



JOSHUA - WHO WINS THE VICTORIES?

Things went wrong for the Israelites when they trusted their own instincts and didn't consult the Lord. The Gibeonites managed to accomplish what they had set out to do – to deceive the Israelites, but now they were in trouble. The five Amorite kings had united against them – they were facing certain death. Would Joshua and the Israelites come to their rescue? After all, they were the enemy too . . .

1. *Joshua 1:3-6* What three promises did God give to Joshua when he first became leader of the people?

Read *Joshua 10:1-43*

Joshua 10:1-8

2. What problem did the Gibeonites have?

3. What promise did God give Joshua about this?

Joshua 10:9-15

4. In what three ways did God demonstrate His power in this passage?

Joshua 10:16-28

5. How did Joshua encourage his officers?

Joshua 10:29-43

6. What is made very clear in verses 30, 32 and 42?

7. *Joshua 4:19-20* What would the Israelites be reminded of every time they returned to Gilgal (v15 & v43)?

Read Joshua 11:1-23

Joshua 11:1-11

8. How is the army from the north described here?

9. Why would the Israelites be particularly afraid of this army?

10. What gave them confidence?

Joshua 11:12-23

11. What lessons can we learn from verse 15?

The End Bit!

So how does this passage have any relevance to our lives . . .

1. The Lord said, “Don’t be afraid of them . . .”

God begins His work through His word. It is important that we get to know His word thoroughly – reading it as often as we can, thinking about it and praying that God will help us apply it to our lives. Then we will find encouragement, as Joshua did and hope and strength for the tasks ahead.

God is not just saying ‘Don’t worry’ – He gives the reason why – ‘For I have given you the victory.’ This is what it means to trust God completely, to take Him at His word, believing that He has each problem we face under control.

2. The Lord was fighting for Israel

Sometimes we can feel like we’re fighting a losing battle. Remember, the soldier doesn’t go to his commanding officer and say, ‘Please help me to fight this battle’ – he waits for his orders and then concentrates on obeying, knowing that the officer plans the strategy which will conquer the enemy. So it is with us. The Lord doesn’t expect us to face trials and temptations alone – He is always with us to guide us.

3. The Lord gave the Israelites the victory

In the passage we have studied, we are left in no doubt as to who was responsible for defeating the enemy. We must strive to fight the good fight of faith, resist the devil and in all things give God the glory.

4. This is what the Lord commanded

The Lord commanded that the idolatrous people of Canaan were to be destroyed, as their time of judgement had come. He commanded that the evil should be driven out of the land which He had promised to His people.

The Lord has also commanded that we should drive out of our lives those things that are not pleasing to Him, so that we might be the kind of people He wants us to be.

Verses to remember

“But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labour in the Lord is not in vain.”

1 Corinthians 15:57-58