

JOSHUA 10:15-43
NO DAY LIKE IT!
PART 2

Please turn in your Bibles this morning to Joshua chapter 10 as we continue our study in this very applicable book, a book that deals with victorious Christian living.

Here in Joshua chapter 10 we have seen the King of Jerusalem, Adoni-Zedek, gather four other Kings together to fight against the inhabitants of Gibeon.

These Kings recognized that the children of Israel were coming after them and these Gibeonites made a treaty or covenant with the children of Israel not to harm them.

And yes, they tricked the children of Israel by making them believe that they came from a far country and not that they were truly their neighbors and the next in line to be defeated by the children of Israel.

But, as we have seen, Joshua and the children of Israel did not inquire of the Lord, they relied or trusted in what they heard and what they saw, and they were deceived.

Keep in mind that deception is not placed upon the forehead of the individual speaking it. So what we see with our eyes, what we hear with our ears, what we feel in our hearts, can be wrong!

Then what are we to do? We are to bring it alongside the Word of God and let the Spirit of God show us what is right and what is wrong.

And that is something that they did not do. We are told in Joshua 9:14-16, **“Then the men of Israel took some of their provisions; but they did not ask counsel of the Lord. 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.”**

A great lesson to learn and apply to our lives so we don't get deceived!

And, again, what we saw last time is that 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 Salem 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 have seen, he is an enemy of God who is attacking the people of God!

And, in our last study we broke Joshua 10:1-14 down into five main points.

First of all, we saw how ***THE ENEMY RISES UP!*** Make no mistake about it, the enemy is always on the prowl, and, like a roaring lion he is seeking whom he may devour. And, I believe he knows his time is short and we have seen unprecedented persecution against Christians, we have seen immorality unleashed, and it will only get worse! (Joshua 10:1-4)

Then we looked at how ***THE ENEMY ATTACKS THE WEAK!*** And I think if we are truly honest with ourselves, we are all weak because we have no power in and of ourselves to do battle against the Devil and his forces. And many times it just seems overwhelming. Many times, we just don't know what to do. (Joshua 10:5)

And that truly brings us to the next point. And that is, ***THE CRY OF OUR HEARTS!*** When our heart is overwhelmed, we need to bring these things to the Lord, to rest in Him, to take comfort in the shadow of His wings. (Joshua 10:6)

And as we do that, we will rest in the fact that ***OUR JOSHUA COMES TO FIGHT FOR US!*** Make no mistake about it, the Lord knows everything that is going on in our lives and what will be happening to us. And He is working in us so that He can work through us. It is not by our might, it is not by our strength, but it is truly the Lord who will fight for us. (Joshua 10:7-13)

And I do realize that sometimes it is overwhelming. And the reason we feel that way is because we have lost sight of the big picture, we have lost sight of having the right perspective of the situations that we are in, we have taken God out of the picture. And we looked at this, ***HOW BIG IS OUR PROBLEM? HOW BIG IS OUR GOD?*** You see, nothing is too difficult for the Lord, nothing is too hard for Him. Thus, we need to bring everything to the Rock that is higher than we are and rest in the shadow of His wings knowing that what God has done in the past He is more than able to do now! (Joshua 10:14)

And remember what we concluded with in Joshua 10:14, “**And there has been no day like that, before it or after it, that the Lord heeded the voice of a man; for the Lord fought for Israel.**”

The greatest day in our life is the day we repented of our sins and asked Jesus to be Lord and Savior of our lives. There is no other day that compares to that day except for the day we see Jesus face to face!

But we also need to understand that the day we come to Christ, the battles are not over, they are just beginning! And that is what we will see here as we finish up Joshua chapter 10 this morning.

I have broken these verses down into three main points and they are:

DESTROY THE ENEMY – JOSHUA 10:15-19

OUR WITNESS – JOSHUA 10:20-21

THE LAND RESTORED – JOSHUA 10:22-43

With that said, let's begin reading in Joshua chapter 10, beginning in verse 15 and let's see what the Lord has for us as we are in part 2 of our study, ***No Day Like It!***

JOSHUA 10**VERSES 15-19**

In these verses we see the main point being – ***DESTROY THE ENEMY!***

Remember the five Kings in Joshua chapter 10, led by Adoni-Zedek, the King of Jerusalem, they are now on the run. And these five Kings, knowing that they are defeated, go and hide in a cave.

And I like what Joshua does here. We see that Joshua does not lose focus. He knows what he is to do, defeat the enemy.

So he tells his men to lock these Kings in the cave, put a stone over the mouth of the cave, and have a few men guard them.

The rest of the men were to continue fighting against the enemy.

Joshua would not allow anything – even the personal capture of these Kings – keep him from completing Israel's victory. The Kings could be imprisoned and dealt with later. And, as we read on, we will see that take place, they will be dealt with.

Now, how does this even apply to us? Does it even apply to our lives?

You bet it does. Let me show you how this plays out for us because, in the days we are living in, I see Christians going down this path, or should I say rabbit trail!

The key, what we should take out of this, is we must be careful that we don't lose sight of the battle we are in. There are many distractions that are out there that take us away of what we are to do.

And let me say this. All these distractions are not necessarily evil, but they move us away from what God wants us to do.

Think about these things, and don't get mad when I say them, but let me share them and then I will show you why we should not be distracted by them.

Okay, let's get your blood pressure up just a little. Well, maybe a lot with this one –

POLITICS!

We have seen Christians pour millions of dollars, maybe more, into politics. ***“If we don't get the right man in, we are going to be in trouble!”***

What is wrong with that statement?

I don't see God anywhere in it. Do you really think if a liberal politician becomes President of the United States that God is going to throw in the towel, that He is going to wave the white flag? I don't think so. And, I should say, ***NO WAY!*** He is God and He is in control no matter what!

But what about this Mueller investigation in regard to the President having Russia influence the election?

I love how politicians talk, and I consider Mueller a politician. He said that there was no evidence for corruption or Russian influence but just because there was no evidence, we can't clear the President from any wrongdoing!

Are you kidding me, of course that is what that means! See, now I have my blood pressure on the rise!

We are not here to save the United States or the world, we are here to save people out of the world!

And, agree with me or not, I think that politics is a rabbit trail that distracts us from what we are to be doing! I am not saying we ignore politics but understand that is not our mission!

What about all the ***EVIL*** that is out there, we need to stop it!

First of all, how is that going?

Not too well as we can see.

We have transgender people coming into schoolrooms and libraries for story time with children and some of them are pedophiles and should not even be around children, and yet they are allowed!

We see the proliferation of drug abuse, sexual immorality, violence, hatred, all kinds of evil, and what are we supposed to do, nothing?

No, but our focus is wrong. We want to try and change people, clean them up, make them more moral, put laws into effect to prevent abortion, to prevent this, to prevent that, and yet, in the end, people still do these things.

Think about it. I know, some of you may not like what I am saying, but again, think about it.

There are laws in every state that say murder is a crime, it is against the law. Does that mean people do not murder? “Man, I was thinking of blowing your head off, but there is a law out there that says I can’t. So I guess you are in luck today!”

Are you kidding me, life is not important today!

And the reason life is not important, the reason people can abort their unborn children, the reason we see all the sexual immorality, and it is getting worse, the reason we see the drug problem and-so-on, is because we have turned away from God and God is giving to us what we desire!

If you doubt that, then just listen to what Paul tells us in Romans chapter 1, because as you read this you can see the reason for all that is going on. Paul said beginning in verse 18 of Romans chapter 1, **“For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them. For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Professing to be wise, they became fools, and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man - and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things. Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves, who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen. For this reason God gave them up to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature. Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due. And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting; being filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness; they are whisperers, backbiters, haters of God, violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving, unforgiving, unmerciful;**

who, knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are deserving of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them.”

Romans 1:18-32.

So let me ask you this. If that is the problem, that they turned from God and God gave them over to do what was in their heart, what do you think the solution would be to this problem?

Years ago, back in Chicago, violence was a problem with the youth as well as drug problems. And the solution for Chicago was to start a midnight basketball league to help the kids out. I guess that didn't work!

So what is the solution?

If the problem is that they have turned from God, then the solution is the exact opposite, they need to turn to God!

And yet, we try to stop this over here, and that over there and it is like the Dutch boy trying to plug the holes in the dike. Every time he does a new one opens up!

Imagine what would happen as people came to the Lord, their lives would be transformed, not by laws, but by the power of God!

And yet, we become distracted by these things and it prevents us or slows us down from what we are to be doing, bringing the Gospel of Jesus Christ to a lost and dying world, from sowing the seed of God's Word so that the seed may implant upon the heart of a person and they would come to saving faith!

One person put it like this in regard to distraction. He wrote,

Since the fall of man, people have had trouble staying focused, but we live today in an age of unprecedented distraction. Since you're already reading this on some electronic device, I don't need to elaborate.

Lots of experts are talking about the negative effects this is having on us. Many of us feel it: the buzzing brain, the attention atrophy, the diminishing tolerance for reading, especially reading books.

We're becoming conditioned to distraction, and it's harming our ability to listen and think carefully, to be still, to pray, and to meditate. Which means it is a spiritual danger, an evil from which we need God's deliverance (Matthew 6:13).

Distraction, at least the dangerous kind I'm referring to, is shifting our attention from something of greater importance to something of lesser importance.

Our fundamental and most dangerous problem in distraction is in being distracted from God - our tendency to shift our attention orientation from the greatest Object in existence to countless lesser ones. The Bible calls this idolatry.

"Our attention often runs to what's important to us. So distraction can reveal what we love."

This fundamental attention shift disorders us in pervasive ways. We find our tendency to be distracted from the more important to the less important cascading down, detrimentally affecting our relationships and responsibilities. So, at the deepest level, we are distractible because of our fallen, selfish nature; we have evil inside us.

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And, one of the biggest problems for us today in regard to distraction is, and I am sorry if I offend you, *SELF!*

It is so easy to put self in front of everything that we do, and we don't seek what God wants us to do.

I look at Tiger Woods, who years ago was a man who was very focused. He did not let things distract him from the goal of winning at golf.

And no one could stop Tiger Woods, he was not going to let anything stop him!

That was until the point when his dad died. You see, his dad was the one, I believe, who helped him stay focused. But once his dad died, he was distracted by wine, women and song. You know what I mean.

And what happened to his golf game? It suffered greatly. In fact, he did not win a major golfing title for eleven years! He just won one this year and it looks like he is refocused!

What about you?

Are you distracted from what the Lord wants you to do?

If you are, and even if you are not, we all need to keep our eyes upon our heavenly Father so that we are not distracted from the work He has for us!

So what is the Christian life supposed to be like? What are we to do? Listen carefully as we are told,

The Christian life is supposed to be a life lived by faith. It is by faith that we enter into the Christian life, and it is by faith that we live it out. When we begin the Christian life by coming to Christ for forgiveness of sin, we understand that what we seek cannot be obtained by any other means than by faith.

We cannot work our way to heaven, because nothing we could ever do would be sufficient. Those who believe they can attain eternal life by keeping rules and regulations - a list of do's and don'ts - deny what the Bible clearly teaches. "But that no one is justified by the Law in the sight of God is clear, for, 'The just shall live by faith'" (Galatians 3:11). The Pharisees of Jesus' day rejected Christ because He told them this very truth, that all their righteous deeds were worthless and that only faith in their Messiah would save them.

In Romans 1, Paul says that the gospel of Jesus Christ is the power that saves us, the gospel being the good news that all who believe in Him will have eternal life.

When we enter into the Christian life by faith in this good news, we see our faith grow as we come to know more and more about the God who saved us. The gospel of Christ actually reveals God to us as we live to grow closer to Him each day. Romans 1:17 says, "For in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: 'The righteous will live by faith.'"

So part of the Christian life is diligent reading and study of the Word, accompanied by prayer for understanding and wisdom and for a closer, more intimate relationship with God through the Holy Spirit.

The Christian life is also supposed to be one of death to self in order to live a life by faith. Paul told the Galatians, "I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me" (Galatians 2:20).

Being crucified with Christ means that we consider our old nature as having been nailed to the cross and we choose to live in the new nature, which is Christ's (2 Corinthians 5:17). He who loved us and died for us now lives in us, and the life we live is by faith in Him. Living the Christian life means sacrificing our own desires, ambitions, and glories and replacing them with those of Christ. We can only do this by His power through the faith that He gives us by His grace. Part of the Christian life is praying to that end.

The Christian life is also supposed to persevere to the end. Hebrews 10:38-39 addresses this issue by quoting from the Old Testament prophet Habakkuk: "Now the just shall live by faith; But if anyone draws back, My soul has no pleasure in him." God is not pleased with one who "draws back" from Him after making a commitment, but those who live by faith will never draw back, because they are kept by the Holy Spirit who assures us that we will continue with Christ until the end (Ephesians 1:13-14).

The writer of Hebrews goes on to verify this truth in verse 39: "But we are not of those who draw back to perdition, but of those who believe to the saving of the soul." The true believer is one who believes to the end.

So the Christian life is one lived by faith in the God who saved us, empowers us, seals us for heaven, and by whose power we are kept forever. The day-to-day life of faith is one that grows and strengthens as we seek God in His Word and through prayer and as we unite with other Christians whose goal of Christlikeness is similar to our own.

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In other words, don't be distracted by the things that are all around you, stay focused on the Lord, let Him lead you and let your light so shine that men may see your good works and glorify our Father in heaven! (Matthew 5:16)

Lives will only be changed by the power of God and not by laws, and not by this, and not by that! And we need to live out our faith and I realize that Christians don't think this is important today, but it is!

And that really leads us to our next point, ***OUR WITNESS!***

VERSES 20-21

Notice how the people responded here. No one criticized what the children of Israel did. No one spoke harshly against the children of Israel.

Why is that?

It was not because they were so strong, but it was because of their witness of the God they served. The people saw that the God of Israel was fighting with the children of Israel and it not only brought them fear, but respect!

Now here's the thing, and people have come against me on this one. I believe our witness of the living God in our lives is vital to not only our own faith, but it is a witness to others of our faith!

And let me give you the best example I can of this living faith manifested in a Person's life.

In John 14:8-9 we are told, **“Philip said to Him, ‘Lord, show us the Father, and it is sufficient for us.’ Jesus said to him, ‘Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, ‘Show us the Father’?”**

In other words, if you want to know what the Father is all about, look to Jesus, He is the perfect representation of the Father! To know Jesus is to know God!

In fact, in Revelation 1:5 we are told that Jesus is **“the faithful witness”** of the Father.

Also, in Hebrews 1:1-3 Paul tells us, **“God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds; who being the brightness of His glory and the *express image of His person*, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high.”**

Paul tells us here in Hebrews that He is **“the express image of His person”** or that He is an exact likeness to God the Father. In other words, Jesus is God!

As clear as that is, I think the Greek makes it even clearer to us. First of all, the Greek word for **“express image”** is CHARAKTER, (khar-ak-tare’) and this word is used “of an engraver, one who mints coins, a graving tool, a die, a stamp, a branding iron, a mark engraved, an impress, a stamp on coins and seals.”

In other words, Jesus Christ is the exact imprint or image of God the Father in His essence or core, His attributes and His character. The idea is of an exact likeness as made by a stamp. Jesus exactly represents God to us because Jesus is God!

Paul put it like this in Colossians 2:9, “**For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily.**” If you want to know what the Godhead is all about, not just God the Father, then look to Jesus!

And we are to be a representation of Jesus. In fact, we may be the only Bible people read and thus, how we act, what we say, the things we do, are representing or giving a picture of the God we say we serve.

And here in Joshua, in the midst of the battles they were in, they represented the Lord in their faith and trust in Him!

When we are going through difficult times, when we face battles, what do people see?

A great example of a powerful witness in a young group of Christians is seen in the life of the Thessalonians. Paul put it like this in I Thessalonians 1:6-10, “**And you became followers of us and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Spirit, so that you became examples to all in Macedonia and Achaia who believe. For from you the word of the Lord has sounded forth, not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place. Your faith toward God has gone out, so that we do not need to say anything. For they themselves declare concerning us what manner of entry we had to you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, even Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.**”

What I love here is, even though they were young in the faith, their witness of Christ in their lives was seen by many, both saved and unsaved. For the saved, what they were enduring for Christ was a witness to others in Macedonia and Achaia. For the unsaved, they saw the transformed lives of these believers, and what a witness that was.

I don't think we realize the impact we have on people by the things we say and the things we do. Paul tells us that, "**You are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read by all men; clearly you are an epistle of Christ, ministered by us, written not with ink but by the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of flesh, that is, of the heart.**"

II Corinthians 3:2-3.

Like it or not, people are reading our lives and we are letters, in a sense for them to read. We are letters that are showing people Jesus and the big question is, "*What are they reading or what are they seeing in our lives?*"

Remember when Stephen was martyred for his faith in Christ by the Jewish religious leaders in Acts chapter 7. Of this man named Stephen we are told that when they arrested him, that "**. . . all who sat in the council, looking steadfastly at him, saw his face as the face of an angel.**" Acts 6:15.

What a beautiful picture. When people say things that we don't like, is that the picture of us they are seeing? It should be!

Then Stephen gives them a history lesson pointing them to Jesus and finally, in Acts 7:54 we see their response to what Stephen was telling them, "**When they heard these things they were cut to the heart, and they gnashed at him with their teeth.**"

I think they were a little upset with Stephen and the reason being was that they were so convicted that instead of repenting of their sin and coming to Jesus they lashed out at Stephen and it was not pretty!

And listen to what transpired in Acts 7:55-60, **“But he, being full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God, and said, ‘Look! I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!’ Then they cried out with a loud voice, stopped their ears, and ran at him with one accord; and they cast him out of the city and stoned him. And the witnesses laid down their clothes at the feet of a young man named Saul. And they stoned Stephen as he was calling on God and saying, ‘Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.’ Then he knelt down and cried out with a loud voice, ‘Lord, do not charge them with this sin.’ And when he had said this, he fell asleep.”**

I hope you have seen this contrasting picture of Stephen and these religious leaders. Stephen had the face of an angel and these religious leaders who were coming after Stephen, looked like the Devil!

And keep in mind that Thessalonica was a busy city. People were coming and going from that city and as they came, they heard about Jesus and they saw the love these Thessalonian believers had.

And as they left, they left seeing the power of God at work in their lives and I am sure many came to saving faith and they took that faith with them to their homes, their families and their friends where they lived!

And keep in mind that they were not only witnesses to unbelievers, but through their faith, their endurance through difficult times, they were an encouragement to other believers who were also going through difficult times.

Make no mistake about it. We should be examples to unbelievers and believers. Our life should be a witness wherever we go. We are not Christians or followers of Christ on Sunday mornings but every day of the week. We are followers of Christ through the easy times and the difficult times.

Remember what we read in Matthew 5:16, “**Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.**”

So to say that our witness is only with Bible verses, is not true. Our good works, the things we do, how we respond gives glory to God because we let others know all that we do is because of what God has done and is doing in our lives!

Never forget that – ***OUR WITNESS!***

And the last point we will be looking at this morning is this – ***THE LAND RESTORED.***

VERSES 22-43

As we will see, I think the picture here is that of ***THE LAND RESTORED!***

Before I deal with that, let me share with you what the children of Israel are doing here. In these battles we see that they are conquering the southern portion of the land and here we see the fall of the Canaanite city of Makkedah.

In Joshua 10:29-30 we see the fall of the Canaanite city of Libnah.

Then, in Joshua 10:31-33 we see them defeat the Canaanite city of Lachish and when the King of Gezer, Hiram comes to help, they destroyed them also.

As we move on, in Joshua 10:34-35 we see them defeat the Canaanite city of Eglon.

In Joshua 10:36-37 we see the next Canaanite city to fall, Hebron.

In Joshua 10:38-39 we see the fall of the Canaanite city of Debir.

And then in Joshua 10:40-43 we see a summary of the southern campaign against these Canaanite kingdoms and how God gave the children of Israel the victory.

And now the children of Israel have returned to their headquarters at Gilgal after a successful military campaign against the southern kingdoms of Canaan.

And they had to be pumped up, even though they were tired, for they had won a great victory.

And as they passed by those memorial stones of the crossing of the Jordan River, they must have just been praising the Lord for His love and faithfulness as they were preparing themselves for their campaign against the enemies in the northern areas of Canaan.

Folks, for us, it is as Paul said in Romans 8:37, **“Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.”**

May we walk in the victory that God has given to us, thanking Him for all He has done for us, is doing for us and will do for us as we walk by faith and not by sight!

Now, what about Adoni-Zedek and the other four Kings who were hiding in a cave at Makkedah? Remember, Joshua told his men to roll a stone over the mouth of the cave to trap them, put some soldiers there to guard them, and then, with the rest of the men, go to battle!

We see here the demise of these five Kings, including Adoni-Zedek.

And I think the picture for us is a picture of the last days, of the Tribulation Period and on into the Millennial Kingdom where our Joshua, will rule and reign. Let me show you what I mean.

This King of Jerusalem, Adoni-Zedek, is a type or picture of the Antichrist, as I have said.

His name means, “Lord of Righteousness.” In other words, he is a deceiver. He looks good but he is not good.

Listen to the first seal judgment spoken of in Revelation 6:1-2, where we are told of this man, **“Now I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals; and I heard one of the four living creatures saying with a voice like thunder, ‘Come and see.’ And I looked, and behold, a white horse. He who sat on it had a bow; and a crown was given to him, and he went out conquering and to conquer.”**

Please understand that this is not speaking of Jesus Christ, but the Antichrist. He is a counterfeit; he is not Jesus!

How do I know that this is speaking of the Antichrist?

First of all, like all deceivers, as he comes on the scene he does so as a man of peace.

You see, he does not gain power, he does not gain this world leadership position by force but the world ushers him in.

The reason I say that is because he has a bow but no arrows. He rises to power without bloodshed, without force as the people welcome him with open arms to head this one-world government.

And here is the key for me. Notice that he is not wearing a crown of a King, a DIADEMA, but a victor’s crown or a STEPHANOS.

Only Jesus is worthy to wear the crown of a King and thus, this is not Jesus!

Listen to what we are told in Revelation 13:3 about this deceiver, **“And I saw one of his heads as if it had been mortally wounded, and his deadly wound was healed. And all the world marveled and followed the beast.”**

He has this false resurrection and he deceives the people and they worship the beast, the Antichrist!

And the last point in regard to who this is, this is a judgment of God upon a Christ rejecting world and thus, this deceiver comes on the scene, wearing a white hat you might say, a good guy, but in reality, he is not good and the world will feel his wrath very quickly! And Jesus is the One who allows him to come forward in this judgment!

Also, Adoni-Zedek was the Pagan King of Jerusalem.

And, keep in mind, that the Antichrist will go into the Holy of Holies in Jerusalem, at the 3½ year mark of the 7-year Tribulation Period and demand to be worshiped as God!

Jesus called this the Abomination of Desolation.

And Paul spoke of this in II Thessalonians 2:4 as he tells us that when this son of perdition is revealed, the one **“who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.”**

We also see Adoni-Zedek led a confederation of Kings to come against the children of Israel.

That should sound familiar. We call it the battle of Armageddon and in this battle, as the Antichrist and his forces surround Jerusalem, and keep in mind they are also fighting against the Lord, they will not win.

We are told in Revelation 17:14 about this confederation of Kings that the Antichrist unites together and what they will do. We are told, **“These will make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, for He is Lord of lords and King of kings; and those who are with Him are called, chosen, and faithful.”**

We also see this played out for us in Revelation 19:11-19. And as we read this please understand who is riding this white horse, it is the Lord and as you will see, it is made very clear.

We are told, **“Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war. His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself. He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses. Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS. Then I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the birds that fly in the midst of heaven, ‘Come and gather together for the supper of the great God, that you may eat the flesh of kings, the flesh of captains, the flesh of mighty men, the flesh of horses and of those who sit on them, and the flesh of all people, free and slave, both small and great.’ And I saw the beast, the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against Him who sat on the horse and against His army.”**

As much as Adoni-Zedek fought against Joshua and the children of Israel, he wanted them out of the land, he wanted to destroy them, the same is true of the Antichrist! In fact, at the time he enters the Holy of Holies and demands to be worshiped as God, Jesus told the Jews that when they see this happen, flee for your lives and God will protect the children of Israel for those last 3½ years!

The last point is that we see these five Kings hiding in a cave and it is very similar to what we read in Revelation 6:15-16. We are told, **“And the kings of the earth, the great men, the rich men, the commanders, the mighty men, every slave and every free man, hid themselves in the caves and in the rocks of the mountains, and said to the mountains and rocks, ‘Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb! For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?’”**

What is my point?

It is this. Just as Joshua defeated the enemies of God and took back the land that was given to these people, our Jesus will come back one day and take back what was taken from Him, the title deed of the earth.

You see, when Adam sinned, this world was turned over to Satan and his forces, which will include the Antichrist one day.

But Jesus redeemed us, and He is coming back to redeem this earth and take back the title deed to the earth!

I believe the scroll He takes from the Father’s hand is the title deed to the earth, which He purchased with His blood!

Remember what Paul said in Romans 8:18-23, **“For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us. For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God. For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it in hope; because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now. Not only that, but we also who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body.”**

Look at what Paul is speaking of here. First of all, yes, we are sons of God now, but creation does not recognize that fact, in reality, they try to destroy it from their sight. But I don't think this anticipation is speaking of men as the creation but all of the creation, the animal's and-so-on.

And this verb, **“eagerly waits”** in the Greek, is ADEKDECHOMAI (ap-ok-ar-ad-ok-ee'-ah) and it is used several times in the New Testament to refer to the Lord's return.

So this can be translated that all of creation is ***“on tip toes to see the wonderful sight of the sons of God coming to their own.”*** And when that happens, we see the Lord come back as well! And the reason for this is given to us in Romans 8:20-22.

So all of creation is waiting for the revealing of the sons of God, but they are groaning because they are **“subjected to futility.”**

This word, **“futility”** speaks of emptiness, aimlessness, or uselessness. In other words, it can't reach a goal. It is unable to fulfill or achieve its purpose. It can't achieve its desired result.

What is Paul talking about?

Paul is saying that all of creation can't be what God intended it to be. All of creation can't live out its full potential and thus, it is crippled and frustrated!

This curse was placed upon them when Adam sinned, and the effects of that sin is seen throughout all of creation. As one writer put it, "The ground is cursed. Many wild animals die violent deaths. Disease afflicts birds and animals as well as fish and serpents. The results of man's sin have rippled like shockwaves throughout all creation."

But then Paul said, "**. . . because of Him who subjected it in hope.**"

What hope? Simply, that through all the pain and sorrow of this world, a world that is devastated by sin, that man would long for a world that God originally created. A world in which man and animals and all of creation could live in harmony together! That is what I long for and I am sure that is what you are longing for as well!

Remember that when God created the heavens and the earth everything was very good. Animals lived together in harmony; they were not meat eaters but vegetarians. But then sin entered the world through Adam and not only was Adam and all his descendants affected by this, but all of creation was also affected, as I have said.

That is what Paul has told us in Romans 5:12, "**Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned.**"

But now creation waits for the day when the Lord will return and release them from the bondage of sin that is in this world and that has affected them.

Of this time, we are told in Isaiah 11:6-9, **“The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, The leopard shall lie down with the young goat, The calf and the young lion and the fatling together; And a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze; Their young ones shall lie down together; And the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play by the cobra’s hole, And the weaned child shall put his hand in the viper’s den. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain, For the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD As the waters cover the sea.”**

In Isaiah 35:1-2 we are told **“The wilderness and the wasteland shall be glad for them, And the desert shall rejoice and blossom as the rose; It shall blossom abundantly and rejoice, Even with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, The excellence of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the LORD, The excellency of our God.”**

And in Hosea 2:18 we are told, **“In that day I will make a covenant for them With the beasts of the field, With the birds of the air, And with the creeping things of the ground. Bow and sword of battle I will shatter from the earth, To make them lie down safely.”**

Keep in mind that creation didn’t ask for this, but because of man’s sin they were affected by it. Now, they are standing on their tiptoes waiting for the revealing of the sons of God for when that occurs the Lord will return and set up His Kingdom on the earth.

Now we have a picture of what the Kingdom Age is going to be like as God has told us, but it is just a glimpse of what it will be like and we can compare it to what we see now, what we might call pre-labor pains and we too wait for the birth of the Kingdom Age, the return of Jesus! It is as Morris tells us, “Creation is not undergoing death pangs . . . but birth pangs.”

Yes, one day ***THE LAND WILL BE RESTORED*** by Jesus Christ and He will rule and reign from Jerusalem, and we will be with Him!

So, yes, there are battles we face every day. Don't be distracted and run-down rabbit trails that end up going nowhere.

And we don't fight these battles with physical weapons, but with prayer and the Word of God. We must put on the whole armor of God so that we may be able to stand against the enemies of God!

And as we live in this world, as we share our faith, as we deal with tribulation, difficulties, sufferings, may our witness be strong, our witness of the Lord. May they see Jesus in us or as John said, that the Lord may increase in his life and that flesh nature of John, decrease!

And lastly, as bad as things may get, remember the Lord is coming back and I am sure you long for that day as much as I do!

Let me close with this, "**And there has been no day like that, before it or after it, that the Lord heeded the voice of a man; for the Lord fought for Israel.**" Joshua 10:14.