

Episode 10: The Day the Sun Stood Still: The Final Conquests

God empowers Israel to fight seven successful battles and gain control over all of southern Canaan.

1. **The battle against the enemies of Gibeon (10:1–14)**
   1. Adoni-Zedek, king of Jerusalem, and four other kings determine to attack the Gibeonites for signing a peace treaty with Israel. (10:1–5)
   2. The plea (10:6–7): The Gibeonites appeal to Joshua for military help.
   3. The promise (10:8): The Lord reassures Joshua of victory.
   4. The power of God and the Victory (10:9–14):
      1. God threw the enemy into a Panic.
      2. The Lord gives the Israelites victory by sending a hailstorm upon their enemies. Miracle #1.
      3. He also miraculously lengthens the day to ensure total victory. Miracle #2.
      4. A “Phenomenological view.”
      5. There are many different theories about this passage:
         1. The passage is poetical and not to be understood literally.
         2. The sun “standing still” refers to an eclipse of the sun.
         3. The earth actually stopped its rotation around the sun for almost twenty-four hours per Joshua’s request.
         4. The earth’s rotation was slowed down, not stopped. This lengthened the day by almost twenty-four hours. (Slow motion)
         5. The sun and moon appeared to be out of their regular place by a supernaturally given mirage.
         6. The sun stopped shining during the latter half of the day.
         7. Rather than the day being prolonged, God prolonged the previous night.
2. **Consolidating the Victory in the South**
   1. The battle against Makkedah (10:15–28). The enemy kings hid in a cave, which becomes their tomb. (10:16-27)
      1. ***16****These five kings fled and hid themselves in the cave at Makkedah.* ***17****And it was told to Joshua, “The five kings have been found, hidden in the cave at Makkedah.”* ***18****And Joshua said, “Roll large stones against the mouth of the cave and set men by it to guard them,[[1]](#footnote-2)*
   2. The kings are humiliated and then executed and then buried in the same cave in which they hid.
      1. ***26****And afterward Joshua struck them and put them to death, and he hanged them on five trees. And they hung on the trees until evening.* ***27****But at the time of the going down of the sun, Joshua commanded, and they took them down from the trees and threw them into the cave where they had hidden themselves, and they set large stones against the mouth of the cave, which remain to this very day. [[2]](#footnote-3)*
   3. The battle against Libnah (10:29–30)
   4. The battle against Lachish (10:31–33)
   5. The battle against Eglon (10:34–35)
   6. The battle against Hebron (10:36–37)
   7. The battle against Debir (10:38–39)
   8. The dimensions of Conquest (10:40–43): The total extent of Joshua’s victories in the southern region is recounted.
      1. ***40****So Joshua struck the whole land, the hill country and the Negeb and the lowland and the slopes, and all their kings. He left none remaining, but devoted to destruction all that breathed, just as the Lord God of Israel commanded.* (10:40)
3. **The Northern Campaign (11:1–15)**
   1. The ringleaders (11:1–5): King Jabin of Hazor joins forces with several other kings in northern Canaan to fight the Israelites.
   2. The reassurance (11:6): The Lord reassures Joshua that he need not worry, for the next day all his enemies will be dead.
   3. Joshua completely defeats all these kings. (11:7–8)
   4. Joshua ravages the enemy cities, killing the people and capturing (11:9–15) their goods.
4. **The Overview of all Campaigns (11:16–12:24)**
   * 1. ***19****There was not a city that made peace with the people of Israel except the Hivites, the inhabitants of Gibeon. They took them all in battle.* ***20****For it was the Lord’s doing to harden their hearts that they should come against Israel in battle, in order that they should be devoted to destruction and should receive no mercy but be destroyed, just as the Lord commanded Moses. (11:19-20)*
   1. *The Anakim*
      1. ***22****There was none of the Anakim left in the land of the people of Israel. Only in Gaza, in Gath, and in Ashdod did some remain.* ***23****So Joshua took the whole land, according to all that the Lord had spoken to Moses. (11:22-23)*
5. **Land Still to Be Conquered (13)**

1. [*The Holy Bible: English Standard Version*](https://ref.ly/logosres/esv?ref=BibleESV.Jos10.16&off=28&ctx=rite+Kings+Executed%0a~16%C2%A0%E2%80%A2%E2%80%A2These+five+%E2%80%A2kin). (2016). (Jos 10:16–18). [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. [*The Holy Bible: English Standard Version*](https://ref.ly/logosres/esv?ref=BibleESV.Jos10.26&off=0&ctx=+whom+you+fight%E2%80%A2%E2%80%A2.%E2%80%9D+~26%C2%A0And+afterward+Jos). (2016). (Jos 10:26–27). [↑](#footnote-ref-3)