

**SERIES: LESSONS FOR LIFE FROM GOD'S SERVANT, JOSHUA**

**Lesson #6: "God is Lord Over All Nature"**

**Joshua 10-12**

**Announcements and opening prayer**



**Connect:** an opportunity for people to immediately interact and connect with each other; icebreaker/attention getters. **Icebreaker:** If you were to ask God to perform one miracle in your life and He would grant it, what would it be?

**Transition:** Today we are going to look at a miracle God provided to bring about a great victory for Joshua and all those who stood with him, including a foreign country called Gibeon. There was an incredible battle that should have ended with Israel being destroyed, but it didn't. God sent a secret weapon or two!

**The Bottom Line:** The battle ALWAYS belongs to the Lord!

**LESSON PLAN**



**Denotes "Apply"**

**Background:** In chapter 9 we learn that all the kings west of the Jordan heard about Joshua defeating Jericho and Ai, they decide it's time to go to war and kill this pest and wipe out Israel. Gibeon was an important royal city 6 miles northwest of Jerusalem. Gilgal was only 16 miles east of Gibeon. When they heard of the war about to start, the Gibeonites went to Joshua and pretended to be from far away and even faked their look as if they had traveled far. They said, "Because of the fame of your God, we want to serve you. Make a treaty with us." So, Joshua did make a treaty and swore an oath to them by the Lord God of Israel. Later they discovered the deception but it was binding because the oath was taken in the name of God. They would not break their promise. Joshua then told them that they would serve Israel as woodcutters and water carriers for the house of God forever. They agreed.

**Read Joshua 10:1-11**

1. Who is Adoni-Zedek?

*This is the first mention of Jerusalem by that name. It was originally called Salem and was ruled by Melchizedek whom Abraham gave a tithe. Obviously, this king in Jerusalem is not a worshiper of God like Melchizedek. He is reigning about 500 years after Melchizedek. Salem/Jerusalem has wandered away from a godly leader.*



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2. What did the King of Jerusalem do?
3. What does Joshua do?
4. What does God miraculously do to make sure the enemy is destroyed and cannot retaliate?
- ⑤ What comfort do you personally find in the fact that God targeted the enemy of His people?
- ⑤ In what ways do you think God intervenes to come to the aid of His church today?

**Read Joshua 10:12-15**

5. What was Joshua's prayer to God and why do you think he prayed it?

*Sun stand still over Gibeon and Moon over the valley of Aijalon (pronounced eye-jah-lon) meaning time stood still when neither sun nor moon continued their orbit. If the day ended too soon, the enemy could escape and regroup with more courage and resolve. A great leader never lets up when they have the enemy on the run. Notice this event was answered by God and lasted an entire day. This was recorded in the Book of Jashar which is also mentioned in 2 Samuel 1:18. It was an early account of Israel's wars written in poetic form. You can waste money and buy them on the internet. There are several (as many as five) separate works by this title, all composed **much later than Biblical times**. The Hebrew title of this book, means the 'Book of the Upright', or 'the Upright or Correct Record'. All of these claim the title and claim to be a translation, but the book was probably lost. The version claiming to be a Hebrew translation published in Salt Lake is the Mormon version. However, there is no proof of any*

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*existing copy to translate from. So, as of now, it is simply a lost book.*

**Read Joshua 10:40-43**

6. How thorough was Joshua in bringing God's justice on all kings and kingdoms that had conspired against God's people?
- 🕒 In what ways are the battles of the church similar to Joshua's battle and how are they different?



**Interactive Teaching Ideas:** ideas for learner-focused teaching. Ask the class to discuss at each table the following assignment and then share the results from each table. If you don't have tables, simply divide into groups for this part of the lesson. Have each group complete their task. **Groups 1, 2 & 3 read Chapter 11 & then answer the following:**

**Group#1:** Use a Bible atlas to discover how great an area Jabin, King of Hazor, was able to pull together for a great battle against God's army.

**Groups #2:** Describe God's instructions, how Joshua carried it out and the details of the battle.

**Group #3:** What is the main lesson God wants us to take home today and how can it strengthen our lives.

**Group #4:** Read chapter 12 and discuss the relevance of God recording this information for us. Why did He want you and me to know this?



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**Going Deeper/Homework:**

**Memory Verse:** "My shield is God Most High who saves the upright in heart" (Psalm 7:10).