

JOSHUA 10:1-14
NO DAY LIKE IT!
PART 1

Please turn in your Bibles this morning to Joshua chapter 10 as we continue our study through this fascinating book on victorious Christian living.

Let me set the stage for what we will be looking at this morning.

Last time we saw how the victories of the children of Israel against the people in the land of Canaan, the Promise Land, was spreading. And it brought them not only fear but great concern on what to do so they would not be defeated.

You see, God told the children of Israel that all the people in the land of Canaan, the land that God had given to them, were to be wiped out. Only those who lived outside the Promise Land would be spared if they are willing to make peace with the children of Israel!

And we read in Joshua 9:1-2, **“And it came to pass when all the kings who were on this side of the Jordan, in the hills and in the lowland and in all the coasts of the Great Sea toward Lebanon - the Hittite, the Amorite, the Canaanite, the Perizzite, the Hivite, and the Jebusite - heard about it, that they gathered together to fight with Joshua and Israel with one accord.”**

These Kings recognized that if they didn't join forces to fight against the children of Israel, they would never win. And even with all these people coming together, they would not win because the Lord was fighting for the children of Israel and He would give them the victory!

There was another group who did not join forces with these Kings to fight against the children of Israel. They understood that a frontal attack against them would not work.

So they decided to do something completely different. Listen to what we are told in Joshua 9:3-6, **“But when the inhabitants of Gibeon heard what Joshua had done to Jericho and Ai, they worked craftily, and went and pretended to be ambassadors. And they took old sacks on their donkeys, old wineskins torn and mended, old and patched sandals on their feet, and old garments on themselves; and all the bread of their provision was dry and moldy. And they went to Joshua, to the camp at Gilgal, and said to him and to the men of Israel, ‘We have come from a far country; now therefore, make a covenant with us.’”**

Keep in mind that Gibeon was the next city to be conquered after Ai! It was located only some twenty-five miles from Gilgal, that was the base camp for the children of Israel.

Remember, if a city was outside the land of Canaan, then they would be spared if they accepted peace with the children of Israel.

But Gibeon was in the land, they were close by and thus, they were going to be destroyed and they felt the heat and came up with a plan to save themselves!

This is a very subtle approach, you might say. And we might call it the Trojan Horse strategy.

You know the story. The Trojan Horse was huge hollow wooden horse constructed by the Greeks to gain entrance into Troy during the Trojan War. It was a gift to Troy but inside were soldiers and when it was time, once they were inside the city, they would attack.

Now most believe this never happened but it is a great picture of – ***DECEPTION!***

That is what we see here with the Gibeonites. They were going to use deception to trick the children of Israel into thinking that they came from a faraway country.

And their plan worked beautifully! Listen to what we are told in Joshua 9:15-16, **“So Joshua made peace with them, and made a covenant with them to let them live; and the rulers of the congregation swore to them. And it happened at the end of three days, after they had made a covenant with them, that they heard that they were their neighbors who dwelt near them.”**

How could this happen? Why did God allow this? First of all, God did not allow this. Then how in the world did this happen? Listen carefully because this is how we are deceived. In Joshua 9:14 we are told, **“Then the men of Israel took some of their provisions; but they did not ask counsel of the Lord.”**

Did you see what happened here? The men of Israel heard their story, they looked at the evidence with their physical eyes and it seemed to match the story that the Gibeonites were telling. The problem here is that they were deceived!

And here is the key to not being deceived. You need to ask counsel of the Lord and they did not, and they were deceived!

For us, we need to take what is being told, what we see, to the light of God’s Word and ask the Holy Spirit to show us what the truth of the matter is, and He will!

The end result is that they made a peace treaty with a group of people that were living in the Promise Land, something that they were not to do.

Listen to what transpired here in Joshua 9:17-21, **“Then the children of Israel journeyed and came to their cities on the third day. Now their cities were Gibeon, Chephirah, Beeroth, and Kirjath Jearim. But the children of Israel did not attack them, because the rulers of the congregation had sworn to them by the Lord God of Israel. And all the congregation complained against the rulers. Then all the rulers said to all the congregation, ‘We have sworn to them by the Lord God of Israel; now therefore, we may not touch them. This we will do to them: We will let them live, lest wrath be upon us because of the oath which we swore to them.’ And the rulers said to them, ‘Let them live, but let them be woodcutters and water carriers for all the congregation, as the rulers had promised them.”**

They had made a promise to the Gibeonites and now they were obliged to keep that promise.

And it is out of all that we see the events of Joshua chapter 10 come to pass. It is important you understand what was taking place here in Joshua chapter 9 so that as you read what the children of Israel do here in Joshua chapter 10, it will make sense to you.

I have broken down the verses we will be looking at this morning into five main points. They are as follows:

THE ENEMY RISES UP – JOSHUA 10:1-4

THE ENEMY ATTACKS THE WEAK – JOSHUA 10:5

THE CRY OF OUR HEARTS – JOSHUA 10:6

OUR JOSHUA COMES TO FIGHT FOR US – JOSHUA 10:7-13

HOW BIG IS OUR PROBLEM? HOW BIG IS OUR GOD? – JOSHUA 10:14

I have called this study, ***NO DAY LIKE IT!*** And you will see why as we go through these verses and how it applies to our lives today, for both the saved and the unsaved. Also, this is part one of this study, we will finish looking at this chapter next time.

With that as our introduction, let's begin reading in Joshua chapter 10, beginning in verse 1 and let's see what the Lord has for us as we study through the book of Joshua!

JOSHUA 10

VERSES 1-4

As you can see, and our first point, ***THE ENEMY RISES UP!***

Here we see the King of Jerusalem, in hearing what the children of Israel did to Jericho and Ai, and how the Gibeonites made peace with Israel, are going to go after the inhabitants of Gibeon because they didn't fight against Israel.

Interestingly enough, the King of Jerusalem, Adoni-Zedek, is a very interesting figure.

And Please understand that he was not like Melchizedek, the King of Jerusalem during the time of Abraham and a type of Christ.

And yes, his name means the lord of righteousness, as Adoni means lord and Zedek means righteousness, but he is not a type of Christ.

Then who is he a type of?

He is a type of the Antichrist. For like the Antichrist, he will come with a federation of nations and attack Israel!

For us, as we will see, he is an enemy of God who is attacking the people of God!

Now, why did Adoni-Zedek do this?

Because he feared this covenant that the Gibeonites made with Israel, that other nations might join in and thus, his kingdom would be in more trouble than it already is.

And so he gathered four other Kings and they encircled the city of Gibeon to cut off their food and water supply and they would then open up their gates and they could destroy the Gibeonites!

I don't know about you, but I think we can clearly see that the enemy of God has come out fighting and he does not want to take any prisoners!

Let me show you what is happening.

First of all, with our neighbors to the north, and I don't mean Michigan, but Canada, there is a legislation that has been proposed in the Canadian province of Ontario that would criminalize public displays by Christians deemed hateful to Muslims, the LGBT community and other victim groups designated by the radical Canadian Left!

It is as we are told in Proverbs 29, **“When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice; But when a wicked man rules, the people groan. . . . Scoffers set a city aflame, But wise men turn away wrath.”**

How true that is. We, as Christians groan at the flaunting of immorality in this country and we truly are seeing good being called evil and evil being called good!

And when you look at what is happening around the world, we see Christian persecution at the highest levels ever in its history. Let me share this with you and I will show you what I mean. This is from February 27, 2019 and we are told,

When it comes to religious persecution, it's easy to think that it's an issue far away from home. As Americans, we take for granted many freedoms that are still contested in other areas of the world.

Our founding fathers thought that the right to believe freely was so integral to a free society, that they codified it in the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States. This right serves as the cornerstone and bedrock of our Republic. By protecting one's right to believe, this right establishes the autonomous individual as the most fundamental embodiment of freedom.

We're so privileged by this law that we don't give the idea of religious oppression much thought. This was certainly the case with me until Lydia Pogu and Joy Bishara began attending Southeastern University and I heard their story.

Joy and Lydia were studying at a boarding school in the Chibok region of Nigeria. On the night of April 14, 2014, their school was attacked by the Boko Haram - a rogue Islamic extremist group in Nigeria whose goal is to stop Christian and western education in the country.

The insurgents kidnapped Joy and Lydia, along with several hundred other girls from the boarding school, loading them onto trucks at gunpoint.

While the truck was driving off, Joy, Lydia, and several other girls jumped off the back of the truck and ran through the bush. They were picked up by a kind stranger and were driven back to their families in Chibok. With the help of a human rights group in Virginia, the Jubilee Campaign, Joy and Lydia and several other girls were able to come to the United States to finish high school and are now studying at different universities across America, including Southeastern University.

The truth is, persecution is more prevalent and geographically dispersed than any other time in history. Approximately 215 million Christians worldwide experience very high to extreme persecution. Newsweek reported in January 2018 that "the persecution and genocide of Christians across the world is worse today than at any time in history."

In Egypt, Christian Coptic women are targeted, kidnapped and forced to convert to Islam and sold as domestic servants where they are sexually exploited and physically abused.

Just last year, drug cartels killed 23 Christian leaders in Mexico and four in Colombia specifically for their faith and standing up against the cartel's criminal activity in the country.

On Mother's Day in Indonesia, an Islamic family launched a suicide bombing attack on three churches, killing 10 people and severely injuring another 40.

The Christian governor of Jakarta was found guilty of blasphemy, forced to step down from his office and sentenced to jail time for his faith.

Additionally, the Chinese government has started a systematic campaign to destroy church buildings and all Christianity-related structures, beginning with the demolition of one of the largest churches in China where over 50,000 Christians worshipped every week.

The ailments of religious persecution are especially troubling in Nigeria, home of Lydia and Joy.

In 2017 alone, the killings of Christians in Nigeria increased more than 62 percent.

In the city of Onitsha in southern Nigeria, a radical gunman attacked a church killing 12 of its members and injuring an additional 18.

In the Nigerian state of Kebbi, church leaders were arrested and sentenced to three years in prison. This arrest happened after local Muslim vigilantes had violently disrupted worship at their church, claiming church leaders built it without a permit. Raids conducted by suspected Muslim Hausa-Fulani herdsmen killed 45 people, mostly Christians.

Now, the threat of religious persecution is rearing its head in the United States. . .

At campuses throughout the country, outspoken Christians are regularly demeaned, debased and targeted for their beliefs. Academics, social groups, and college organizations regularly ridicule Christians by calling them hateful, bigoted, and privileged, among other labels.

They conveniently forget that Christians have historically been among the most persecuted religious groups in the world and are still persecuted at ever-increasing levels throughout countries in Asia, Africa, and the Middle East.

Incidents like these demonstrate how Christians are being targeted in the United States for adhering to their values.

When will we realize that the threat of religious persecution isn't as "far away from home" as we may think? We need to take a stand and be vocal proponents of our rights, starting today.

- <https://fxn.ws/2wnH0IH>

Are we aware of the persecution that our brothers and sisters in the Lord are facing every day, many losing their lives for their faith in Christ? I don't think so.

Let me share one more with you to give you an idea of what is going on and how, for the most part, the world is silent to what is going on. We are told of this recent event that was reported April 18, 2019,

Muslim Fulani herdsmen killed 17 Christians who had gathered after a baby dedication at a church in central Nigeria, including the mother of the child, sources said.

Safaratu John Kabiru Ali, the mother of the baby, was slain in the attack on Sunday (April 14) in Konshu-Numa village, in Nasarawa state's Akwanga County, which also took the lives of people ranging in age from 10 to 80.

The baby's father, John Kabiru Ali, was shot and is in critical condition, sources said. He is receiving treatment at the Intensive Care Unit of the Federal Medical Centre, Keffi, in Nasarawa state.

The attack took place at about 7 p.m. as Christians in the predominantly Christian community gathered to eat after the child was dedicated that morning at the Ruhaniya Baptist Church in the village.

The massacred Christians were buried on Wednesday (April 17) after a funeral service at the Baptist church.

A resident of Akwanga town who lost relatives in the shooting, Jacob Tantse, told Morning Star News that 17 Christians were killed, including 10 members of the Ruhaniya Baptist Church, five members of Evangelical Reformed Church of Christ (ERCC), one member of the Evangelical Church Winning All (ECWA), and a musician playing for guests.

Nigeria ranked 12th on Open Doors' 2019 World Watch List of countries where Christians suffer the most persecution.

- <http://bit.ly/2VVbc1O>

You can agree with me on this or not, but I truly believe that we are in the last of the last days. I believe that the Tribulation Period is coming quickly, and yes, Christians will be caught up to be with the Lord prior to the start of that period of time, but don't think we will not face persecution before that happens!

The enemy knows his time is short. He knows he can't take away our salvation, but he can get us to destroy our witness so that we are not shinning for the Lord anymore!

I think you can clearly see that **THE ENEMY RISES UP** and as he does, **THE ENEMY ATTACKS THE WEAK!** That is our next point. Let's read on and see what happens here.

VERSE 5

What is interesting here is that these Canaanites refused to surrender even though they were no match for Joshua and the children of Israel.

In fact, they don't even become docile or passive, but they go on the attack against the Gibeonites. In other words, **THE ENEMY ATTACKS THE WEAK!**

And the leader of these Canaanite Kings was Adoni-Zedek!

Let's think about this for a minute. The Devil knows he can't fight against God and win. And we can clearly see that he does not give up, but his fight is even stronger now.

So instead of fighting against God he fights against God's people and here we see them as the Gibeonites.

As we have seen, think of Adoni-Zedek as the Devil and his forces as the fallen demons who are behind the scenes pulling the strings of people, encouraging them to do all kinds of evil things!

One of the things that they love to do is to keep people away from God! And they do this using all kinds of different ways. One of the ways is to have people become religious. The Devil loves religion because it focuses them on what man can do to get to heaven and keeps them from the truth, that Jesus completed the work and only repenting of your sins and receiving Him into your life will save you!

Jesus said, "... **I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.**" John 14:6.

Did you hear that? He did not say, “*You are the way . . .*” No, Jesus is the way, He speaks the truth and apart from Him you will not have that abundant life and you will not see God the Father!

But religion is man-centered, what man has done, his accomplishments. And yet, the Bible tells us that all the good we have done before a holy and righteous God is like filthy rags!

And when you look at the religions of the world today, even those who don’t believe in God, they feel that they are good enough for whatever afterlife there is! Not true, not because I have said so, but God has!

The other thing that Satan can do is attack Christians, cause them to be discouraged, lose hope, drop out, make themselves unfit for service and-so-on.

And, again, I don’t know if you feel this way, but I think the attack against us has increased in these last days!

And it is easy to get discouraged, to just sit back and do nothing. I mean, what is the use, right?

Here’s the thing we need to remember. The enemy is going to come at us because he does not want our light to shine, he does not want people coming to Jesus!

Remember the warning that Peter gave to us in I Peter 5:8, “**Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.**”

In other words, Peter is warning us to pay attention, know what is around you, be careful, be alert, because the Devil is like a roaring lion and he is on the attack!

Now that can be overwhelming to us! For some, they become fearful. We may feel weak and helpless and as we see that *THE ENEMY ATTACKS THE WEAK*, we just want to run away and hide!

Let me say this. Don't run away and hide, but run into the arms of your loving Savior, Jesus!

And that really leads us to our next point, *THE CRY OF OUR HEARTS*. So let's read on and see what the Lord has for us to encourage us in this battle!

VERSE 6

This next point is so important for us to understand and it is so simple. It should be natural to us. And that is, *THE CRY OF OUR HEARTS!*

So as this army starts to surround the Gibeonites, they are fearful. They can't do anything about it. They are helpless.

And thus, they do the only thing that they can do and cry out to Joshua and the children of Israel for help. You see, they had this covenant with them and now, in this time of need, they cry out for help.

I hope that sounds familiar to you because isn't that what we do as Christians? We find ourselves in situations that are overwhelming to us, we can't do anything about it, and we cry out to the Lord, our Joshua or Jesus for help!

We see this played out for us in the life of David. In Psalm 61:1-2 we see David cry out to God and he says, "**Hear my cry, O God; Attend to my prayer. From the end of the earth I will cry to You, When my heart is overwhelmed; Lead me to the rock that is higher than I.**"

This Psalm could have been written during the time when Absalom, his son, rebelled against David.

Absalom, for a time, did take over the kingdom from his father David, and it was heartbreaking as David fled the city of Jerusalem. And it is out of this broken heart, having your own son come against you, that Psalm 61 was written.

Let's face it, we have all been overwhelmed by the situations we find ourselves in. And that is not really the issue. I know, ***"How can you say that?"***

It is not the issue. You see, the reality is, what do you do when you find yourself in a situation like that? Who do you go to? What do you do?

And what you do will determine if you will be lifted up or remain overwhelmed and defeated!

I don't know about you, but when I read this Psalm, I can feel the pain of David as he is going through this.

And what does David do?

He just cries out to God and in the Hebrew, it speaks of a loud wail, a wail of desperation, of hopelessness, of brokenness. And David feels, as he is going through this time that God is a million miles away.

And yet, David knew that was not true, for in Psalm 139 he said, **"Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence? If I ascend into heaven, You are there; If I make my bed in hell, behold, You are there. If I take the wings of the morning, And dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea."** Psalm 139:7-9.

You see, it is one thing to know something, and quite another to apply that truth to our life.

I think it is easy for us to theologically understand Biblical truth. The hard part comes when we go through a devastating time, like David did, and we just don't feel close to God. But He is just as close as He was before, for the Bible tells us that. That is the time we need to put into practice those things we say we believe!

Now as shaky as things may be around us, as slippery a situation that we may be in, David wants to place his feet upon the Rock, a place of stability, and so should we!

And please understand that David is not looking for help from man, but from God, the Rock, a place of safety, that was higher than him or able to accomplish this task and answer David's cry.

So when you are overwhelmed, you need to give it to the Lord, you need to cry out to Him and place your feet upon the Rock, Jesus Christ!

And think about that for a minute. This Rock that David spoke of must be more than just a man, it is someone that is higher than David and I believe it is pointing to the deity of Jesus Christ. He is saying that God alone can help and will help us through all the storms of life that we will go through! May we understand that truth!

Now, why should we trust in God? That may seem like a funny question, but David answers it for us and if we have any doubt, and I think at times we do when we are going through difficult situations, here is the answer!

In Psalm 61:3-4 David tells us, **“For You have been a shelter for me, A strong tower from the enemy. I will abide in Your tabernacle forever; I will trust in the shelter of Your wings.”**

Don't miss what David is saying here, it is important!

Make no mistake about it, David is overwhelmed with the situation he is in.

David is crying out to God and notice where he gets his encouragement in the present situation that he is facing.

David looks back on God's past help to strengthen him in the present situation that he finds himself in. He said, "**For You have been a shelter for me, A strong tower from the enemy.**"

Looking back and what God has done in the past to encourage him in the present! What a great thing to do.

And because of that, because he can trust in the Lord, David will take safety under the wings of God, for then the only way for the enemy to get at David was through God.

Remember what Peter said after he spoke of the Devil being a roaring lion and seeking whom he may devour! He wrote, "**Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world.**" I Peter 5:9.

We need to have that perspective of God and His work in our lives. We need to remember what God has done in the past to encourage us in the present situations we are facing!

In other words, if God is for us, and He is, then there is no one who can truly be victorious against us!

Also, as we read on, I want you to see that the situation has not changed, not yet. But David's focus has. Remember, his heart was overwhelmed with what was happening and he cried out to God, he remembered how God had delivered him in the past and thus, he was going to take shelter in the shadow of the Lord's wings!

In Psalm 61:5-7 we are told, **“For You, O God, have heard my vows; You have given me the heritage of those who fear Your name. You will prolong the king's life, His years as many generations. He shall abide before God forever. Oh, prepare mercy and truth, which may preserve him!”**

David is now confident that God will see him through this even though the situation has not changed.

His hope is in the Lord, in the promises of God towards him and that is where he finds rest, comfort, hope!

As we look to the Lord, as we trust in Him, it gives us confidence in what He can do to see us through the situations we are in. We need to believe in the promises of God, we need to trust what He has told us in His Word and walk by faith!

And as we do, notice where this leads us, **“So I will sing praise to Your name forever, That I may daily perform my vows.”** Psalm 61:8.

Look at the change in David’s life. It led to the praise and worship of God!

You see, when you cry out to God, when you focus back on Him, when you place your life in His hands or place your feet upon the Rock, upon Jesus you can’t help praising Him.

When you look at what God has done in your life and how He brought you through those times, it brings praise unto the Lord because you are no longer focused on the situation!

When you go through a difficult time, cry out to God those things that are upon your heart, and as you get re-focused and rest upon the Rock, praise will then flow from your life!

So the Gibeonites cry out to Joshua for help, ***THE CRY OF OUR HEARTS!***

And, as we will see, ***OUR JOSHUA COMES TO FIGHT FOR US.*** Let’s read on and see what takes place here.

VERSES 7-13

Here we see that they traveled all night from the lowland of Gilgal, to Jericho, which is slightly higher, and still higher towards Ai, and then over the mountains was Gibeon, in the valley of Beth Horon, where the battle took place.

And God gave them this great victory. In fact, we are told in Joshua 10:11, “**And it happened, as they fled before Israel and were on the descent of Beth Horon, that the Lord cast down large hailstones from heaven on them as far as Azekah, and they died. There were more who died from the hailstones than the children of Israel killed with the sword.**”

Think about that one for a minute. God rains down hailstones, we don't know how big, in Revelation they weighed about 100 pounds, but whatever the size, it killed the enemy!

Not only that, but God did not hit any of the children of Israel and, in fact, God killed more of the enemy with the hailstones than the children of Israel did with the sword!

Now Joshua needed more time to finish this battle and asked God to cause the sun to stand still to give them more daylight hours.

And folks, there is historical evidence for this.

In the ancient writings we find records of a long day in the area where Joshua was and on the opposite side of the world there are reports of a long night.

Now how did Joshua come up with a prayer like this?

I don't believe he did, I believe God gave it to him.

Now, what does this have to do with us today?

Do you really think you will get the victory in the battles you face in life on your own?

Of course not!

You may think you have some victories, but they are not even close to what the Lord has for you!

Now you may be thinking, ***“Why would God even fight for me, help me in the situations that I am facing?”***

The answer is simple. It is the covenant that He has made with us, and we, by faith have accepted!

God will never break His covenant. We see that with Joshua and the Gibeonites. Joshua made a covenant with them and now that they are in trouble, Joshua was going to help them against the enemy! And they did not deserve it, but this covenant was based upon the faithfulness of Joshua and the children of Israel, just as the covenant God has made with us is based upon His faithfulness to keep it!

And I know, your problem is big. It is overwhelming to you.

But keep in mind that there were five Kings and their armies that were coming against Gibeon and now Joshua was going to defeat them even though they were outnumbered by far!

Our God, who created the heavens and the earth. Our God who gives life to us and keeps us going. Our God who is in control of everything. Do you think He can handle whatever we are going through?

Of course He can and of course He does. We have a covenant with Him and, as David did, as we cry out to the Lord, as our hearts are overwhelmed by the situation we are in, He will lead us to the Rock that is higher than we are, and we can rest in Him and see the victory that He will give to us!

Let me share with you a few Scriptures to show you what I mean about God giving to us the victory!

First of all, we see in II Chronicles 20:15, **“And he said, ‘Listen, all you of Judah and you inhabitants of Jerusalem, and you, King Jehoshaphat! Thus says the Lord to you: “Do not be afraid nor dismayed because of this great multitude, for the battle is not yours, but God’s””**

How important that is for us to remember. It is the Lord’s battle and He will see us through. Be open to what He is showing you and obey His Words to you and see the victory He will bring to your life, to the situations you are facing!

In Deuteronomy 20:3-4 we are told, **“And he shall say to them, ‘Hear, O Israel: Today you are on the verge of battle with your enemies. Do not let your heart faint, do not be afraid, and do not tremble or be terrified because of them; for the Lord your God is He who goes with you, to fight for you against your enemies, to save you.’”**

Having the correct perspective is so important for us. It is when we have that correct perspective that we can rest, we can find peace through the storms of life!

In Psalm 118:6-9 we are told, **“The Lord is on my side; I will not fear. What can man do to me? The Lord is for me among those who help me; Therefore I shall see my desire on those who hate me. It is better to trust in the Lord Than to put confidence in man. It is better to trust in the Lord Than to put confidence in princes.”**

Do you really think that the enemy will do something to you that the Lord is not aware and is not allowing in your life? Of course He is aware and He will defeat the enemy because He is God!

In Psalm 3:7-8 we are told, **“Arise, O Lord; Save me, O my God! For You have struck all my enemies on the cheekbone; You have broken the teeth of the ungodly. Salvation belongs to the Lord. Your blessing is upon Your people.”**

God is not only watching over His people, but He is their deliverer from the enemy.

Never forget that!

And in the New Testament, in I Corinthians 15:57 Paul tells us, **“But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.”**

I love that. Our victory is through Jesus and not by our efforts, our work!

And lastly, what do we have to do to obtain these victories?

We are told in I John 5:4-5, **“For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world - our faith. Who is he who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?”**

If you want that victory, believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, have faith in Him, and see the salvation that He will bring to the battles you are facing in your life!

Make no mistake about it, ***OUR JOSHUA FIGHTS FOR US!***

But maybe you are feeling that your problem is too big for God or that He is not concerned about you.

That is our last point, ***HOW BIG IS OUR PROBLEM? HOW BIG IS OUR GOD?*** Let's read on and see!

VERSE 14

Like I have said, this last point we are going to be looking at this morning is this. ***HOW BIG IS OUR PROBLEM? HOW BIG IS OUR GOD?***

We read of these hailstones hitting the enemy and destroying them. In fact, God got more with the hailstones than the children of Israel did with the sword, as I have said.

Not only that, the sun stood still for a time, almost for a whole day!

And, of course, our question is, “*How did God do this?*”

First of all, in regard to the hailstones, Jesus tells us in John 10:14-16, “**I am the good shepherd; and I know My sheep, and am known by My own. As the Father knows Me, even so I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep. And other sheep I have which are not of this fold; them also I must bring, and they will hear My voice; and there will be one flock and one shepherd.**”

God knows His people and He is not going to harm them. He loves them and gave His life for them. So the hailstones not hitting the children of Israel, for God, no big deal!

Several weeks back, at a Chicago White Sox baseball game, there was a woman who was going to throw out the first pitch. It is an honor to do that.

So she went to the mound and the catcher was ready to catch her throw.

One of the cameramen was standing to her left and the catcher was right in front of her.

And she winds up and throws the ball and hits the cameraman! I don't know how, but she obviously was not a good shot.

God does not miss! Please understand that!

And what about this idea of the sun standing still for almost a whole day? How can that happen?

Again, we like to figure an all-knowing God out and there are many ideas out there on how God did this.

Some say it was because Venus came too close to the earth according to a theory by Immanuel Velikovsky in his book, *Worlds in Collision* to another group of scientists who believe it was the planet Mars.

Let me tell you what this was and yes, I do know!

Folks, it was a miracle and I will leave it at that!

In fact, Spurgeon hits the nail on the head as he wrote, “How He did it is no question for us. . . . It is not ours to try and soften down miracles, but to glorify God in them.”

And all I can say is “*Amen*” to that! This long day did happen and as Joshua reminds us, **“And there has been no day like that, before it or after it.”**

And we can relate this to many things in our lives as Christians.

Think about it. When you got saved, when you repented of your sins and asked Jesus to be Lord and Savior of your life, is there any day like that in the past or even in the future? Of course not, it is the greatest day ever. Well, I guess the greatest day is when we see the Lord face to face, but you know what I mean.

But not only that. Think of all the things that God has done in your life. All that He has seen you through.

Problems, difficulties that were so big we could do nothing about them, but God did!

J. B. Phillips tells us,

No one is ever really at ease in facing what we call “life” and “death” without a religious faith. The trouble with many people today is that they have not found a God big enough for modern needs. While their experience of life has grown in a score of directions, and their mental horizons have been expanded to the point of bewilderment by world events and by scientific discoveries, their ideas of God have remained largely static.

It is obviously impossible for an adult to worship the conception of God that exists in the mind of a child of Sunday-school age, unless he is prepared to deny his own experience of life. If, by a great effort of will, he does do this he will always be secretly afraid lest some new truth may expose the juvenility of his faith. And it will always be by such an effort that he either worships or serves a God who is really too small to command his adult loyalty and co-operation.

It often appears to those outside the Churches that this is precisely the attitude of Christian people. If they are not strenuously defending an outgrown conception of God, then they are cherishing a hothouse God who could only exist between the pages of the Bible or inside the four walls of a Church.

Therefore to join in with the worship of a Church would be to become a party to a piece of mass-hypocrisy and to buy a sense of security at the price of the sense of truth, and many men of goodwill will not consent to such a transaction. It cannot be denied that there is a little truth in this criticism. There are undoubtedly professing Christians with childish conceptions of God which could not stand up to the winds of real life for five minutes.

But Christians are by no means always unintelligent, naive, or immature. Many of them hold a faith in God that has been both purged and developed by the strains and perplexities of modern times, as well as by a small but by no means negligible direct experience of God Himself. They have seen enough to know that God is immeasurably "bigger" than our forefathers imagined, and modern scientific discovery only confirms their belief that man has only just begun to comprehend the incredibly complex Being who is behind what we call "life."

Many men and women today are living, often with inner dissatisfaction, without any faith in God at all. This is not because they are particularly wicked or selfish or, as the old-fashioned would say, “godless,” but because they have not found with their adult minds a God big enough to “account for” life, big enough to “fit in with” the new scientific age, big enough to command their highest admiration and respect, and consequently their willing co-operation.

- J. B. Phillips, *Your God Is Too Small*

Think about this for a minute. How do we know that God is real? How does God reveal Himself to us?

I think most of us would say that the Bible tells us so. And that is very true. But how does God reveal Himself to us?

Again, some would say through Jesus Christ. And that is very true. But how does God reveal Himself to us, showing us that He is God?

It is through prophecy. In fact, the Lord said in Isaiah 44:6-8, **“Thus says the Lord, the King of Israel, And his Redeemer, the Lord of hosts: ‘I am the First and I am the Last; Besides Me there is no God. And who can proclaim as I do? Then let him declare it and set it in order for Me, Since I appointed the ancient people. And the things that are coming and shall come, Let them show these to them. Do not fear, nor be afraid; Have I not told you from that time, and declared it? You are My witnesses. Is there a God besides Me? Indeed there is no other Rock; I know not one.’”**

When God speaks of future events, He does so with 100% accuracy, and He is very specific about them. There are over 300 prophecies regarding Jesus' first coming and over 500 in regard to His second coming! And there is no other person, no other so-called god who can do this or has done this!

That is how big our God is and thus, we can trust in Him. We can rest in Him. We can go to the Rock that is higher than us and we can rest in the shadow of His wings!

Yes, make no mistake about it, ***THE ENEMY RISES UP!***

Not only does the enemy rise up, but ***THE ENEMY ATTACKS THE WEAK!*** And we are all weak!

And thus, when our heart is overwhelmed in the situations we face, may we come to the Lord with ***THE CRY OF OUR HEARTS!***

And the wonderful thing here is that ***OUR JOSHUA, (JESUS), COMES TO FIGHT FOR US!***

And the question we have to answer is this. ***HOW BIG IS OUR PROBLEM? HOW BIG IS OUR GOD?***

