

Prayer-less & prideful Joshua & Israel made a major compromise—Covenant w/ Gibeonites who lied-deceived them by pretending to be something they were not. Temptation & sin is like that—promises much but delivers little, mostly trouble—A covenant w/ the flesh, instead of putting to death the deeds of the flesh is to accommodate & live in compromise.

When we determine to live a victorious Christian life—to live in the full blessings of God—expect spiritual warfare from the world, flesh & devil.

If we are to possess all of God's promises they are fought & won on the **battlefield** not the **playfield**—After we conquer we need to learn to possess & hold no to. You can win the battle, slack off & lose what you had gained because you didn't guard your possession. *Strong man armed* Lk 11:21,22

Satan attacks when we are most vulnerable—Jesus 40 fasting enemy attacking. When I am strong then I am weak but when weak I am strong in the Lord—God's power perfected in weakness.

5 kings unite to attack at the place of compromise & accommodation.

*1 Now it came about when Adoni-zedek king of Jerusalem heard that Joshua had captured Ai, and had utterly destroyed it (just as he had done to Jericho and its king, so he had done to Ai and its king), and that the inhabitants of Gibeon had made peace with Israel and were within their land, 2 that he 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 word to Hoham king of Hebron and to Piram king of Jarmuth and to Japhia king of Lachish and to Debir king of Eglon, saying, 4 "Come up to me and help me, and let us attack Gibeon, for it has made peace with Joshua and with the sons of Israel." 5 So 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 with all their armies, and camped by Gibeon and fought against it.*

Adoni-Zedek-*lord of righteousness* He is not what his name implies. If we call ourselves Christian, *Christ like*, we must to be what we call ourselves. A-Z is a type of antichrist--Joshua type of Christ – *A-Z opposed to*

There should be a sense of awe or trepidation when God is working so powerfully thru His people. They have had many years to acknowledge & turn to but instead hardened heart & fight against.

Israel's promise to Gibeonites **obligated** Joshua to defend them. When we compromise w/ the flesh it demands excessive attention. When give into **temper** tantrum, outbursts when frustrated *Pr 25:28 Like a city that is broken into and without walls Is a man who has no control over his spirit. 19:19 A person of great anger will suffer the penalty, For if you rescue him, you will only have to do it again.*

**Gossip**-*Pr 18:8 The words of a gossip are like choice morsels; they go down to the inmost parts.* Gossip makes it's rounds & will always come back on you

Winston Churchill faced opposition & rumors. During his last year in office, he attended an official ceremony. Several rows behind him two men began whispering. "That's Winston Churchill." "They say he is getting senile-They say he should step aside & leave the running of the nation to more dynamic & capable men." Later when the ceremony was over, Churchill turned to the men & said, "Gentlemen, they also say he is deaf!"

*Pr 26:20 For lack of wood the fire goes out, And where there is no gossip, quarreling quiets down. And yet you can't undo what has already been done.*

There was once a young lady w/ a very careless tongue. She went thruout the town gossiping about a wise & gentle rabbi w/ whom she disagreed. One day feeling a sense of shame she came to the rabbi & asked his forgiveness. He realized the gravity of her sin & the damage done & told her he would forgive her but first she needed to go home, take a feather pillow from the house, cut it open and scatter the feathers to the wind where ever she had spoken an unkind word about him. Afterward, he said, return back here & he will forgive her. She thought it a strange request but she dutifully did what he asked. Upon returning she asked 'Now am I forgiven?' The rabbi replied 'Just one more thing. Go gather up all the feathers and put them back in the pillow.' 'But', she exclaimed 'that is impossible, they are spread everywhere, & I don't know where all of them have been blown.' The rabbi replied 'Precisely & even though I will forgive you the damage you have done w/ your tongue is irretrievable'

When we yield to the flesh, compromise, covenant w/ old nature it saps our strength, uses up the energy intended for the Lord.

*6 Then the men of Gibeon sent word to Joshua to the camp at Gilgal, saying, “Do not abandon your servants; come up to us quickly and save us and help us, for all the kings of the Amorites that live in the hill country have assembled against us.” 7 So Joshua went up from Gilgal, he and all the people of war with him and all the valiant warriors. 8 And the LORD said to Joshua, “Do not fear them, for I have given them into your hands; not one of them shall stand before you.” 9 So Joshua came upon them suddenly by marching all night from Gilgal.*

They marched all night a distance of about 20 miles or 8-10 hour journey. Compromise (covenant w/ Gibeon) is exhausting & depletes strength. **Two board members had me on the ropes—misguided decision one recovering alcoholic-other litigating attorney. One staff we put in jail for bad deeds.**

*10 And the LORD confounded them before Israel, and He slew them with a great slaughter at Gibeon, and pursued them by the way of the ascent of Beth-horon, and struck them as far as Azekah and Makkedah. 11 And it came about as they fled from before Israel, while they were at the descent of Beth-horon, that the LORD threw large stones from heaven on them as far as Azekah, and they died; there were more who died from the hailstones than those whom the sons of Israel killed with the sword.*

Still the Lord helps & doesn't leave us to our bad decisions, **J Vernon 'and it came to pass, it didn't come to stay'**. Thruout Joshua's leadership Lord repeated to him **'do not fear'** a good exhortation to those who see themselves small, weak, no match for the enemy **or** ability to lead a nation. **When I am weak then I am strong' weak because of me strong because of Him.**

All battles big and small belong to the Lord **'I have given them':8**. These enemies are worshipers of nature deities & must be wondering if gods of nature helping Joshua.

But at the same time Joshua & Israel actively pursuing the enemy—always a partnership w/ us and God in the natural and supernatural. **Work out/in**

*12 Then Joshua spoke to the LORD in the day when the LORD delivered up the Amorites before the sons of Israel, and he said in the sight of Israel, "O sun, stand still at Gibeon, And O moon in the valley of Aijalon." 13 So the sun stood still, and the moon stopped, Until the nation avenged themselves of their enemies. Is it not written in the book of Jashar? And the sun stopped in the middle of the sky, and did not hasten to go down for about a whole day. 14 And there was no day like that before it or after it, when the LORD listened to the voice of a man; for the LORD fought for Israel. 15 Then Joshua and all Israel with him returned to the camp to Gilgal.*

Supernatural phenomenon a **slowing** of the earth's rotation? Or slight **tilting** of earth's axis? Or **refraction** of light from space? Or slow moving **brightness** of asteroid? Or **glory** of God's presence? A **miracle** 'the sun stood still'.

Critics say unscientific, the earth rotates around the sun, not the sun around the earth. But we say sun rise, sun set, four corners of earth-*figures of speech*. But the sun is in motion-our solar system is moving 450K mph taking 230 million years to make its way around Milky Way as it rotates on its axis.

Jasher 2 Sam 1:18 a compilation of Hebrew songs, poetry celebrating Israel's hero's & exploits in battle.

***Work out you salvation w/ fear and trembling for it is God who works in you to will and do His good pleasure' Phil 2:12*** Victorious believers are active believers-God works in, as we work out—not slacking or lazy but pressing into the promises **Matt 11:12** *thayer's Gk Lexicon the heavenly kingdom is sought for with the most ardent zeal and the intensest exertion;*

Notice here, not only does God not leave us to our bad decisions but when He acts on our behalf He does so w/ supernatural power & superabundant grace.

16 Now these five kings had fled and hidden themselves in the cave at Makkedah. 17 And it was told Joshua, saying, "The five kings have been found hidden in the cave at Makkedah." 18 And Joshua said, "Roll large stones against the mouth of the cave, and assign men by it to guard them, 19 but do not stay there yourselves; pursue your enemies and attack them in the rear. Do not allow them to enter their cities, for the LORD your God has delivered them into your hand." 20 And it came about when Joshua and the sons of Israel had finished slaying them with a very great slaughter, until they were destroyed, and the survivors who remained of them had entered the fortified cities, 21 that all the people returned to the camp to Joshua at Makkedah in peace. No one uttered a word against any of the sons of Israel. 22 Then Joshua said, "Open the mouth of the cave and bring these five kings out to me from the cave." 23 And they did so, and brought these five kings out 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 And it came about when they brought these kings out to Joshua, that Joshua called for all the men of Israel, and said to the chiefs of the men of war who had gone with him, "Come near, **put your feet on the necks** of these kings." So they came near and put their feet on their necks. 25 Joshua then said to them, "Do not fear or be dismayed! Be strong and courageous, for thus the LORD will do to all your enemies with whom you fight." 26 So afterward Joshua struck them and put them to death, and he hanged them on five trees; and they hung on the trees until evening. 27 And it came about at sunset that Joshua commanded, and they took them down from the trees and threw them into the cave where they had hidden themselves, and put large stones over the mouth of the cave, to this very day.

Five kings in a cave – Gilgal 5 x's to remember history w/ God Jordan, Renewal-passover; Recommitment-circumcision; Revelation-Captain of Lords Host; Humiliation- Gilgal-lines of communication open and in tact. For the victorious Christian the cross is not just the beginning of salvation but mid way and end. **'Do this in remembrance of me'**

*Neck of enemy*-kings represent the flesh life & all in opposition to believers gaining victory. Visual reminder of our victory over all enemies—lust, pride, selfishness, anger, unforgiveness, critical spirit. All the things that tempt us to compromise & make a covenant w/ world, flesh & devil.

Hang on tree--cursed--Jesus hung for us Rom 6 our flesh w/ Him **:6;11-13**

28 Now Joshua captured Makkedah on that day, and struck it and its king with the edge of the sword; he utterly destroyed it and every person who was in it. He left no survivor. Thus he did to the king of Makkedah just as he had done to the king of Jericho. 29 Then Joshua and all Israel with him passed on from Makkedah to Libnah, and fought against Libnah. 30 And the LORD gave it also with its king into the hands of Israel, and he struck it and every person who was in it with the edge of the sword. He left no survivor in it. Thus he did to its king just as he had done to the king of Jericho. 31 And Joshua and all Israel with him passed on from Libnah to Lachish, and they camped by it and fought against it. 32 And the LORD gave Lachish into the hands of Israel; and he captured it on the second day, and struck it and every person who was in it with the edge of the sword, according to all that he had done to Libnah. 33 Then Horam king of Gezer came up to help Lachish, and Joshua defeated him and his people until he had left him no survivor. 34 And Joshua and all Israel with him passed on from Lachish to Eglon, and they camped by it and fought against it. 35 And they captured it on that day and struck it with the edge of the sword; and he utterly destroyed that day every person who was in it, according to all that he had done to Lachish. 36 Then Joshua and all Israel with him went up from Eglon to Hebron, and they fought against it. 37 And they captured it and struck it and its king and all its cities and all the persons who were in it with the edge of the sword. He left no survivor, according to all that he had done to Eglon. And he utterly destroyed it and every person who was in it. 38 Then Joshua and all Israel with him returned to Debir, and they fought against it. 39 And he captured it and its king and all its cities, and they struck them with the edge of the sword, and utterly destroyed every person who was in it. He left no survivor. Just as he had done to Hebron, so he did to Debir and its king, as he had also done to Libnah and its king. 40 Thus Joshua struck all the land, the hill country and the Negev and the lowland and the slopes and all their kings. He left no survivor, but he utterly destroyed all who breathed, just as the LORD, the God of Israel, had commanded. 41 And Joshua struck them from Kadesh-barnea even as far as Gaza, and all the country of Goshen even as far as Gibeon. 42 And Joshua captured all these kings and their lands at one time, because the LORD, the God of Israel, fought for Israel. 43 So Joshua and all Israel with him returned to the camp at Gilgal.

Total victory is ours one battle at a time one day at a time—we're only as victorious as battles won today. Don't worry about tomorrows skirmishes.

**Matt 6:34** *“Therefore do not be anxious for tomorrow; for tomorrow will care for itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.*

**Potential**-God given all the land. **Ideal**—capture all that God has promised.

**Real**-we possess only what our faith for. Christ won the victory but our lack of faith holds us back. **When disciples unable to cast out demon....**

**Matt 17: 20** And He said to them, "Because of the littleness of your faith; for truly I say to you, if you have faith as a mustard seed, you shall say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it shall move; and nothing shall be impossible to you.

Some will question; How can a loving God destroy all these people. *Thou dost hate all who do iniquity. Thou dost destroy those who speak falsehood; The Lord abhors the man of bloodshed and deceit Ps 5:5,6* **Child sacrifice, worship of dmons.** They had time to repent but would not. Rahab did & God saved & forgave. **Matt 7:13** "Enter by the narrow gate; for the gate is wide, and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and many are those who enter by it.

**1Cor 10:11** Now these things happened to them as an example, and they were written for our instruction, upon whom the ends of the ages have come.

**NLT Heb 2:3** So what makes us think we can escape if we ignore this great salvation that was first announced by the Lord Jesus himself and then delivered to us by those who heard him speak?

**God will judge a Christ rejecting world...**' a terrifying thing to fall into the hands of a living God....Here unrepentant pagan kings in cave are examples of the same unrepentant secular worldlings, mocking idea of second coming until it happens & their last words **Rev 6:15,16** *And the kings of the earth and the great men and the commanders and the rich and the strong and every slave and free man, hid themselves in the caves and among the rocks of the mountains; 16 and they said to the mountains and to the rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the presence of Him who sits on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb; 17 for the great day of their wrath has come; and who is able to stand?"*

**But to those who are in Christ Jude 24** Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to make you stand in the presence of His glory blameless with great joy, **25** to the only God our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.