

## God Made the Sun Stand Still

Joshua 9:1-10:15

### Miracles

- Often misused in our society
- “Music City Miracle”
- “That’s a Miracle” often referring to the birth of a baby
- False: normal fact of life
- Today: God still works – non-miraculously though providence
- Miracles did something man cannot do
- Ex.: Demon possession – Mk. 5 – Jesus cast out demons. Man cannot do that today, therefore no more demon possession.

Joshua – leader of God’s people

- Successor of Moses
- Saw the Promised Land – Spies
- Son of Nun
- Ch. 5 – circumcision to keep God’s covenant
- Ch. 6 – Destroy Jericho, take nothing
- Ch. 7 – Those “Achan Eyes,” took something
- Ch. 8 – Destruction of Ai

### The Enemy Next Door

9:1 Joshua’s enemies were too close

“We have the enemy, he is our neighbor.”

Devastating and Humiliating defeat of Ai (8:24-35)

I Pet. 5:8 – Sometimes Satan comes in like a lion

Gen. 3:1-5 – Sometimes he is disguised as a friend

3 Gibeonites – 25 miles away from Israel’s Camp

Ex. 23:31-33 – commanded to destroy all the cities within the promised land border.

If outside Canaan, they could have peace – Deut. 20:10-20

Somehow, the Gibeonites knew this and used it for their advantage

Satan does the same thing: Mt. 4, Js. 2:19 [Satan is no atheist!]

6 Came in and said they were from a far country

Lied about everything from appearance to food

9 Claimed to serve the LORD

People always try to use every angle possible

11 Claim to be servant of God

Half-truth is a whole lie. Beware of Half-truths, you never know which half you are getting!

12-13 Lies continue

14 Failure on the part of Joshua – did not consult God first!

15 They made plans all by themselves as to whether they would take them in – and they did! Never consulted God!

#### Joshua Kept His Word

18 Did not smite the Gibeonites

19 Cannot break a promise to God

They got themselves into this!

21 Lived but put to work!

22 Joshua finds out – lies only last so long!

23 Cursed

24 They knew God's Laws! Satan knows, no good

27 Put to tough work

#### Be Careful What You Say

10:1-4 5 kings band together to attack

5 Camped out, ready for war!

6 Gibeonites plea for protection from Joshua!

Christians are to be separated from the world – II Cor. 6:14-18, II Tim. 2:4

7 Joshua goes, ready for war!

8 God promises Joshua a victory in their battle

9 Joshua believed all God said and marched troops all night

10 Israel's enemy suddenly attacks

God slew them and chased them away

11 Hailstones killed more than in v. 10

## The Sun Stood Still

12 Last miracle recorded in Joshua

Simply spoke of the stopping

13 It stood still!

Imagine what that would've looked like!

People argue it didn't really happen, or how could it happen and not mess other things up? God did it and He knows what He is doing!

Almost a whole day

14 No day like this before or after

15 Returned to the camp

### Lessons:

1. Miracles are God's domain. Today He works through providence.
2. Warring factions can often come together if they have a common enemy. Israel's enemies, Jewish sects and Christ, Islamic terrorists and America/allies.
3. Satan is a deceiver and his greatest deception is to use the Word of God to accomplish his purpose.
4. While some of our mistakes can be turned into victories, regrettably many of them are irreversible.
5. There is a fine line between wise decisions and unwise ones. Joshua's biggest mistake was not consulting God.
6. Since Joshua had given his word by an oath, he would not go back on it and bring reproach on the name of God, but since it was in violation of God's command, would he have been justified doing so?
7. If we want God to bless us, we must first ask, but we must ask in faith, Jn. 1:5, 4:2. God keeps His promises.
8. The universe is God's creation, and He still controls it by the natural laws He has set in motion. If He chooses to do so He can transcend those laws today as He did in Joshua's day, II Peter 3:1-9.

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