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## Joshua 10

(2019)

Bible House of Grace contains an easy to read New and Old Testament commentary full of spiritual treasures and pearls, complete with an insightful resource guide illuminating God's love and grace.



Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man, as to such I neither claim perfect knowledge or perfect understanding.

## Joshua 10.

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### Topics.

- Adoni-zedek, king of Jerusalem fears Joshua and the warriors of Israel.
- Adoni-zedek king of Jerusalem gathers five kings to fight Gibeon.
- Men of Gibeon send for Joshua to save them from the Amorite kings.
- God throws down hailstones and five Amorite kings flee before Israel.
- The LORD causes the sun and the moon to stand still at Gibeon.
- The five Amorite kings hide themselves in a cave at Makkedah.
- Joshua put the five Amorite kings to death by hanging them on trees.
- Joshua puts the inhabitants of Makkedah Libnah and Lachish to death.
- Joshua puts inhabitants of Gezer, Eglon, Hebron and Debir to death.

**FOR INFORMATION:** concerning people, places and the meaning of words see the title: "Map Locations and People of the Bible," and the title: "Bible Dictionary" on Website Menu.

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**INTRODUCTION:** the first five books of Moses anticipated the fulfilment of God's promise to Abraham concerning the Promised Land. Moses is now dead. Joshua crosses the River Jordan (about 1400 B.C.) and after a string of military victories apportioned the land according to the twelve tribes. These battles shine a brilliant spotlight upon the truth that God fights for His people when they are faithful and courageous and put their full trust in Him. (Josh. 1:6-9). At the close of the book Joshua says that he and all his house will serve the LORD and invites the people to choose whether they will serve the gods of their fathers or the gods in whose land they dwell or the God of Abraham Isaac and Jacob. The people choose to serve their God. (Josh. 24:15). Although anonymous the book appears to contain eyewitness testimony, some of which may have been written by Joshua himself.

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### JOSHUA 10:1-2

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#### Adoni-zedek, King of Jerusalem Fears Joshua's Warriors.

- **Joshua 10:1-2:** As soon as Adoni-zedek, king of Jerusalem, heard how Joshua had captured Ai and had devoted it to destruction, doing to Ai and its king as he had done to Jericho and its king, and how the inhabitants of Gibeon had made peace with Israel and were among them, <sup>2</sup>he 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 warriors.

So far Israel has crossed the River Jordan, utterly destroyed the king and city of Jericho and the king and city of Ai and in the previous chapter the Gibeonites (Hivites) cunningly deceived Israel into making a covenant of peace with them. These were three mighty cities with great armies. Adoni-zedek, king of Jerusalem is fully aware of Israel's great victories and the mighty power of their God and greatly fears them.

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### JOSHUA 10:3-5

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## Adoni-zedek King of Jerusalem Gathers Five Kings to Fight Gibeon.

- **Joshua 10:3-5:** So Adoni-zedek king of Jerusalem sent to Hoham king of Hebron, to Piram king of Jarmuth, to Japhia king of Lachish, and to Debir king of Eglon, saying, <sup>4</sup>"Come up to me and help me, and let us strike Gibeon. For it has made peace with Joshua and with the people of Israel." <sup>5</sup>Then 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 their forces and went up with all their armies and encamped against Gibeon and made war against it.

The five Amorite kings were:

1. Adoni-zedek king of Jerusalem
2. Hoham king of Hebron
3. Piram king of Jarmuth
4. Japhia king of Lachish
5. Debir king of Eglon

The following shows that the inhabitants of Gibeon were the Hivites:

- When the inhabitants of Gibeon heard what Joshua had done to Jericho and to Ai, they acted with cunning and took worn-out sacks for their donkeys, and worn out wineskins, sandals, and torn and mended clothing and went to Joshua and said, "We have come from a distant country, so now make a covenant with us," and the men of Israel said to the Hivites. (Joshua 9:3-7).

The cities of the Hivites were Gibeon, Chephirah, Beeroth, and Kiriath-jearim. (Joshua 9:3-7). The Hivites were certain that the armies of Israel would utterly destroy them they had such great fear of Israel and their God that they went to extreme measures to deceive Joshua and the elders of Israel into making a covenant of peace with them. (Joshua 9:3-6). Adoni-zedek king of Jerusalem has heard of this covenant the Gibeonites have made with Israel, so he gathers Hoham king of Hebron, Piram king of Jarmuth, Japhia king of Lachish, Debir king of Eglon, and the armies of these five kings surround Gibeon to make war against it. Their motivation to destroy Gibeon is no doubt so that Israel does not become and even greater and more powerful people in the land.

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## JOSHUA 10:6-9

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### Men of Gibeon Send for Joshua to Save them from Amorite Kings.

- **Joshua 10:6-9:** And the men of Gibeon sent to Joshua at the camp in Gilgal, saying, "Do not relax your hand from your servants. Come up to us quickly and save us and help us, for all the kings of the Amorites who dwell in the hill country are gathered against us." <sup>7</sup>So Joshua went up from Gilgal, he and all the people of war with him, and all the mighty men of valor. <sup>8</sup>And the LORD said to Joshua, "Do not fear them, for I have given them into your hands. Not a man of them shall stand before you." <sup>9</sup>So Joshua came upon them suddenly, having marched up all night from Gilgal.

The men of Gibeon see the armies of these five Amorite kings surrounding them and greatly fear so they send to Joshua for help. Joshua inquires of the LORD and the LORD tells him not to fear because He will give him victory over these five Amorite kings so Joshua marches all night from Gilgal with all the men of war and all the mighty men of valour and takes the armies of these five kings by surprise.

**NOTE:** since these five Amorite kings all dwelt in the land of Canaan Joshua and the armies of Israel would have had to utterly destroy them at some stage in their mission to occupy and cleanse the land that God had promised to Abraham to give as an inheritance to his offspring

forever. Joshua's mission as the captain of God's army was to occupy and cleanse the land from all that was an abomination before God and all that was corrupt wicked and evil and from all traces of idols and pagan gods and their temples and all traces of occultism and their places of worship.

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## JOSHUA 10:10-11

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### God throws Down Hailstones and Five Amorite Kings Flee.

- **Joshua 10:10-11:** And the LORD threw them (the five kings of the Amorites) (v5, 16), into a panic before Israel, who struck them with a great blow at Gibeon and chased them by the way of the ascent of Beth-horon and struck them as far as Azekah and Makkedah.  
<sup>11</sup>And as they fled before Israel, while they were going down the ascent of Beth-horon, the LORD threw down large stones from heaven on them as far as Azekah, and they died. There were more who died because of the hailstones than the sons of Israel killed with the sword.

Joshua like King David was a master of war and a skilful warrior, he would have been fully aware that if his armies marched all night the five Amorite kings would have been taken by total surprise and thrown into total confusion, panic, fear and terror. In Joshua chapter one God told Joshua and all the people of Israel that He would go before them and make their way prosperous, and that they would have good success providing they obeyed Him. (Joshua 1:7-8). Here is a great example of God going before Israel. The LORD had told Joshua, "Do not fear for I have given the five kings into your hands. Not a man of them will stand before you." (Josh. 10:8). Joshua immediately responds and attacks the armies of the five kings and God greatly helps him by throwing very large hailstones upon the fleeing armies so that more were killed by the hailstones than were killed by the warriors of Israel.

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## JOSHUA 10:12-14

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### The LORD causes the Sun and the Moon to Stand Still at Gibeon.

- **Joshua 10:12-14:** At that time Joshua spoke to the LORD in the day when the LORD gave the Amorites over to the sons of Israel, and he said in the sight of Israel, "Sun, stand still at Gibeon, and moon, in the Valley of Aijalon." <sup>13</sup>And the sun stood still, and the moon stopped, until the nation took vengeance on their enemies. Is this not written in the Book of Jashar (Jasher in KJV)? The sun stopped in the midst of heaven and did not hurry to set for about a whole day. <sup>14</sup>There has been no day like it before or since, when the LORD obeyed the voice of a man, for the LORD fought for Israel.

Joshua realising he needed the day to be longer so his men of valour would have more time to utterly destroy the fleeing armies of the five kings speaks to the LORD. Here the unique relationship Joshua had with God and his great faith is mightily revealed. Joshua's faith is so great that he does not hide himself and pray in secret to save himself from embarrassment if God did not respond to his enormously amazing request, but goes before all the people of Israel and tells the sun and the moon to stand still and they do.

**The Book of Jashar:** is cited in (Josh. 10:13) (2 Sam. 1:18). The word Jashar (Jasher in KJV) comes from the Hebrew word (yashar) it means to be straight or even and figuratively to be just and righteous. It carries the idea of being well pleased, pleasant and prosperous. It is an ancient book thought to have been a collection of poetry, odes and psalms in praise of Israel's heroes and exploits. Following are four speculations concerning the book:

1. It continued the Song of Deborah (Judges 5).
2. It contained the book of the law.

3. It vanished during the Babylonian captivity.
4. It was a well-known bit of Hebrew literature.

**No day like the sun and the moon standing still:** there has been no day like this before or afterward when the LORD obeyed the voice of a man and fought for Israel by stopping the sun and the moon. Because God's miracles do defy our laws of nature as we understand them some Christian intellectuals and scientist attempt to explain them in such a way that forces them to fit in with our laws of nature so that the secular world might be more believing in the Christian God, but this is foolishness. The whole reason God performed all these miraculous wonders that defy our laws of nature was so that He would be different and separated from every other god that people believe in since no other creature in heaven or on earth has such awe-inspiring power. Without the awesome miraculous miracles God did throughout history on Israel's behalf He would be seen as being no different to every other god people believe in. It is hard to comprehend why people who believe in the God of creation would even consider trying to explain the miracles away especially since all Christians believe God created the universe we live in and every living creature in it. Compared to such an awesome creation the ten plagues; the parting of the Red Sea and the River Jordan; causing a donkey to talk; making water come out of a rock, pouring manna down from heaven and stopping the sun and moon for a day and such like things are all trivial acts in comparison to God creating mankind from the dust of the earth and the creation of the heavenly host, the moon, sun and stars; the earth and it oceans and every living creature that walks on earth and that fly's in the air and swims in the oceans. Added to this God dwells outside of our laws of nature as we understand them to be and it is God who before time began set our laws of nature in place so for Him to alter them as He desires is, but a small task indeed.

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## JOSHUA 10:15-19

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### Five Amorite Kings Hide themselves in a Cave at Makkedah.

- **Joshua 10:15-19:** So Joshua returned, and all Israel with him, to the camp at Gilgal. <sup>16</sup>These five kings fled and hid themselves in the cave at Makkedah. <sup>17</sup>And it was told to Joshua, "The five kings have been found, hidden in the cave at Makkedah." <sup>18</sup>And Joshua said, "Roll large stones against the mouth of the cave and set men by it to guard them, <sup>19</sup>but do not stay there yourselves. Pursue your enemies; attack their rear guard. Do not let them enter their cities, for the LORD your God has given them into your hand."

The five Amorite kings' no doubt in great fear and terror fled the battle and hid themselves in a cave at Makkedah. Joshua after hearing this has his men roll large stones against the mouth of the cave to keep the kings trapped, while the men of Israel pursue the remaining soldiers of the Amorites before they are able enter their cities. Ponder for a moment the great fear and bewilderment of these five kings, they would have been absolutely confident that their fierce and massive armies would have been the victors and now they are trapped in the darkness of a cave.

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## JOSHUA 10:20-26

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### Joshua Put Five Amorite Kings to Death by Hanging them on Trees.

- **Joshua 10:20-26:** When Joshua and the sons of Israel had finished striking them (the rear guard of the Amorites) (v19), with a great blow until they were wiped out, and when the remnant that remained of them had entered into the fortified cities, <sup>21</sup>then all the people returned safe to Joshua in the camp at Makkedah. Not a man moved his tongue against any of the people of Israel. <sup>22</sup>Then Joshua said, "Open the mouth of the cave and bring those five kings out to me from the cave." <sup>23</sup>And they did so, and brought those five kings

out to him from the cave, the king of Jerusalem, the king of Hebron, the king of Jarmuth, the king of Lachish, and the king of Eglon. <sup>24</sup>And when they brought those kings out to Joshua, Joshua summoned all the men of Israel and said to the chiefs of the men of war who had gone with him, "Come near; put your feet on the necks of these kings." Then they came near and put their feet on their necks. <sup>25</sup>And Joshua said to them, "Do not be afraid or dismayed; be strong and courageous. For thus the LORD will do to all your enemies against whom you fight." <sup>26</sup>And afterward Joshua struck them and put them to death, and he hanged them on five trees. And they hung on the trees until evening.

Joshua has his men bring the five Amorite kings out of the cave and tells his chief men of war to put their feet on their necks, as these kings lay crushed beneath the feet of Israel Joshua tells the people of Israel not to be afraid, but rather be strong and courageous, because the LORD their God will do to all their enemies as they have done to these five kings. This action of Joshua's would serve the following two purposes:

1. It would uplift and instil great courage in the people of Israel.
2. It would instil great fear and terror in the surrounding nations.

Joshua hanged the five kings on five trees until evening this no doubt was so that all would see the utter defeat of these five kings and word of it would spread rapidly throughout the land and instil great fear of the armies of Israel and their God in the kings and inhabitants of Canaan.

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## JOSHUA 10:27-28

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### Joshua puts to Death King of Makkedah and People of Makkedah.

- **Joshua 10:27-28:** But at the time of the going down of the sun, Joshua commanded, and they took them down from the trees and threw them into the cave where they had hidden themselves, and they set large stones against the mouth of the cave, which remain to this very day. <sup>28</sup>As for Makkedah, Joshua captured it on that day and struck it, and its king, with the edge of the sword. He devoted to destruction every person in it; he left none remaining. And he did to the king of Makkedah just as he had done to the king of Jericho.

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At the end of the day Joshua did treat the five kings with some level of respect in that he laid their bodies in the cave (a sort of tomb). He could have left them hanging for the birds of the air to eat, or left their bodies uncovered for wild beasts to feed off. It is likely Joshua buried the five kings in this manner for the following reasons, the cave remained as a moment of Israel's victory and the five kings of the Amonites defeat and its story would be told throughout the land and it was the proper and right thing to do. The expression, "which stands there to this day," refers to the day that this story was written.

**Joshua did to the king of Makkedah as he had done to the king of Jericho:** slew him with the sword, but did not hang him up as he did the king of Ai and the five kings.

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## JOSHUA 10:29-30

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### Joshua puts King of Libnah, and inhabitants of Libnah to Death.

- **Joshua 10:29-30:** Then Joshua and all Israel with him passed on from Makkedah to Libnah and fought against Libnah. <sup>30</sup>And the LORD gave it also and its king into the hand of Israel. And he struck it with the edge of the sword, and every person in it; he left none remaining in it. And he did to its king as he had done to the king of Jericho.

Immediately after putting to death the king and every person in Makkedah Joshua and his armies fight against Libnah and put to death the king and every person in Libnah.



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## JOSHUA 10:31-32

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### Joshua puts King of Lachish, and inhabitants of Lachish to Death.

- **Joshua 10:31-32:** Then Joshua and all Israel with him passed on from Libnah to Lachish and laid siege to it and fought against it. <sup>32</sup>And the LORD gave Lachish into the hand of Israel, and he captured it on the second day and struck it with the edge of the sword, and every person in it, as he had done to Libnah.

Immediately after putting to death the king and every person in Makkedah and Libnah Joshua and his armies fight against Lachish and put to death the king and every person in Lachish.

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## JOSHUA 10:33

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### Joshua puts King of Gezer and the inhabitants of Gezer to Death.

- **Joshua 10:33:** Then Horem king of Gezer came up to help Lachish. And Joshua struck him and his people, until he left none remaining.

Immediately after putting to death the king and every person in Makkedah, Libnah and Lachish Joshua and his armies fight against Gezer and put to death the king and every person in Gezer.

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## JOSHUA 10:34-35

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### Joshua puts King of Eglon and the inhabitants of Eglon to Death.

- **Joshua 10:34-35:** Then Joshua and all Israel with him passed on from Lachish to Eglon. And they laid siege to it and fought against it. <sup>35</sup>And they captured it on that day, and struck it with the edge of the sword. And he devoted every person in it to destruction that day, as he had done to Lachish.

Immediately after putting to death the king and every person in Makkedah, Libnah, Lachish and Gezer, Joshua and his armies fight against Eglon and put to death the king and every person in Eglon.

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## JOSHUA 10:36-37

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### Joshua puts King of Hebron and inhabitants of Hebron to Death.

- **Joshua 10:36-37:** Then Joshua and all Israel with him went up from Eglon to Hebron. And they fought against it <sup>37</sup>and captured it and struck it with the edge of the sword, and its king and its towns, and every person in it. He left none remaining, as he had done to Eglon, and devoted it to destruction and every person in it.

Immediately after putting to death the king and every person in Makkedah, Libnah, Lachish, Gezer and Eglon Joshua and his armies fight against Hebron and put to death the king and every person in Hebron.

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## JOSHUA 10:38-39

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### Joshua puts King of Debir and the inhabitants of Debir to Death.

- **Joshua 10:38-40:** Then Joshua and all Israel with him turned back to Debir and fought against it <sup>39</sup>and he captured it with its king and all its towns. And they struck them with the edge of the sword and devoted to destruction every person in it; he left none remaining. Just as he had done to Hebron and to Libnah and its king, so he did to Debir and to its king.

Immediately after putting to death the king and every person in Makkedah, Libnah, Lachish, Gezer, Eglon and Hebron Joshua and his armies fight against Debir and put to death the king and every person in Debir.

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## JOSHUA 10:40-43

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### Joshua puts to Death all the Kings and inhabitants of the Land.

- **Joshua 10:40-43:** So Joshua struck the whole land, the hill country and the Negeb and the lowland and the slopes, and all their kings. He left none remaining, but devoted to destruction all that breathed, just as the LORD God of Israel commanded. <sup>41</sup>And Joshua struck them from Kadesh-barnea as far as Gaza, and all the country of Goshen, as far as Gibeon. <sup>42</sup>And Joshua captured all these kings and their land at one time, because the LORD God of Israel fought for Israel. <sup>43</sup>Then Joshua returned, and all Israel with him, to the camp at Gilgal.

Joshua struck the whole land and all their kings, because the LORD God of Israel fought for Israel. Joshua left none remaining, but devoted to destruction all that breathed just as the LORD God of Israel commanded and then all Israel returned with Joshua to the camp at Gilgal.

**NOTE:** when it says Joshua struck the whole land, it does not mean the entire area of Canaan (the Promised Land), but the entire area that he is fighting in at that time. In the next chapter he goes on to conquer the northern regions of Canaan. In this context the whole land applies to all the land of all the kings and nations that Israel went out at this time to battle against. In rapid succession of triumphant victory Joshua and his armies with the LORD swept through the whole of southern Palestine capturing and cleansing the land.

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*As the founder of Bible House of Grace, I would like to thank the many Christian scholars, commentators and theologians who have gone before me, and the many today, who have freely made available their works to enhance the knowledge of the Bible to all people worldwide. It is only with the help of these faithful writers that much of Bible House of Grace exists as it does today.*

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