

Let us begin with the tenth lecture on Joshua. / Today's word comes from chapter 10. / This chapter is also about the war Joshua waged against the tribes of Canaan. / The remaining kings of Canaan were afraid because Gibeon made a peace treaty with the Israelites.

/Here in this chapter, the rest of the kings tried to form an alliance and attack against Gibeon. / But Joshua defeats all of them, taking the land.

/In verses 1-5, we can read that five kings of Amorites formed an alliance to attack Gibeon. / The king of Jerusalem was greatly afraid when he heard that the people of Gibeon made a peace treaty with the Israelites.

*/Please read verses 1-2. / Now Adoni-Zedek king of Jerusalem heard that Joshua had taken Ai and totally destroyed it, doing to Ai and its king as he had done to Jericho and its king, and that the people of Gibeon had made a treaty of peace with Israel and had become their allies. He and his people were very much alarmed at this, because Gibeon was an important city, like one of the royal cities; it was larger than Ai, and all its men were good fighters.*

/Adoni-Zedek was caught in great fear when he found out that the people of Gibeon had made a treaty of peace with Israel. / What was he so afraid about? / He was afraid because he saw the greatness of works of God in the lives of the Israelites.

/Verse 2 says that "Gibeon was larger than Ai, and all its men were good fighters." / Who are the strong ones? / Not those who are physically great or those who received good education. / People who are with God are truly strong.

/Strong are those who trust in God. / No one in any time can defeat a godly man. / How did Joshua conquer the land of Canaan so boldly and courageously?

/God told him in chapter 1, when he was about to start conquering the land of Canaan. / "Joshua! / I will be with you, / just as I was with Moses." / "So do not be afraid. Be strong."

/This was the secret behind his boldness and courage. God was with him. / Adoni-Zedek and four kings tried to unite and attack Gibeon.

/They made a wrong decision. / They thought they could win the fight once they combine their forces and attack altogether. They were thinking with human reason. They could have lived had they tried to make a peace treaty. / They knew the path which would save them. But they chose to wage war, which was a path of destruction.

/Just like how the king of Jerusalem formed an alliance, / devils at times work together to bring down a believer. / They make evil people work together. / They also use all of their circumstances to make the believers stumble.

/Even in their combined efforts, we can still win with complete victory when we trust in God. / The five kings first attacked Gibeon in verse 5. / Why did they attack Gibeon first?

/They were trying to retaliate Gibeon for betraying them and making a peace treaty with the Israelites. / They were also trying to attack the weakest force, Gibeon, first. / This leaves us with an important spiritual teaching.

/Satan uses our flaws to make us stumble. / All of us have our flaws and weaknesses. / In analogy, let's say a robber surveys a house before he steals from it.

/He asks, "Which entrance should I use? Where is the point of least security?" / Satan does not stop finding our faults today. / Satan will use money to stumble those who have weaknesses with money. / It will make use of reason to stumble others who have such weaknesses.

/Satan also uses fame and power to stumble those who have weaknesses with power and fame. /Thus, we need to find out our shortcomings in order for us to win this spiritual war. /We can defeat the works of Satan by continually praying for our flaws.

/When the five kings came to attack Gibeon, / Gibeon asked Joshua for help. / The help of Joshua is recorded in verses 6-11.

/Verses 6-7. / The Gibeonites then sent word to Joshua in the camp at Gilgal: "Do not abandon your servants. Come up to us quickly and save us! Help us, because all the Amorite kings from the hill country have joined forces against us." So Joshua marched up from Gilgal with his entire army, including all the best fighting men.

/The people of Gibeon asked Joshua for help. / Joshua did not hesitate a second. He brought his army to fight. / Joshua helped the people of Gibeon, / and it is like the strong helping the weak.

/We should constantly live helping our brothers and sisters in Christ. / Precious are those who help brothers and sisters in Christ in times of trouble. / We are all brothers and sisters in Christ, so we got to help each other.

/The members of the early church were fired with love for one another. / The godly people who were filled with the Holy Spirit helped and supported the weak. / The Old Testament mentions three types of weak people. / The stranger, orphan, and widow.

/The five books of Moses strictly require others to help them. / Even today God considers the helping hands towards the weak people in the church as worthy and precious. / God is emphasizing love to a great extent.

/Love God. / Love your neighbor as yourself. God is telling us. / But I am so ashamed before God, how much we lack in acting in love. / Many people today speak about love. / But God demands more than our lip service. He wants our love to be displayed in our actions and truthfulness.

/Joshua immediately went to help Gibeon and fight the five kings. / Then God told him, / "Do not be afraid." / God gave him confirmation and courage.

/It is written in verse 8, "The Lord said to Joshua, 'Do not be afraid of them'" / "I have given them into your hand. / Not one of them will be able to withstand you." / In the same way, every war is in the hands of God.

/Great weapons do not ensure us victory, / nor the great number of army. / Only

God can give us victory. / Since God gave permission to go to this war, He gave Joshua courage.

/Joshua went out and fought with courage and boldness. / There is nothing to be afraid of when God is with us. / No matter how weak one may look in worldly sense, /strong are ones whom God is with and they will be victorious no matter what.

/Remember the battle between David and Goliath? / Worldly speaking, it was impossible for David to win against Goliath. / Everything in that situation pointed to Goliath's victory. / But what caused such a different outcome?

/"You come against me with sword and spear and javelin, / but I come against you in the name of the LORD Almighty, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied." / David was able to win since he trusted and served God.

/God told Joshua, / "Do not be afraid." / God has recorded many times in the Bible, telling us not to be afraid. /There is no fear among those who trust in God and live in faith.

/We can win this spiritual battle when we are strong and bold. / Since God is with us, / let us not be afraid of Satan, / the world, / the enemies – no matter how many – / and death. / We should boldly win this spiritual battle every day.

/Joshua held on to this truth and fought against the enemies, and he won. / In verses 9-10, we can read that Joshua marched all night and killed all the enemies.

/Verse 9 says that Joshua marched all night and surprised and attacked the enemies. / And in verse 10, we can read that Joshua and the army pursued them down all the way to Azekah and Makkedah. /Joshua experienced continuing victory because God was with him.

/Joshua marched forward, conquering the land of Canaan. / Some of the Canaanites feared Joshua and fled from him. / What happened to them? / The Lord hurled large hailstones and killed them.

*/Verse 11. / As they fled before Israel on the road down from Beth Horon to Azekah, the LORD hurled large hailstones down on them, and more of them died from the hail than were killed by the swords of the Israelites.*

/They fled away from Joshua, / but God killed them by large hailstones. / More people died from the hail than from the swords of the Israelites. /God sometimes uses nature as an instrument for executing His judgment.

/He at times uses fire from the sky / or hailstones, just like in this case. / God created the entire universe and He owns it. / He uses nature as a tool for His judgement on the enemies.

/But, time was running out / while Joshua was constantly defeating the enemies. / It is difficult to fight at night, / so he prayed. / What did he pray about? / He prayed that the sun and moon will be stopped.

/He prayed that the sun and moon will stop until all the enemies are wiped out. We can read that in verses 12-15. / What a great miracle that God stopped the

sun and moon. / He did not ask God for his greed to be answered. / He prayed for the glory of God.

/Since he prayed while he was helping the weak and fighting the good fight, / God answered the prayer. / God does not give what we ask in our prayers if our intention is greedy. / He gives what we ask when we pray in accordance with His will.

/God gives us what we ask when we pray for His glory. / His prayer is recorded in verse 12.

*/Verse 12. / On the day the Lord gave the Amorites over to Israel, Joshua said to the Lord in the presence of Israel: "Sun, stand still over Gibeon, and you, moon, over the Valley of Aijalon."*

/He prayed, "Sun, stand still over Gibeon, and you, moon, over the Valley of Aijalon." / As we can see in verse 13, God gave him what he asked for.

*/Verse 13. / So the sun stood still, and the moon stopped, till the nation avenged itself on its enemies, as it is written in the Book of Jashar. The sun stopped in the middle of the sky and delayed going down about a full day.*

/When the sun and moon stopped, Joshua was able to kill all the enemies. / God worked with great power and destroyed the enemies. / The power to stop the sun and moon is under the sovereignty of God.

/God created everything. / Since He created all things, He has the control over them. / God is the One who determines the affairs of the world. / Life and death is in His hands, / as well as the good and bad weather.

/This is so because God is the Creator of this world. / Everything is progressing within His plan. / In verses 14-15, God began fighting for Israel.

*/Verse 14. /There has never been a day like it before or since, a day when the Lord listened to a human being. Surely the Lord was fighting for Israel!*

/God heard Joshua's prayer and gave what he asked for. / The sun and moon has never stopped like that before, and it won't be in the future. / God answered his prayer to wipe out all the enemies before sunset.

/It is written, "Surely the Lord was fighting for Israel." / God is the master over all the affairs in the world. / God gives what we ask when we pray to reveal His glory and keep His promise.

/How much of power did God manifest to Joshua? / He hurled the hailstones / and stopped the sun and moon to kill the enemies. / The same God is alive today.

/He is alive, and so He rules over all the affairs of this world. / Just as before, God hears our prayers which are done with right heart. / He does not give what we ask for in greed, / but our supplication done for His glory / and for the sake of keeping His promise, / He will give us what we ask.

/God works today through those who pray. / Had Joshua saw only the enemies in the land of Canaan, he would have been paralyzed in fear. / But he was able to have a bold heart after he prayed and trusted God.

/In verses 16-27, we can read about the destruction of the Amorites' combined army. / Israel was able to continuously win every war with God's help. / In verses 16-17, five kings of Amorites hid in the Makkedah cave.

/Then Joshua rolled the rock and closed the entrance to the cave. / It was as though the kings were stuck in prison. / And in verses 19-20, we can see that Joshua continued to pursue the remaining enemies.

*/Verses 19-20. / But don't stop; pursue your enemies! Attack them from the rear and don't let them reach their cities, for the Lord your God has given them into your hand." So Joshua and the Israelites defeated them completely, but a few survivors managed to reach their fortified cities.*

/God told them to continue and pursue the enemies. / He said so because God has already given them into Joshua's hands. / God told them to pursue their enemies when there is a chance.

/Such opportunity does not come every day. / There might be no other chance once we lose such an opportunity. / Even today God has given us many opportunities.

/He gave us the opportunity to be saved, / to volunteer, / and to oppose and fight against our enemies every day.

/We got to use our God-given opportunities well and be victorious every day. /The Israelites kept on winning the war, and no power was able to stop them. / The Amorites kept running away.

*/Verse 21. / The whole army then returned safely to Joshua in the camp at Makkedah, and no one uttered a word against the Israelites.*

/Joshua kept on destroying the Amorites who were running away. / No power was able to stand against Joshua because God was with him.

/In verses 22-27, / we can read that Joshua finished all the five Amorite kings. / As written in verses 22-24, Joshua and the army commanders stepped on the neck of the kings.

*/Verse 24. / When they had brought these kings to Joshua, he summoned all the men of Israel and said to the army commanders who had come with him, "Come here and put your feet on the necks of these kings." So they came forward and placed their feet on their necks.*

/It is written, "placed their feet on their necks." / What is this about? / It is about complete victory. /If we consider this situation from a worldly perspective, we might say, "How can they be so cruel to the defeated?"

/But complete destruction is required with sin and Satan today. / We have to get rid of even a form of evil. / We must fight and win against the workings of sin and Satan completely. /God told Joshua to not be afraid and discouraged during the march against the enemies.

*/Verse 25. / Joshua said to them, "Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged. Be strong and courageous. This is what the LORD will do to all the enemies you are going to fight."*

/Joshua told the commanders, “Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged. Be strong and courageous.” / They might have become weak and soft after some time, / thus God poured them His grace and courage time to time.

/What did Joshua tell the commanders? / “Do not be afraid. / Do not be discouraged. / Be strong / and courageous. / This is what the LORD will do to all the enemies you are going to fight.”

/Joshua told them so because God was with them. / Our courage comes from the knowledge that God is with us. / He was the One who told them to not be afraid and discouraged because He is going to let them win the battle. / After that, Joshua hung bodies of the dead kings on five poles.

*/Verse 26-27. / Then Joshua put the kings to death and exposed their bodies on five poles, and they were left hanging on the poles until evening. At sunset Joshua gave the order and they took them down from the poles and threw them into the cave where they had been hiding. At the mouth of the cave they placed large rocks, which are there to this day.*

/Joshua killed the five kings and hung them on poles. / The Law of Moses mentions that the accursed are to be hung on poles. / The death of five kings show us that the enemies of God will be cursed.

/The Israelites are to remember every time they see the poles / that those who are hung on it are the cursed, the result of their opposition against God. / In any given time, those who oppose God receive His curse.

/The five kings hung at the pole are to remind the people that the same fate can happen to those who oppose God. / Moving on, in verses 28-43, we can read about the victories of Joshua and his conquest of other cities.

/His conquest was possible because God was with him. /We have to overcome this world with faith. / Our spiritual territory should expand more and more, / so that there should be many Christians today.

/We need a lot of influential people concerning faith today in this world. / In verse 28, we can read about the conquest of Makkedah. / He destroyed everyone in it.

*/Verse 28. / That day Joshua took Makkedah. He put the city and its king to the sword and totally destroyed everyone in it. He left no survivors. And he did to the king of Makkedah as he had done to the king of Jericho.*

/He did not leave any survivors, / and in human eyes, this may be cruel and brutal. / What is God teaching us through this?

/We are to completely eliminate sin or evil. / Our sins in our heart must be repented, even the littlest ones. / No evil thought, words, and actions. / We should strictly repent of our sins that God do not want. / And in verses 29-31, we can read about the conquest of Libnah.

*/Verse 29. / Then Joshua and all Israel with him moved on from Makkedah to Libnah and attacked it.*

/And in verse 30, we can see that God has given the city and the king into the

hands of Israel. / He gave them into the hands of Joshua.

/So Joshua kept on destroying everyone in it. / They were able to continuously taste victory/ with the help of God.

/In verses 31-33, we can read that Joshua took Lachish. / Joshua destroyed everyone in it too.

/Please read verse 33. / *Meanwhile, Horam king of Gezer had come up to help Lachish, but Joshua defeated him and his army—until no survivors were left.*

/Horam king of Gezer went up to help Lachish. / But Joshua killed them all, not leaving anyone. / Did Horam do wrong for coming up to help Lachish? / Very wrong.

/Helping those who oppose God is the same as opposing God. / Even when we are helping others, we need to do it right. / Our wrong decisions will only please Satan.

/We should not help those who only harm God's work, / who oppose the church, / or who stop others from hearing the Gospel. / God will judge our helping hands that were offered to wrong people.

/Thus, even when we help, we need to be guided by God. /Who did Rahab help in chapter 2 of Joshua? / She was blessed for helping out the spies of Israel.

/She helped the workers of God at the risk of her life. / What happened to her family? / God saved them when the city of Jericho fell.

/There are people who are cursed for their help / and who are blessed for their help. / God is not pleased with every kind of help.

/Blessing or curse depends on the person one is helping. / Many people think that helping another person is automatically good. / But it is not. It requires prayer, and we should do it right.

/We should not in any way harm our church, / or help those that will harm our church because God will not bless us. / The same goes for the countries. / Helping evil people brings no good. / Of course, feeding the hungry are praiseworthy.

/But wrong choices can lead to creation of weapons that will harm and hurt others. /On the other hand, if we help others with right purposes, both the person who gave help and received help will live.

/In verse 33, Horam king of Gezer received God's punishment for helping Lachish. /In verses 34-35, we can see that Joshua attacked Eglon.

/Verses 34-35. / *Then Joshua and all Israel with him moved on from Lachish to Eglon; they took up positions against it and attacked it. They captured it that same day and put it to the sword and totally destroyed everyone in it, just as they had done to Lachish.*

/Since God gave the people of Eglon over to the hands of Israel, / the city was

captured on that same day. / They were able to continue their victorious march because God was with them.

/We should overcome this world through faith and Gospel / without stopping. / We have to live our life as witnesses of God until the Gospel has been spread to the end of the world. / We got to march forward without stopping until our last day.

/In verses 36-37, they conquered Hebron. / Nothing was left and everyone was destroyed. / Such a complete victory was possible because God was with them. / In verses 38-39, they conquered Debir.

*/Verse 39. / They took the city, its king and its villages, and put them to the sword. Everyone in it they totally destroyed. They left no survivors. They did to Debir and its king as they had done to Libnah and its king and to Hebron.*

/No one survived in Debir as well. / What is this teaching us? / It teaches us that we should not miss the opportunity when God has given us one.

/We personally/ should get rid of everything that God does not want in us. / We have to make every thoughts be ruled by His Words and the Holy Spirit.

/We got to overcome this world with the Gospel until the end of the world after we receive the power of the Holy Spirit. / The reason God gave us strength and power is for us to conquer the world with the Gospel.

/Our opportunity to share the Gospel, / to teach God's Words, / and to volunteer/ do not come to us every day. / It's possible that no chance might come again/ after it has passed.

/Joshua knew that, and so he obeyed His words and continued the conquest. / In verse 40-43, Joshua conquered Goshen.

*/Verse 40. / So Joshua subdued the whole region, including the hill country, the Negev, the western foothills and the mountain slopes, together with all their kings. He left no survivors. He totally destroyed all who breathed, just as the LORD, the God of Israel, had commanded.*

/It is written, "just as the LORD, the God of Israel, had commanded." / Joshua kept conquering the cities, just as the Lord had commanded. /We should based on His word go / and stop when God tells us to stop. / We will always be victorious when we follow the guidance of God.

/Verse 42, "All these kings and their lands Joshua conquered in one campaign, / because the Lord, the God of Israel, fought for Israel." / Our obedience to Him will enable us to conquer anything with one campaign.

/We will be able to conquer whatever God permitted. /Joshua kept on with his campaign, obeying His commands. / Just like Joshua, God expands the territory to those who obey His command.

/With this I will end the tenth lecture on the book of Joshua. / Thank you.