

# Enter at Your Own Rest

## Studies in the Book of Joshua

*"Full blessing in the Christian life is not bestowed except to eager, hungry people who press in to receive it"*

*Alan Redpath*

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### Text

Joshua 10:1-14

### Topic

Joshua asks God to prevent the sun from  
Going down until Israel can route her enemies

### Title

*"Don't Let the Sun Go Down on Me"*

**Joshua 10:1** Now it came to pass when Adoni-Zedek king of Jerusalem heard how Joshua had taken Ai and had utterly destroyed it - as he had done to Jericho and its king, so he had done to Ai and its king - and how the inhabitants of Gibeon had made peace with Israel and were among them,

**Joshua 10:2** that they feared greatly, because Gibeon *was* a great city, like one of the royal cities, and because it *was* greater than Ai, and all its men *were* mighty.

**Joshua 10:3** Therefore Adoni-Zedek king of Jerusalem sent to Hoham king of Hebron, Piram king of Jarmuth, Japhia king of Lachish, and Debir king of Eglon, saying,

**Joshua 10:4** "Come up to me and help me, that we may attack Gibeon, for it has made peace with Joshua and with the children of Israel."

**Joshua 10:5** Therefore the five kings of the Amorites, the king of Jerusalem, the king of Hebron, the king of Jarmuth, the king of Lachish, *and* the king of Eglon, gathered together and went up, they and all their armies, and camped before Gibeon and made war against it.

**Joshua 10:6** And the men of Gibeon sent to Joshua at the camp at Gilgal, saying, "Do not forsake your servants; come up to us quickly, save us and help us, for all the kings of the Amorites who dwell in the mountains have gathered together against us."

**Joshua 10:7** So Joshua ascended from Gilgal, he and all the people of war with him, and all the mighty men of valor.

**Joshua 10:8** And the LORD said to Joshua, "Do not fear them, for I have delivered them into your hand; not a man of them shall stand before you."

**Joshua 10:9** Joshua therefore came upon them suddenly, having marched all night from Gilgal.

**Joshua 10:10** 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.

**Joshua 10:11** And it happened, as they fled before Israel *and* were on the descent of Beth Horon, that the LORD cast down large hailstones from heaven on them as far as Azekah, and they died. *There were* more who died from the hailstones than the children of Israel killed with the sword.

**Joshua 10:12** Then Joshua spoke to the LORD in the day when the LORD delivered up the Amorites before the children of Israel, and he said in the sight of Israel: "Sun, stand still over Gibeon; And Moon, in the Valley of Aijalon."

**Joshua 10:13** So the sun stood still, And the moon stopped, Till the people had revenge Upon their enemies. *Is* this not written in the Book of Jasher? So the sun stood still in the midst of heaven, and did not hasten to go *down* for about a whole day.

**Joshua 10:14** And there has been no day like that, before it or after it, that the LORD heeded the voice of a man; for the LORD fought for Israel.

## Introduction

If a person doesn't believe God can do miracles there is nothing you can do to convince them the sun stood still.

- being changed to bring change -

You certainly don't want to tell anyone that the scientists at NASA used their computers to prove there is a missing day. *Not true!* It's an old urban legend.

C.S. Lewis wrote, "The mind which asks for a non-miraculous Christianity is a mind in process of relapsing from Christianity into mere religion."

Warren Wiersbe says, "Either we believe in a God who can do anything, or we must accept a Christian faith that's non-miraculous; and that does away with the inspiration of the Bible."

We love and serve the God of the Bible Who performs miracles when it brings glory to Himself and good to us. When Joshua called upon Him to extend their day of conquest God responded. **The sun stood still, And the moon stopped, Till the people had revenge Upon their enemies.**

No use asking God to do it again. **There has been no day like that, before it or after it.**

Not literally, at least. I submit to you, however, that it still happens spiritually. It happens, or we should believe it can happen, every day in our walk with the Lord.

Here is what I mean. We've seen in this book that Joshua and the Israelites are a type of our own conquest in the Christian life. Just like the Israelites in Canaan we are to walk by faith and thereby claim our inheritance as believers.

**We should proceed in our walk, our work, and our warfare as if there was an urgency to complete it before nightfall.**

Joshua did not want the sun to go down on their conquest. **We should proceed in our walk, our work, and our warfare as if there was an urgency to complete it before nightfall.**

Jesus had just that attitude during the three-and-one half years of His earthly ministry:

- In John 9:4-5 He exhorted His disciples – including us – to **work while it is day.**
- A little later, in John 11:9, He said, **Are there not twelve hours in the day? If anyone walks in the day, he does not stumble, because he sees the light of this world.**

Jesus compels us to think about our Christian life as if it is one long day in which we want to finish our work before nightfall. When you think you've only got one day it changes your sense of urgency to walk, work, and war for the Lord.

Urgency to walk in the light is one of the lessons taught by the miracle of the sun standing still.

I'll organize my thoughts about urgency around two points: #1 Don't Let The Sun Go Down On Your Confidence, and #2 Don't Let The Sun Go Down On Your Conquest.

### #1 Don't Let The Sun Go Down On Your Confidence (v1-9)

I want to look at this first from the point of view of the Gibeonites. They had tricked the Israelites into making peace with them. It had saved them from being defeated and destroyed by Joshua. Now that treaty would save them from their former allies.

The Gibeonites had been part of a vast kingdom but had aligned themselves with the kingdom God was establishing. Because they were at peace with God they found themselves at war with their former allies.

If you are at peace with God you are aligned with the kingdom He is coming to establish on the earth. Colossians 1:13 puts it like this,

[Colossians 1:13](#) He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed *us* into the kingdom of the Son of His love,

Ah, but the [power\(s\) of darkness](#) don't take too easily to your being saved and safe. *You become their special targets!*

See how this is represented to us in the opening verses. In verses one through five the former allies of Gibeon target her because of her new alliance.

It is inevitable that your former alliances will be stressed over your allegiance to Jesus Christ. Whether it is family or friends or fellow workers or strangers, you will be a target for scoffing and ridicule... or much worse.

How should you respond? The same way the Gibeonites responded. They called upon Joshua; you call upon Jesus.

**Joshua 10:6** And the men of Gibeon sent to Joshua at the camp at Gilgal, saying, "Do not forsake your servants; come up to us quickly, save us and help us, for all the kings of the Amorites who dwell in the mountains have gathered together against us."

Their circumstances were beyond bleak. Without Joshua's help they would be utterly defeated and destroyed. All their confidence was in Joshua.

Calling upon the Lord is not usually our problem. Our confidence in Him is. He seems to wait. He seems delayed. Things seem as though they are getting out of hand.

There's no shame admitting it. The psalmists admit it all the time. But they also conclude that God is *never* late and that things are *always* well in His hands.

We need confidence to wait upon the Lord. The Gibeonites give us a good example. All they could do was wait. God delivered them right on time.

**Joshua 10:7** So Joshua ascended from Gilgal, he and all the people of war with him, and all the mighty men of valor.

**Joshua 10:8** And the LORD said to Joshua, "Do not fear them, for I have delivered them into your hand; not a man of them shall stand before you."

**Joshua 10:9** Joshua therefore came upon them suddenly, having marched all night from Gilgal.

Joshua came through for them. He marshaled every resource in his arsenal to help them. Victory was assured him. He refused to rest or sleep, marching all night to arrive at Gibeon.

Our Lord, Jesus Christ, is like that – only much greater. Our Father in Heaven has assured Him victory. Every resource of Heaven is at His disposal. When it comes to His oversight of your life He neither slumbers nor sleeps.

It may seem we must endure a long night of waiting; but it need not be one of worrying! The Bible encourages us to not let the sun go down on our confidence, not just in story-after-story, but in many personal promises:

**Philippians 1:6** being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete *it* until the day of Jesus Christ;

**Hebrews 3:14** For we have become partakers of Christ if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast to the end,

God is at work in you. It is a work He must complete. You might as well remain confident.

Why the waiting? Why the seeming delays? Why the sufferings?

God's kingdom is already present but it is not yet established on earth in its literal form. While we await the return of Jesus we are in conflict with the principalities and powers of this world. God uses the conflict to mold us and shape us. It is a big part of how He works to complete us.

Wait, but don't worry. Don't let the sun go down on your confidence.

## #2 Don't Let The Sun Go Down On Your Conquest (v10-14)

The Israelites were not just an army. They were husbands and fathers and farmers and craftsmen. But they were always ready, at a moments notice, to go to war.

I frequently mention that you are to consider yourself “on call” for the Lord. Be ready to serve at a moments notice. Better yet, don't wait for notice; notice things yourself.

More than ready, the Israelites were relentless in their conquest. Think it through:

1. First, they marched all night. It was twenty-five miles, in the dark, and they probably remained as quiet and stealthy as possible.
2. Second, they **ascended** to Gibeon. It was at a height of 4000 feet.
3. Then they immediately engaged the enemy in close quarter, hand-to-hand combat. They did it not just all day but all through an extended day as the Lord caused the sun to stand still.

- being changed to bring change -  
It's a great example to us about the urgency of conquest in our spiritual lives. We are husbands and wives, fathers and mothers, but we must be ready at a moments notice to engage fierce spiritual enemies. And we must fight on day after day as if there were no nightfall until we are called home to be with the Lord.

Have you put something in your walk on hold – hoping to one day return to it? Today is that day!

Have you given in to some enemy in the world or in your flesh? Today is the day to defeat it!

**Joshua 10:10** 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.

**Joshua 10:11** And it happened, as they fled before Israel *and* were on the descent of Beth Horon, that the LORD cast down large hailstones from heaven on them as far as Azekah, and they died. *There were* more who died from the hailstones than the children of Israel killed with the sword.

You might say that there was a combination of personal discipline with supernatural aid. It's the same with us. Though our confidence is in the Lord, we still must be people of personal spiritual discipline if we expect the Lord to rain **hailstones** down upon our enemies and obstacles.

The apostle Paul certainly had no confidence in himself. But he always used athletic metaphors to describe our commitment to personal spiritual discipline in our walk with Jesus. The Christian life is not a sloppy, spontaneous life. It is a focused, disciplined life.

**Joshua 10:12** Then Joshua spoke to the LORD in the day when the LORD delivered up the Amorites before the children of Israel, and he said in the sight of Israel: "Sun, stand still over Gibeon; And Moon, in the Valley of Aijalon."

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**Joshua 10:14** And there has been no day like that, before it or after it, that the LORD heeded the voice of a man; for the LORD fought for Israel.

I have no desire to try to 'prove' a miracle. If God is Who He says He is, miracles are to be expected.

What is the **Book of Jasher**? It is sometimes translated, the Book of the Upright. It was a book largely composed of heroic songs. It is mentioned here and again in Second Samuel 1:18 when David laments the deaths of Saul and Jonathan. It shouldn't surprise us that the Bible would refer to other books. It isn't an endorsement of their content. It's like us quoting a certain author to put something



into a context. To me, it shows that the inspired Word of God was written within the cultures of the people alive at the time but transcended time because of its inspiration.

God had promised the Israelites victory before they ever entered the Promised Land. They would need to fight to claim it but it was assured them.

If you are saved, you are promised victory in your walk with the Lord. You need to fight to claim it but it is assured.

In the episode at Gibeon we learn how urgent and how intense that fight is. You should walk, work, and war as if it were always daylight.

**1 Peter 2:9** But you *are* a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;

**Ephesians 5:8** For you were once darkness, but now *you are* light in the Lord. Walk as children of light

Jesus is your Joshua. You see Him by faith asking the Father to give you sufficient light in every battle in order to defeat your foes. He can never tire; He can never fail.

Conquest is an interesting word. It can mean, *the process of conquering*. From a position of assured victory, you go forth every day in the process of conquering. **Or you don't!**

Don't let the sun go down on your confidence... or your conquest.