

# The Day the Sun Stood Still

(Joshua 10:6-14)

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11/18/07

Note: The text below was prepared for oral delivery rather than for publication in print. As such, be aware that sentence fragments are intentionally used and that this document has not been edited to correct the errors in grammar, sentence structure, etc.

## I. Introduction

A. Title & Text Introduction Note the word in the title is the "Son" rather than the "sun." In Mal. 4:2 the Son of God, the Lord Jesus Christ, is called the "Sun of Righteousness."

### B. Background:

1. In Josh. 9 Joshua had been deceived into entering into a treaty with Gibeon (this treaty referred to there as a "league" or covenant)
2. Summarize verses 1-5, concluding with how Adoni-zedek summons his alliance and they attack Gibeon/
3. In our text for today (vss. 6-14), we will see that Gibeon summons Joshua to come to his aid and defense, based upon the treaty (or league) of peace and mutual protection they had agreed upon. And we will see Joshua going before the Lord and ultimately, we will observe the victory he will win.

## II. Record of the Battle of Gibeon Read Vss. 6-14

## III. Discussion of the Miracle

A. What happened? There is much debate about this miracle. Some believe this to be a solar eclipse, or something that caused the relative position of the sun in the sky to stop changing.

1. Some argue that this is fiction because of the scientific fact that it is the earth's rotation and not the sun's movement that determines the sun's relative position in the sky that gives us day and night.
  - (a) Note how this is the language of observation from the perspective of things on earth. Even today the scientific community records hours of sunrise and sunset, yet no one accuses them of error simply because they choose these terms.
  - (b) It appears that this event took place about the time of the setting sun as it was glaring in their eyes with the moon visible. Joshua knew that more time (more daylight) was needed to complete the victory.
2. Joshua & his army were arriving and the Amorites, though possessing the high ground, would have been looking into the blinding sun. Some believe that this prompted Joshua's prayer

IV. (Discussion of the Miracle – Con't.)

3. This miracle is recorded, not only in the poetic book of Jasher as is cited here but other historical accounts from that same time period report a ðlong day.ö Confirmation is also cited from Chinese, Egyptian, & Mexican records as well as in the historical lore of the Aztecs, Peruvians, and Babylonians speaking of a ðday of twice the natural length.ö

IV. 4 Observations About this Battle: 1) God is Able, 2) God is Willing, 3) God Delivered, and 4) Israel Beheld it:

A. God is Able:

1. God's sovereign power: (He is Able)

- a. Consider that the Amorites worshipped nature Gods. Some indicate that the sun was the Deity for Gibeon and the moon for Jericho. What a shock when they realized their gods in whom they trusted were helpless against the God of Israel who commanded the elements ó the hail, even the sun and the moon!
- b. Cite the biblical history of God's sovereign power over all of nature, specifically the sun, light and darknessö
  - (1) Creation ó darkness upon the face of the earth ó Let there be light
  - (2) Plague of darkness on the Egyptians for 3 days; (Read Ex 10:21-23)
  - (3) When Hezekiah asked Isaiah for a sign that the Lord would heal him and Isaiah asked the Lord to make the shadow on the sundial of Ahaz back up 10 degrees and it did (II Kings 20:11)
  - (4) There was darkness for 3 hours when Christ was crucified (Luke 23:44-45).

B. God is Willing

1. Vs. 8 ó Fear not, I have delivered them. It is purposed; therefore as good as done.
2. Joshua's command was fulfilled because God was willing ó in accordance with His purpose.
  - a. John 14:13-14: ***“And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. <sup>14</sup>If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it.”***
  - b. God laid this, His purpose, on Joshua's heart

C. God Delivered

1. Hail ó To insure there was no doubt that the victory was the work of God. Note in vs. 11 we read how more died from hailstones than by the sword/
2. See vs. 14 ó öí the Lord fought for Israelö

D. Israel Beheld It

1. Vs. 12 ó öí before the people of Israel.ö And the prayer was spoken in ösight of Israelí ö
2. Reminiscent of Ex 14:13 ff when the Israelites were trapped at the edge of the Red Sea with Pharaoh's army in pursuit: ***“And Moses said unto the people, Fear ye not, stand still, and see the salvation of the LORD, which he will show to you to day: (and then in vs. 14) <sup>14</sup>The LORD shall fight for you, and ye shall hold your peace.”***

V. The Same 4 Observations Concerning God's Victory Over Sin and Satan ó saving spiritual Israel:

A. God is Able:

1. Isa 46:9 ff: ***Remember the former things of old: for I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me, <sup>10</sup>Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure; I have spoken it, I will also bring it to pass; I have purposed it, I will also do it.***
2. Heb. 7:22-27: ***“By so much was Jesus made a surety of a better testament. <sup>23</sup>And they truly were many priests, because they were not suffered to continue by reason of death: <sup>24</sup>But this man, because he continueth ever, hath an unchangeable priesthood. <sup>25</sup>Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them. <sup>26</sup>For such an high priest became us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens; <sup>27</sup>Who needeth not daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifice, first for his own sins, and then for the people’s: for this he did once, when he offered up himself.”***

B. God is Willing:

1. Rom. 8:29-34: ***“For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren. <sup>30</sup>Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified. <sup>31</sup>What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us? <sup>32</sup>He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things? <sup>33</sup>Who shall lay anything to the charge of God’s elect? It is God that justifieth. <sup>34</sup>Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.”***
2. Hebrews 6:17-20: ***“Wherein God, willing more abundantly to show unto the heirs of promise the immutability of his counsel, (He purposed it) confirmed it by an oath: (He promised it) <sup>18</sup>That by two immutable things, in which it was impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us: <sup>19</sup>Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and stedfast, and which entereth into that within the veil; <sup>20</sup>Whither the forerunner is for us entered, even Jesus, made an high priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec.”***

C. God Delivered ó Turn to and follow the reading of II Cor. 5:17-21

D. Spiritual Israel beholds it:

1. Consider our Lord's own words in John 6:37-40 where He says, ***“All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out. <sup>38</sup>For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me. <sup>39</sup>And this is the Father’s will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day. <sup>40</sup>And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day.”***

V. / D. *Spiritual Israel Beholds It (Con't.)*:

2. Quote 2 Cor. 4:6 ó Just as God said, òLet there be lightí ö

## VI. Summary ó

Just as God, the creator of time, suspended time to insure the total and complete victory for the nation Israel over the Amorites ó the scriptures in Gal. 4 tell us that in the fullness of time, (that is exactly when He purposed it) ó God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, made under the law to redeem them that were under the law (subject to its strict requirements) that we might receive the adoption of sons ó an eternal adoption far surpassing His temporal adoption of the nation Israel under the Old Covenant ó for that was just a foreshadowing to teach us of the ultimate victory in Christ's person and work. When He rested His head on the cross, having declared it was finished, on that day that the SON stood still ó Oh what a victory! He arose because righteousness demanded life for Him and for all those for whom He lived and died. Truly, there was no other day like that!

As we read in II Cor. 5:20-21 ó ***“Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God. <sup>21</sup> For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.”*** For our God is able, willing, & He delivered. And all those whom He purposed to save, were delivered from their sins at the cross of Calvary (the victory was won as He fought for them and provided for them what they could never provide for themselves).

And just as Joshua and national Israel were delivered by God in the sight of all Israel; likewise the righteousness Christ established at the cross procured not only their eternal victory and life, but their spiritual life that they too might see all of their hope wrapped up in the Lord Jesus Christ, on the day He finished the work in His death the cross ó The day the Son stood still.

I pray He will so bless you!

Footnote from the author: While this sermon was prepared and delivered by me, I often utilize the commentaries, study helps, and teachings of others to supplement my own prayerful study of the scriptures. Since this document was not originally prepared for publication in print, please excuse and recognize that it was unfeasible to properly identify and credit all of the various original sources used to develop the content herein. Ultimately, it is my sincere and foremost objective to accurately present the gospel of God's grace found in the only infallible source, God's word itself ó the Bible.