

Joshua 10:28-43– A Demonstration & Explanation of God’s Power

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: In the next few chapters of Joshua you will find a running account of how Israel captured Canaan. This capturing of Canaan was a demonstration of God’s power in fulfillment of his sovereign promise to Israel’s ancestors more than 500 years before. You will hear about this demonstration of God’s power today.

Our headings are:

Demonstration of God’s Power in Destroying the South

Explanation of God’s Power in Destroying the South

Our goals are: **That you will work and pray for the conquering of the nations for Christ through the spiritual battle that the Lord has called you to fight, using his spiritual weapons.**

Demonstration of God’s Power in Destroying the South

28 On that day Joshua took **Makkedah**, and struck it and its king with the edge of the sword. He utterly completely destroyed them—all the people who were in it. **He let none remain**. He also did to the king of Makkedah as he had done to the king of Jericho.

1. Joshua continued in battle and captured Makkedah and killed its king, but did not hang him. This king did not come out to fight against him so Joshua treated his body more honourably. The worse the crime, the worse the punishment! He had no time to rest. **God promised but man had to be responsible.**

Deuteronomy 7:2 "and when the **LORD your God delivers them over to you**, you shall conquer them **and utterly destroy them**. You shall make no covenant with them nor show mercy to them. **Deuteronomy 33:29** Happy are you, O Israel! Who is like you, a people **saved by the LORD**, The shield of your help And the sword of your majesty! **Your enemies shall submit to you**, And you shall tread down their high places."

And just as there was no rest for Joshua and Israel till the land was captured and peace established, so there is no time to let up in the spread of the Gospel. There is no time to recline into our rocking chairs of slothfulness 懒惰. You must demonstrate the power of God over the lives of men and women everywhere.

29 Then Joshua passed from Makkedah, and all Israel with him, **to Libnah**; and they fought against Libnah. 30 And the LORD also delivered it and its king into the hand of Israel; he struck it and all the people who were in it with the edge of the sword. **He let none remain in** it, but did to its king as he had done to the king of Jericho.

2. About 2 miles away from Makkedah was Libnah. This became Judah’s territory in the South of Canaan. (By the way, these accounts were not written to make the Scriptures longer. Rather, these names, places, and activities show the historicity 历史性的 of the Holy Scriptures. But defeated nation tended to ignore their **defeats in records**. This is why it is difficult to find a Babylonian record of Nebuchadnezzar becoming like a wild animal and eating grass. They leave some blank spaces in their record. Thankfully, other nations were often “kind” enough to do **so and confirm them**.)

31 Then Joshua passed from Libnah, and all Israel with him, to Lachish; and they encamped against it and fought against it. 32 And the **LORD delivered Lachish into the hand of Israel**, who took it on the second day, and struck it and **all the people who were in it with the edge of the sword**, according to all that he had done to Libnah.

3. About 8 miles from Libnah was Lachish, the next in line to be destroyed. Note the human responsibility and the Divine sovereignty 神的主权 again in the language. Sometimes you read that Joshua conquered the nation, at others, the Lord delivered the nation to Israel. Here the Lord is described as granting Israel victory over Lachish. No mention is made of this king because he was 1 of the 5 that were hanged earlier.

33 Then Hiram king of Gezer came up to help Lachish; and Joshua struck him and his people, **until he left him none remaining**.

4. And when King Hiram of Gezer came to help Lachish, God destroyed him as well and his people. (This was near Emmaus where the 2 men who were walking along the road met Jesus after he was raised from the dead. They then related the good news of the resurrection to others.) What you do see clearly here is how foolish kings brought destruction on their own people. If you choose foolish elders...a foolish husband...or a boss...you’ll pay. If you want leaders who do not submit to the Lord, you should not be surprised if they bring severe judgment on you!

34 From Lachish Joshua passed to Eglon, and all Israel with him; and they encamped against it and fought against it. 35 They took it on that day and struck it with the edge of the sword; **all the people who were in it he utterly destroyed** that day, according to all that he had done to

Lachish.

5. Joshua then moved to Eglon where the people of Eglon tried to fight Israel but they lost. Joshua utterly destroyed them. Eglon's king was 1 of the 5 buried in the cave.

36 So Joshua went up from Eglon, and all Israel with him, to Hebron; and they fought against it.
37 And they took it and struck it with the edge of the sword—**its king, all its cities, and all the people who were in it**; he left none remaining, according to all that he had done to Eglon, but utterly destroyed it and all the people who were in it.

6. Joshua then moved to Hebron and destroyed all the people of Hebron. Their king was 1 of the 5 buried in the cave.

38 Then Joshua returned, and all Israel with him, to Debir; and they fought against it. 39 And he took it and its king and all its cities; they struck them with the edge of the sword and utterly destroyed all the people who were in it. **He left none remaining**; as he had done to Hebron, so he did to Debir and its king, as he had done also to Libnah and its king.

7. Moving on, then Joshua completely routed Debir. All the people and their king were destroyed.

Deuteronomy 20:16 "But of the cities of these peoples which the LORD your God gives you as an inheritance, you shall let nothing that breathes remain alive,

It is also worth wondering **why the next city stated did not repent after they saw one state after the other falling** before Jehovah God. They were blinded by sin. **This is what you see in North America where we are embracing more and more socialism even after 100 years of failure.** This is why people embrace Islam and evolution. This is why people embrace rationalism and men like Sigmund Freud, as I like to call him. This is why US, Canada, and England burn aborted babies to heat their buildings.

40 So Joshua conquered all the land: the mountain country and the South and the lowland and the wilderness slopes, and all their kings; he left none remaining, but utterly destroyed all that breathed, **as the LORD God of Israel had commanded.**

8. It is important to see that Joshua did not destroy these countries for personal revenge. He was not a blood thirsty zealot狂热者. Rather, he did this **because believers are ordered by their heavenly Father in their goals and their methods.** But ultimately, it was God who fought for Israel. God was unstoppable. No man could do this exploit 伟业...not even Alexander the Great. This was a miracle. As fast as Israel could get to a nation, they captured it. **And the South was won.** Israel then had a large area where they could not begin to enjoy the land in earnest. And as they were along the Jordan River, they could have refreshing water for themselves, their animals, and their fields.

Deuteronomy 8:7 "For the LORD your God is bringing you into a good land, **a land of brooks溪of water,** of fountains and springs, that flow out of valleys and hills;

41 And Joshua conquered them from Kadesh Barnea as far as Gaza, and all the country of Goshen, even as far as Gibeon.

9. When Israel left Egypt God did not allow them to travel to Canaan through the Philistine territory like Gaza, even though that was shorter. They had to make a circuitous迂曲的path to Canaan. But now Israel was prepared to fight. It was a lesson in patience, waiting for God to prepare them for battle.

God could save your family and friends, but he wants you and them to learn to depend upon him. If you shared the Gospel 1 time and someone becomes a Christian, it is very easy to want to take personal credit for that work. On a larger scale, the church might take long time to preach the Gospel in a foreign country before conversions. The church must wait on God's timing for these activities.

42 All these kings and their land Joshua took at one time, **because the LORD God of Israel** fought for Israel. 43 Then Joshua returned, and all Israel with him, to the camp at Gilgal.

10. God fought for Israel then Israel had peace.

Isn't this a wonderful comfort to those who have the daunting task of capturing the world for Christ?

Explanation of God's Power in Destroying the South

1. God gave the land to Joshua. The Canaanites were the occupiers. Remember, the earth is the Lord, and God gives it to whomever he is pleased to give it. He does whatever he pleases. **He is sovereign.** And you must never accuse him of wrongdoing.

Psalms 24:1 ...The earth is the LORD'S, and all its fullness, The world and those who dwell therein.

Psalms 135:6 Whatever the LORD pleases He does, In heaven and in earth, In the seas and in all deep places.

a. Implication: This is why Christians are not to defend Israel as owner of Palestine (nor are the Muslims). God spit Israel out of the land for rejecting him. Those who send money to repatriate the Jews aren't doing a great deed.

b. Implication: This is why you should never envy the wicked who seem to be enjoying life. They fall quickly.

1Thessalonians 5:3 For when they say, "Peace and safety!" then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape.

2. God made this promise of Canaan to Abraham and his descendants hundreds of years before and he continually reminded his people of that promise. So there could be no dispute about God's intentions!

Genesis 17:8 "Also I give to you and your descendants after you the land in which you are a stranger, **all the land of Canaan, as an everlasting possession**; and I will be their God."

Jacob made Joseph swear that he would take his body and bury it in Canaan, showing how strongly he hoped in God's promises to give them the land. And Joseph requested permission to do that. Gen 50:5.

Look at what God said to the Israelites 40 years before entering Canaan. Note the specificity!

Exodus 3:8 "So I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to **bring them up from that land to a good and large land, to a land flowing with milk and honey, to the place of the Canaanites** and the Hittites and the Amorites and the Perizzites and the Hivites and the Jebusites.

Look at what said just before they entered into Canaan. Note the specificity.

Deuteronomy 31:3 "The LORD your God Himself crosses over before you; He will destroy these nations from before you, and **you shall dispossess** 剥夺 them. Joshua himself crosses over before you, just as the LORD has said. 4 "And the LORD **will do to them as He did to Sihon and Og, the kings of the Amorites** and their land, when He destroyed them. 5 "**The LORD will give them over to you**, that you may do to them according to every commandment which I have commanded you. 6 "Be strong and of good courage, do not fear nor be afraid of them; for the LORD your God, He is the One who goes with you. He will not leave you nor forsake you."7 "...you must go with this people to the land which the **LORD has sworn to their fathers to give them**, and you shall cause them to inherit it.

3. God had given Canaan 440 years to repent and make themselves right with him, but they rejected him. Neither their women nor children were innocent 无辜. Remember, as Calvin said: The judgment seat of heaven is not subject to your laws (or desires). So feel no sympathy for the judgment on evil. Light came to Canaan through Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and others. Rahab heard of it and believed. Other rejected the light and perished. (John 1:5)

4. This was why God ordered the destruction of the Canaanites. He was personally involved in justice. He is just!

God kept the sun still so that Joshua and his armies could complete the destruction of their enemies.

God rained down hail and killed many of the Canaanites. So this was not ethnic 种族的 cleansing that you see in the world today.

God ordered the collapsing of the walls of Jericho to destroy the people there.

God ordained that the 5 kings would be caught in a cave and then executed to make a strong impression upon the people of the land.

Israel was never permitted to attack a nation they did not like and rob them of the land. God is not a God of chaos.

5. And doesn't this remind you of the promise of the Father to the Son in the Covenant of Redemption, and how he commanded his disciples to capture the nations with the Gospel?

Psalm 2:8 Ask of Me, and I will give You The nations for Your inheritance, And the ends of the earth for Your possession.

Conclusion:

What stunning power God has! How quickly he brought the nations low! How well he preserved his people...and advanced them! What an unstoppable God he is. How unstoppable is his kingdom!

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ:

1. Do you stand in awe of God's amazing power in the affairs of man? Look how he brought low every nation that threatened his people. He will continue to bring low every nation and religion that sets itself up against him. Let awe become praise.

2. Do you fight the battle he has called you to fight, being led by King Jesus, the Christian General? Are you, the redeemed of God, through the blood of the Lamb, marching on to battle, with the Sword of the Spirit to destroy arguments against God and cause men, women, boys, and girls to submit to his kingship? You were saved to serve.

Finally, if you are not a Christian, Jesus is your foe, not your friend. When we sing "Jesus loves me this I know" we sing this because he is our friend and he died for our sins. And just as Joshua brought swift destruction upon the wicked, so Jesus will bring on you...unless you cry out for mercy and forgiveness. Jesus paid the price so sinners might get life.