

Journey Through The Cities Of Refuge

Lesson #28

Prescription For Victory in Spiritual Warfare

August 5, 2026

Truth: The land of full blessing is a land of intensive warfare.

Joshua 10 serves as a powerful illustration of spiritual warfare.

It relates a physical battle which is a picture of the spiritual battle in the heavenlies.
It is a battle between Adoni-Zedek one who claims to be: The Lord of Righteousness
and the One who is the True Lord of Righteousness
It is a revelation of Jesus Christ as the divine warrior, the intercessor, and
the One who commands time itself.

Characters: King of Jerusalem, Adoni-Zedek

5 Enemy Kings

Joshua

Israelite Army

Gibeonites

LORD GOD

Set The Stage For The Battle Over The Gibeonites : The Gibeonites have humbled themselves
before Joshua and declared themselves as servants to him and the Israelites.

- Mercy and grace were given to them. They have been brought near.
- Joshua made a covenant with them. He made the Gibeonites living sacrifices.
- Their former allies' purpose is to destroy them.

Act 1: Joshua 10:1-5 King Adoni-Zedek and his coalition of 4 kings and nations

Joshua 10:1a Now it came to pass, when Adoni-Zedek king of Jerusalem...

Jerusalem was the under the authority of a King named: Adoni-Zedek, Lord of Righteousness.

➤ Adoni-Zedek = Hebrew words: Adoni = sovereign; Lord Zedek = righteousness
Adoni-Zedek, king of Jerusalem, is seen as a type of the Antichrist due to his defiance
against God's purpose and leadership in opposing Israel.

This is similar to how the Antichrist will oppose Christ and His followers. Both figures embody
arrogance and rebellion against divine authority, ultimately facing judgment for their actions.

¹had heard how Joshua had taken Ai and had utterly destroyed it [devoted to destruction];
as he had done to Jericho and her king, so he had done to Ai and her king;
and how the inhabitants of Gibeon had made peace with Israel and were among them;

²that they feared greatly because Gibeon *was* a great city, like one of the royal cities, &
because it *was* greater than Ai, and all its men *were* mighty.

Ex. 23:27 "I will send My fear before you, I will cause confusion among all the people to whom
you come and will make all your enemies turn *their* backs to you. God's Promise

- If a great city capitulated, then it boded ill for the other city states,
for it removed one more barrier against the advancing Israelite army.
- Adoni-Zedek saw: it would be crucial to recover the key city of Gibeon.

This fear led Adoni-Zedek to make a pact with 4 other kings of city-states in the land of
Canaan & to persuade them to fight with him against Gibeon who had come under
Israel's protection. [Gibeon capitulated to Joshua & God's people. Traitor]

How can the "Lord of righteousness" who is king of Jerusalem come against the Gibeonites, to destroy them?

- He foreshadows the anti-Christ who will deceive the nations.
- The false King of Jerusalem leads a confederacy of nations against Joshua.
- The future literal antichrist will lead a confederacy of nations against Jesus Christ in the end times. [Rev. 17:12 ff]
- Like the false King of Jerusalem, the antichrist will wage war on the remnant of believers in the Tribulation period who refuse to submit to him.

Joshua 10:3-5 Therefore, Adoni-Zedek king of Jerusalem sent to Hoham king of Hebron, Piram king of Jarmuth, Japhia king of Lachish, and Debir king of Eglon, saying,

⁴"Come up to me and help me, that we may attack Gibeon, for it has made peace with Joshua and with the children of Israel."

Hebron = place of alliance; joining King Hoham = Whom Jehovah impels; woe to them

- Binding friendship or association that brings woe
- To be impelled by God means to be driven or moved by a force or inner compulsion
- God's sovereignty covers all nations and rulers, even those who oppose His people.

Jarmuth = High King Piram = Like a wild donkey

- This king propagates a spirit of rebellion; can't be domesticated
- Leads people to be wild, unbridled, too proud to submit.
- It causes one to not be submitted and find their own way of righteousness

Lachish = Invincible King Japhia = Shining; brightness; splendor

- This spirit of pride causes people to seek attention and praise for themselves.
- Leads people to think they are more important than they really are
- The person ends up taking God's glory for themselves.

Eglon = Calf; go in circles King Debir = Oracle or Sanctuary

- Spirit of strange teaching; Manifest in lies, slander, accusation, discredits leaders of God; Leads to division in the church and opting for alternative truth

Joshua 10:5 Therefore the 5 kings of the Amorites,... gathered themselves together, and went up, they and all their hosts, and encamped before Gibeon and made war against it.

Isa. 59:15b He that departs from evil maketh himself a prey.

They are in dire straits. No sooner is the covenant signed than the infernal hosts are rallied.

Key: The Gibeonites were seeking peace, but their efforts backfired and brought war!

- Believers should also expect Satan to chase after them when they turn to Christ.
- He will do everything in his power to re-enslave a believer. Hinder your spiritual growth

Adoni-zedek king of Jerusalem receives a unanimous affirmative response.

- This was an act of treachery for a Canaanite city to covenant with the enemy Israel.

Adoni-Zedek's Strategy: Instead of seeking peace or submitting to the God of Israel,
he responded with pride by choosing a different path: RESISTANCE

- The stage is set for a dramatic and fateful battle.

As this confederation of armies and kings assembled, God in heaven must have laughed
because unknown to them He was using these events to accomplish His own purposes.

Ps. 2:1-4 Why do the nations rage, And the people plot a vain thing? ² The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the Lord and against His Anointed, saying, ³ "Let us break their bonds in pieces and cast away their cords from us."

⁴He who sits in the heavens shall laugh; The Lord shall hold them in derision.

Act 2: Scene 1: Joshua 10:6 And the men of Gibeon sent to Joshua at the camp at Gilgal, saying,
Note: Joshua is camped at Gilgal! Mentioned 5x in Joshua 10.

Joshua 4:20 Gilgal was the place of memorial.

Joshua 5:2-3 Gilgal was the place of radical obedience.

Joshua 5:9 Gilgal was the place where reproach was removed.

Joshua 5:20 Gilgal was the place of obedience and the remembrance of salvation.

Joshua 5:11-12 Gilgal was the place where the manna stopped, and they began to live off what the Promised Land provided.

Joshua 5:13-15 Gilgal was the place where Joshua met Jesus Christ in a dramatic way,
as commander of the LORD's armies - and took off his sandals in reverence to holy ground.

Joshua 10:6 And the men of Gibeon sent to Joshua at the camp at Gilgal, saying,
"Do not forsake your servants; come up to us quickly, save us and help us,
for all the kings of the Amorites who dwell in the mountains have gathered together against us."

It was because of their confidence in Joshua and their having thrown themselves entirely upon his protection that they were now marked out as objects of the vengeance of their enemies.

The Gibeonites felt this attack extremely dangerous because:

- They had been on intimate terms with these kings and their nations.
- All their conditions and resources were well known to these five kings.
- This was a crisis of life or death.

Note: When they knew they were headed for destruction, they came to Joshua
["Jehovah is Savior") and obtained from him a promise of protection.

When the Gibeonites found themselves in danger, they believed Joshua's promise and called on him for HELP! Turned the burden over to Joshua and trusted him to keep his word.

Ps. 143:12 And of thy mercy cut off mine enemies, and destroy all them that afflict my soul:
for I am thy servant.

Act 2: Scene 2: Joshua 10:7-9 So Joshua ascended from Gilgal,
he and all the people of war with him, and all the mighty men of valor.

Ascended from Gilgal: A place of rest and remembrance; a reminder of God's goodness.

- The call to leave Gilgal conveys a powerful message about obedience and stepping out in faith
- Moving from a place of rest and reflection to one of action & warfare
- To fulfill God's purpose, Joshua was required to move forward, implying that growth often comes with a certain discomfort.

Key: It calls us to ascend from our place of comfort and complacency.

- Seize opportunities that lead to our growth and development.

Key: The challenges may seem overwhelming. Fear may try to hold us back.

Key: Action is a crucial component of faith.

- Real courage is not the absence of fear, but the decision to move forward despite it.

Those who accompanied Joshua: army of picked men, men of approved valor and tried skill,
to defend the Gibeonites, their new allies, against their invaders.

Just as Joshua rallied the warriors, we must also strive to uplift and empower those around us.

Acts 14:22 shows Paul and Barnabas doing three indispensable things: fortifying believers' inner lives, urging steady perseverance, and framing suffering as the God-appointed pathway to glory. Healthy discipleship still follows this pattern: building strong hearts in Scripture, cheering one another toward lifelong faithfulness, and facing inevitable trials with the confidence that all who share Christ's sufferings will share His kingdom.

Joshua 10:8-9 And the LORD said to Joshua, "Do not fear them,
for I have delivered them into your hand; not a man of them shall stand before you."

- The Lord didn't stop with just a word of encouragement.
He gave them the promise of absolute victory!
- God reaffirmed promises He had given in Joshua 1:5 BEFORE they entered Canaan.

⁹ Joshua therefore came upon them suddenly, having marched all night from Gilgal.

- Gilgal to Gibeon= ~ 25 miles and all uphill [~ 4,000 feet] over steep and difficult terrain.
- This meant, with no opportunity to rest, his fighting men would be exhausted.

II Cor. 12:9 My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness.

Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

Side Note: They accomplished in a single night the distance from Gilgal to Gibeon.

On a former occasion, the same trip had been a three-day journey. [Joshua 9:17]

Note: When we believe the promises of God and obey the commands of God, we act by faith and can expect God's help. No need to be afraid: God had already promised the victory.

Joshua 23:14 Not one word out of all the good promises that Jehovah your God has spoken to you has failed. They have all come true for you. Not one word of them has failed.
I Kings 8:56 There has not failed one word of all His good promise.

Act 3: Scene 1 Joshua 10:10-11 And the LORD discomfited [confused; Recall Ps. 2:] them before Israel, and slew them with a great slaughter at Gibeon, and chased them along the way that goeth up to Bethhoron, and smote them to Azekah, and unto Makkedah.

Key: The LORD Is The Subject Of All Four Verbs: Confounded...Slew...Pursued...Struck.

¹¹And it came to pass, as they fled from before Israel, and were in the going down to Bethhoron, that the LORD cast down great stones from heaven upon them unto Azekah, and they died: they were more which died with hailstones than they whom the children of Israel slew with the sword.

Interesting: The relationship between the sovereign word of God recorded in v. 8

- Fear them not: for I have delivered them into thine hand;
there shall not a man of them stand before thee.

Required Human Effort in v. 9: Joshua therefore came unto them suddenly,
and went up from Gilgal all night.

Although God assured them of the victory, they still had to prepare for the battle and form a strategy to defeat the Canaanites. It is this tension between God's sovereignty and man's free will that is found so often in the Bible.

Act 3: Scene 2 Joshua 10:12-15 Then spake Joshua to the LORD in the day when the LORD delivered up the Amorites before the children of Israel, and he said in the sight of Israel, Sun, stand thou still upon Gibeon; and thou, Moon, in the valley of Ajalon. And the sun stood still, and the moon stayed, until the people had avenged themselves upon their enemies. Is not this written in the book of Jasher?

So the sun stood still in the midst of heaven and hasted not to go down about a whole day.

When? After the LORD attacked with hailstones.

- Joshua needed time to pursue and slay the enemy in daylight.
- If the night came, many of the enemy not killed by the hailstones would escape.

The sun standing still would give Joshua more light in which to fulfill what the LORD had promised him in Joshua 10:8 that "not one of them shall stand before you."

- This would allow Joshua to literally utterly destroy these 5 Amorite armies.

Thought: Joshua and the army needed light to have victory over the enemies.

The Word of God illuminates the path of believers and dispels the darkness.

Key: I must be rooted and grounded in God's Word. Walking in the light means growing in holiness and maturing in the faith as we follow Jesus. When I walk in the light of His Word, God continues to give me victory over the enemies of my soul.

Ps. 1:2-3 But his delight is in the law of the Lord; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.

³ And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.

Israel's enemies worshiped the sun and moon. This miracle clearly affirmed the Lord God as the true God. The Amorites' own gods were powerless to aid their cause as the God of Israel moved heaven and earth to grant His people the victory.

Jer. 32:17 Ah Lord GOD! Behold, You have made the heavens and the earth by Your great power and by Your outstretched arm! Nothing is too difficult for You,

Joshua 10:14-15 And there was no day like that before it or after it, that the LORD hearkened unto the voice of a man: for the LORD fought for Israel.

¹⁵And Joshua returned, and all Israel with him, unto the camp to Gilgal.

Act 4: Scene 1: Joshua 10:16-19 The Enemy in Hiding [represent enemies in my soul]

But these five kings fled and hid themselves in a cave at Makkedah. [place of shepherds]

And it was told Joshua, saying, The five kings are found hid in a cave at Makkedah.

Joshua commanded, 'Cover the opening of the cave with large rocks and put guards at the entrance to keep the kings inside.

The rest of you continue chasing the enemy and don't give them a chance to get back to their towns. The Lord has given you victory over them.'

Consider: Capturing the five kings was an important event, but there were more pressing matters. He would deal with them later for the more pressing concern was to pursue the fleeing armies. Here we see the wisdom of a leader putting first things first. This is seen in his statement, "But don't you delay! Chase your enemies and catch them!

Don't allow them to retreat to their cities for the LORD your God is handing them over to you."

Joshua 10:20-21 And it came to pass, when Joshua and the children of Israel had made an end of slaying them with a very great slaughter, till they were consumed, that the rest which remained of them entered into fenced cities.

^{21a} And ALL the people returned to the camp to Joshua at Makkedah in peace:

Note: ALL = None of the Israelites had been slain by the enemy!

Joshua = True Lord of Righteousness > Brings Peace > Place of True Shepherd

^{21b}None Moved His Tongue Against Any Of The Children Of Israel.

Fear of God had fallen upon the Canaanites: so awed were they that none dared to curse their victors or utter a word of reproach against them.

Redpath: From that time onward the people of God were finally established in the land of Canaan as a people to be feared. Their victories demonstrated that the Israelites were no ordinary people. This nation was supported by Supernatural Power and were to be feared.

Act 4: Scene 2: Joshua 10:22-24 Then said Joshua, Open the mouth of the cave,
and bring out those five kings unto me out of the cave.

Key to Victory: Joshua operated before, during and after the battle from his base camp at Gilgal.

²⁴ Joshua told the commanders of his army, 'Come and put your feet on the kings' necks.
And they came near and put their feet upon the necks of them.

Joshua 10:25-27 And Joshua said unto them, Fear not, nor be dismayed, be strong and of good courage: For Thus Shall The LORD Do To All Your Enemies Against Whom Ye Fight.

Consider: Jesus Christ has defeated ALL enemies. He will return one day and destroy them forever. No matter how they may rage, the Lord's enemies are only the footstool at His feet.

Act 4: Scene 3: Joshua 10:26-27 And afterward Joshua smote them, and slew them,
and hanged them on five trees: and they were hanging upon the trees until the evening.

²⁷ And it came to pass at the time of the going down of the sun, that Joshua commanded, and they took them down off the trees, and cast them into the cave wherein they had been hid, and laid great stones in the cave's mouth, which remain until this very day.

The whole episode demonstrates God's deliverance and the fulfillment of His promise to give the land to Israel.

Adoni- Zedek was a type of the prince that is to come, the son of perdition, the antichrist. He will gather the kings of the earth to make war on the Jews and those who love the true Lord of Righteousness, Jesus Christ.

Paul reminds us that the day will come when this false "lord of righteousness" will sit in the temple of Jehovah in Jerusalem, declare himself to be God, and demand to be worshiped.

II Thess. 2:3-4 Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God, or that is worshiped; so that he as God sits in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.

This sets the stage for the final conflict over Jerusalem when Jesus comes to put down the puppet King of Satan, Antichrist, who will briefly reign in Jerusalem during the Great Tribulation Period.

Just as Joshua, type of Christ, suddenly appeared with his army to defeat Adoni-Zedek and his army, Jesus Christ will suddenly return with His army to defeat the Anti-christ and his army.

➤ Rev. 13:1-10; Rev. 19:22-21

What will be the fate of those caught up in the future battle brought about by the false lord of righteousness? [the Antichrist]

Rev. 6:12-14 And I beheld when he had opened the sixth seal, and, lo, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood;
¹³ And the stars of heaven fell unto the earth, even as a fig tree casts her untimely figs, when she is shaken of a mighty wind. ¹⁴ And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places.

Rev. 6:15-17 And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains; and said to the mountains and the rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne [just like the 5 kings], and from the wrath of the Lamb: for the great day of His wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?

Rev. 19:11-21 And I saw heaven opened and behold a white horse; and He that sat upon Him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He doth judge and make war.

¹² His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns; and He had a name written, that no man knew, but He himself.

¹³ And He was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and His name is called The Word of God.

¹⁴ And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean. And out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should smite the nations: and He shall rule them with a rod of iron: and He treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. ¹⁶ And He hath on His vesture and on His thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.

¹⁷ And I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the fowls that fly in the midst of heaven, Come and gather yourselves together unto the supper of the great God; ¹⁸ That ye may eat the flesh of kings, and the flesh of captains, and the flesh of mighty men, and the flesh of horses, and of them that sit on them, and the flesh of all men, both free and bond, both small and great.

¹⁹ And I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against Him that sat on the horse, and against His army.

²⁰ And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone.

²¹ And the remnant were slain with the sword of Him that sat upon the horse, which sword proceeded out of His mouth: and all the fowls were filled with their flesh.

Question: Why would 5 powerful kings with great armies and power hide in a cave?

Note: These kings represent my enemies trying to hide in the recesses of my heart.

Internal enemies represent the struggles and temptations that individuals face within themselves. These can include doubts, fears, pride, and other sinful tendencies that hinder one's relationship with God.

Consider: What is hiding in my cave? Hidden things we don't want to give up!

Sins we have not conquered: Pride, critical spirit, judgmental, a harsh tongue,
Bitterness, envy, jealousy

John Stott: Pride is more than the first of the 7 deadly sins.

It is itself the essence of all sin.

Do I have sins that are hiding and have not been brought out, confessed, and forsaken?

➤ Is there a tongue or pride that has never been crucified?

The Christian life is frequently depicted in Scripture as a battle, a spiritual warfare that requires vigilance, perseverance, and divine empowerment. This pictures the reality of the Christian's struggle against sin, the flesh, and spiritual forces of evil.

Rom. 6:11-12 So you also should consider yourselves to be dead to the power of sin and alive to God through Christ Jesus. Do not let sin control the way you live; do not give in to sinful desires.

Key: We must slay them without mercy, lest they continue to lead rebel raids on our heart, weakening our spiritual life and witness.

Have I renounced my carnality and entered into a living fellowship with the Lord?

Am I feasting on the strong meat of His Word? Am I diligent to pursue holiness?

➤ There will be no victory in the name of Christ until you declare total war against everything in your life that is sinful.

Truth: Every gain you make in your Christian character will be resisted by the devil down to the end of your life's journey.

Key to Victory: Joshua operated before, during and after the battle from his base camp at Gilgal.

John Stott: Pride is your greatest enemy; humility is your greatest friend.

John Chrysostom: Just as pride is the root of all sin,

so "humility is the root, mother, nurse, foundation, and bond of all virtue."

John Flavel: They that know God will be humble. They that know themselves cannot be proud.

Redpath: Gilgal is not merely a surrender at the very beginning, but it is an attitude maintained throughout the campaign. That is the secret of power and victory.

Key: Joshua would not let the 5 kings remain in the cave. All must be wiped out!

This is sanctification. In each of us is an old nature, a self which is incapable of holiness, which has been judged and condemned to die at the cross.

There is also in each of us a new nature which is incapable of sin which has been imparted to us by faith in Jesus Christ.

But, it is only as I am prepared to submit to the wounds, to the nails, to the crucifixion of SELF that I can enjoy the victory of Christ.

Redpath: I dare not leave sin lurking within the hidden recesses of my heart still unjudged. Never take sides with your sin but declare war on the serpent that lurks in your heart.

Joshua 1:3 Every place that the sole of your foot shall tread upon, that have I given unto you,
Tread = darak = do warfare

Do the enemies of my soul fear because they KNOW they can be defeated?

Imagine: Having your feet on the neck of jealousy, of pride, of a critical spirit, of a harsh tongue and every crippling thing in your Christian testimony.

Through Him, we can claim victory and put our feet on the necks of our enemies. [Rom. 16:20]

Joshua 23:14 Behold, this day I *am* going the way of all the earth.

And you know in all your hearts and in all your souls that not one thing has failed of all the good things which the Lord your God spoke concerning you.

All have come to pass for you; not one word of them has failed.