I be with you anymore, unless you destroy **the accursed(things under the ban** NAS) from among you. Josh 7:10-12*

All the fault lay with Israel. Even though only one man sinned, the fellowship of each Israelite to every other Israelite and to God led to the entire nation becoming sinful and accursed. What one man did affected the entire nation, and the entire nation needed to act to remove this stain.

God's simple statement must have filled Joshua and all who heard this with alarm. God warned that He would never be with them again, unless they removed the accursed thing that had been brought from Jericho and the one who had become accursed by taking it from their midst. es. became What a powerful indictment against those things God condemns. One man's violation of God's order led to the cursing of the entire camp. God would never be with them again unless they dealt with this thing properly.

The thing needed to be dealt with immediately, so God gave specific instructions to be carried out the next day.

*Get up, sanctify the people, and say, "Sanctify yourselves for tomorrow, because thus says the Lord God of Israel: "There is an accursed thing in your midst, O Israel; you cannot stand before your enemies until you take away the accursed thing from among you." 14 In the morning therefore you shall be brought according to your tribes. And it shall be that the tribe which the Lord takes shall come according to families; and the family which the Lord takes shall come by households; and the household which the Lord takes shall come man by man. 15 Then it shall be that he who is taken with the accursed thing shall be burned with fire, he and all that he has, because he has transgressed the covenant of the Lord, and because he has done a disgraceful thing in Israel.'" Josh 7:13-15*

## **The Punishment of Achan**

So Joshua rose early the next morning and carried out these instructions. When he brought the tribes, Judah was taken, and it was quickly narrowed down to Achan. Although Joshua gave Achan the opportunity to confess his sin, and it is between God and Achan what happened to his soul, the consequences of his action could not be removed through confession.

*Now Joshua said to Achan, "My son, I beg you, give glory to the Lord God of Israel, and make confession to Him, and tell me now what you have done; do not hide it from me." 20 And Achan answered Joshua and said, "Indeed I have sinned against the Lord God of Israel, and this is what I have done: 21 "When I saw among the spoils a beautiful Babylonian garment, two hundred shekels of silver, and a wedge of gold weighing fifty shekels, I coveted them and took them. And there they are, hidden in the earth in the midst of my tent, with the silver under it." Josh 7:19-21*

They quickly find the garment, 200 shekels of silver and wedge of gold and return to Joshua. Once this had been done, the rest of God's instructions were followed. It was a sad day in Israel as this terrible vengeance was poured out on Achan.

*Then Joshua, and all Israel with him, took Achan the son of Zerah, the silver, the garment, the wedge of gold, his sons, his daughters, his oxen, his donkeys, his sheep, his tent, and all that he had, and they brought them to the Valley of Achor. 25 And Joshua said, "Why have you troubled us? The Lord will trouble you this day." So all Israel stoned him with stones; and they burned them with fire after they had stoned them with stones. Josh 7:24-25*

This was the only way to remove this blot. The guilty person had placed himself under the ban and

made himself a curse. He must be burned with fire just as Jericho had been burned. Yet the judgment did not fall on him alone, but on all that belonged to him, including his family.

## **Applications**

Jericho stands with Sodom, Gomorrah and the world that perished in the flood as a sign of Divine wrath. By placing it under the ban and devoting it to destruction, God again revealed His demand that His creation must submit to His will or face His wrath.

When the 70 Greek scholars translated the Hebrew Bible into the Greek Septuagint, they used the Greek word “*anathema*” to translate “under the ban,” and it means exactly the same thing. Paul used this word to describe those in the church who are under the same ban Jericho was:

*But even though we, or an angel from heaven, should preach to you a gospel contrary to that which we have preached to you, let him be accursed. Gal 1:8*

God demands that we view all who add to or take from His word, preaching a different gospel than that revealed by the apostles as being under the ban! Let none of us be as Achan!

A second application centers on church discipline. Just as one sin in Israel affected the entire nation, one sin in the church can do something very similar.

*It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and such sexual immorality as is not even named among the Gentiles--that a man has his father's wife! 2 And you are puffed up, and have not rather mourned, that he who has done this deed might be taken away from among you. 3 For I indeed, as absent in body but present in spirit, have already judged (as though I were present) him who has so done this deed. 4 In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, when you are gathered together, along with my spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus Christ, 5 deliver such a one to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus. 6 Your glorying is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump? 7 Therefore purge out the old leaven, that you may be a new lump, since you truly are unleavened. 1Cor 5:1-5*

## **The Destruction of Ai**

After Israel followed God's instructions concerning the sin of Achan, He makes it very clear that all has been forgiven and they are now ready to move forward. Everything is as it was when God first promised to work with Joshua.

*Now the Lord said to Joshua: “Do not be afraid, nor be dismayed; take all the people of war with you, and arise, go up to Ai. See, I have given into your hand the king of Ai, his people, his city, and his land. 2 And you shall do to Ai and its king as you did to Jericho and its king. Only its spoil and its cattle you shall take as booty for yourselves. Lay an ambush for the city behind it.” Josh 8:1-2*

God also revealed that He would once again take an active role in helping them. He gave exact instructions about how to destroy them and how they should form the attack.

As they drew near to Ai, Joshua is told to send off 5,000 men in an ambush as God had commanded.

*And all the people of war who were with him went up and drew near; and they came before the city and camped on the north side of Ai. Now a valley lay between them and Ai. 12 So he took about five thousand men and set them in ambush between Bethel and Ai, on the west side of the city. 13 And when they had set the people, all the army that was on the north of the city, and its rear guard on the west of the city, Joshua went that night into the midst of the valley. Josh 8:11-13*

They then approach the city and act as though they are fleeing again, emboldening the leaders, making them believe that once again it will be an easy defeat.

*And Joshua and all Israel made as if they were beaten before them, and fled by the way of the wilderness. 16 So all the people who were in Ai were called together to pursue them. And they pursued Joshua and were drawn away from the city. 17 There was not a man left in Ai or Bethel who did not go out after Israel. So they left the city open and pursued Israel. Josh 8:15-17*

But after they empty the city the trap set by the ambush is accomplished.

*Then the Lord said to Joshua, "Stretch out the spear that is in your hand toward Ai, for I will give it into your hand." And Joshua stretched out the spear that was in his hand toward the city. 19 So those in ambush arose quickly out of their place; they ran as soon as he had stretched out his hand, and they entered the city and took it, and hurried to set the city on fire. Josh 8:18-20*

Now the men of Ai are caught between two armies and have no where to go or to escape. Before the day is over both the city and its people are destroyed.

One of the big differences between Ai and Jericho is the fact that this time, God allowed them to keep all the possessions of the people of Ai.

*For Joshua did not draw back his hand, with which he stretched out the spear, until he had utterly destroyed all the inhabitants of Ai. 27 Only the livestock and the spoil of that city Israel took as booty for themselves, according to the word of the Lord which He had commanded Joshua. Josh 8:26-27*

One cannot help but think of Achan. If he could have resisted that temptation and waited a few more weeks, he could have had all he desired.

## **Mt. Ebal & Mt. Gerazim**

Since they are now at the nearest point to them, before they continue their conquest, they have an appointment they must keep. Moses had given very specific instructions for them to camp between these two mountains and fully elaborate on the covenant they had agreed to, noting especially the blessings for keeping them and the curses for disobedience.

*"Behold, I set before you today a blessing and a curse: 27 the blessing, if you obey the commandments of the Lord your God which I command you today; 28 and the curse, if you do not obey the commandments of the Lord your God, but turn aside from the way which I command you today, to go after other gods which you have not known. 29 Now it shall be, when the Lord your God has brought you into the land which you go to possess, that you shall put the blessing on Mount Gerizim and the curse on Mount Ebal. Deut 11:26-29*

*And it shall be, on the day when you cross over the Jordan to the land which the Lord your God is giving you, that you shall set up for yourselves large stones, and whitewash them with lime. 3 You shall write on them all the words of this law... 4 Therefore it shall be, when you have crossed over the Jordan, that on Mount Ebal you shall set up these stones, which I command you today, and you shall whitewash them with lime. 5 And there you shall build an altar to the Lord your God, an altar of stones; you shall not use an iron tool on them. 6 You shall build with whole stones the altar of the Lord your God, and offer burnt offerings on it to the Lord your God. 7 You shall offer peace offerings, and shall eat there, and rejoice before the Lord your God. 8 And you shall write very plainly on the stones all the words of this law." Deut 27:1-8*

*And Moses commanded the people on the same day, saying, 12 "These shall stand on Mount Gerizim to bless the people, when you have crossed over the Jordan: Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, Joseph, and Benjamin; 13 and these shall stand on Mount Ebal to curse: Reuben, Gad, Asher, Zebulun, Dan, and Naphtali. 14 "And the Levites shall speak with a loud voice and say to all the men of Israel: 15 'Cursed is the one who makes a carved or molded image, an abomination to the Lord, the work of the hands of the craftsman, and sets it up in secret.' "And all the people shall answer and say, 'Amen!' Deut. 27:11-15*

So Joshua and the people do everything Moses had requested. They take the rocks, cover them with limestone and write the words of the Law(ten commandments and possible other portions of the Law. Later, he placed the people in front of the two mounts as God had commanded through Moses, and then read all the words of the Law. It was a solemn and important event that was designed to make a powerful impression. With about a million and a half people calling Amen, it must have been a powerful affirmation.

## **The Gibeonites**

As news traveled throughout the region, most felt disdain and a desire to destroy them.

*And it came to pass when all the kings who were on this side of the Jordan, in the hills and in the lowland and in all the coasts of the Great Sea toward Lebanon — the Hittite, the Amorite, the Canaanite, the Perizzite, the Hivite, and the Jebusite — heard about it, 2 that they gathered together*

to fight with Joshua and Israel with one accord. Josh 9:1-2

But it was fear and dread that fell upon the Gibeonites and so they decided to attempt deception as a way out of their dilemma.

*But when the inhabitants of Gibeon heard what Joshua had done to Jericho and Ai, 4 they worked craftily, and went and pretended to be ambassadors. And they took old sacks on their donkeys, old wineskins torn and mended, 5 old and patched sandals on their feet, and old garments on themselves; and all the bread of their provision was dry and moldy. 6 And they went to Joshua, to the camp at Gilgal, and said to him and to the men of Israel, "We have come from a far country; now therefore, make a covenant with us." Josh 9:3-6*

For whatever reason, Joshua does not seek the counsel of the Lord on this matter. They are so completely taken in by their crafty deception that they make the covenant without any suspicion of concern at all.

There appears to be some faith in the hearts of these men as they are acting on what they had heard about Israel. How God had brought them out of Egypt and allowed them to successfully conquer all the nations they had previously faced.

*7 So they said to him: "From a very far country your servants have come, because of the name of the Lord your God; for we have heard of His fame, and all that He did in Egypt, 10 and all that He did to the two kings of the Amorites who were beyond the Jordan — to Sihon king of Heshbon, and Og king of Bashan, who was at Ashtaroath. 11 Therefore our elders and all the inhabitants of our country spoke to us, saying, 'Take provisions with you for the journey, and go to meet them, and say to them, "We are your servants; now therefore, make a covenant with us."'" Josh 9:9-12*

After they find out the truth, they face a difficult dilemma. Should they keep the oath and violate the command or violate the command and keep the oath. The people were angry with the leaders for not seeking God's counsel first. There is no indication if they even asked God's counsel on the best way out of this problem.

*Then the men of Israel took some of their provisions; but they did not ask counsel of the Lord. 15 So Joshua made peace with them, and made a covenant with them to let them live; and the rulers of the congregation swore to them. 16 And it happened at the end of three days, after they had made a covenant with them, that they heard that they were their neighbors who dwelt near them. 17 Then the children of Israel journeyed and came to their cities on the third day. Now their cities were Gibeon, Chephirah, Beeroth, and Kirjath Jearim. 18 But the children of Israel did not attack them, because the rulers of the congregation had sworn to them by the Lord God of Israel. And all the congregation complained against the rulers. 19 Then all the rulers said to all the congregation, "We have sworn to them by the Lord God of Israel; now therefore, we may not touch them. Josh 9:14-15*

The best they can do to resolve this problem is offer to make them slaves to Israel for the rest of their lives and that of their offspring.

*So he did to them, and delivered them out of the hand of the children of Israel, so that they did not kill them. 27 And that day Joshua made them woodcutters and water carriers for the congregation and for the altar of the Lord, in the place which He would choose, even to this day. Josh 9:26-27*

## **The Battle against the Five Kings**

When the area cities heard what Gibeon had done, they decided to destroy those cities first and then do battle against Israel. It appears they do not want the rebellion that Gibeon had started to grow. When the Gibeonites hear that they are coming they plead with Israel to help them. Although the previous chapter left us to understand they "made a covenant with them to let them live," they now seek more. They now want Israel to protect them. Whether this was part of the oath, or God simply allowed it to occur, they saved them from this threat. God promised Joshua to deliver these armies into Israel's hands.

*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." 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. Josh 10:8-11

As the battle progresses, two things of great importance occur that must have had great power to increase the faith of Israel. First, God took part in the battle by using hail stones to kill even more than Israel had.

*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. Josh 10:11*

Later, Joshua asked God to hold the sun in the sky and not allow darkness to end the fight before it was completed. God fulfilled his request.

*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. Josh 10:12-13*

Multitudes of people have scoffed at this event, questioning its possibility and validity. It is like most of the miracles in the Bible. If one leans upon their own understanding then it seems impossible, but if we trust in the Lord with all our heart and believe then nothing appears or is impossible.

### **Summation of the Conquests**

After these details of the first few cities, God simply sums up the rest. He notes the ease with which they finished the punishment of the inhabitants of the South.

*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. Josh 10:40-43*

After these final words about the Southern battles, he moves to their work in the North. In a single great battle against multitudes as vast as the sands of the sea, Joshua gained the victory through God.

*And it came to pass, when Jabin king of Hazor heard these things, that he sent to Jobab king of 7 Madon, to the king of Shimron, to the king of Achshaph, 2 and to the kings who were from the north, in the mountains, in the plain south of Chinneroth, in the lowland, and in the heights of Dor on the west, 3 to the Canaanites in the east and in the west, the Amorite, the Hittite, the Perizzite, the Jebusite in the mountains, and the Hivite below Hermon in the land of Mizpah. 4 So they went out, they and all their armies with them, as many people as the sand that is on the seashore in multitude, with very many horses and chariots. 5 And when all these kings had met together, they came and camped together at the waters of Merom to fight against Israel. Josh 11:1-5*

After this victory, Joshua was able to destroy a large number of cities after their soldiers died in this battle.

*So all the cities of those kings, and all their kings, Joshua took and struck with the edge of the sword. He utterly destroyed them, as Moses the servant of the Lord had commanded. 13 But as for the cities that stood on their mounds, Israel burned none of them, except Hazor only, which Joshua burned. Josh. 11:12-13*

*Thus Joshua took all this land: the mountain country, all the South, all the land of Goshen, the lowland, and the Jordan plain — the mountains of Israel and its lowlands, 17 from Mount Halak and the ascent to Seir, even as far as Baal Gad in the Valley of Lebanon below Mount Hermon. He captured all their kings, and struck them down and killed them. 18 Joshua made war a long time with all those kings. 19 There was not a city that made peace with the children of Israel, except the Hivites, the inhabitants of Gibeon. All the others they took in battle. 20 For it was of the Lord to harden their hearts, that they should come against Israel in battle, that He might utterly destroy them, and that they might receive no mercy, but that He might destroy them, as the Lord had commanded Moses. Josh 11:16-20*