

Joshua Chapter Ten (Part One) - Teaching Notes

Introduction: A key idea in the book of Joshua is that God blesses obedience. Today, we hope to discuss the destruction of the Amorite Coalition.

Body:

Read Joshua 10:1-6

2. Destruction of the Amorite Coalition. News of Joshua and the Jews' conquest of Ai was spreading. There is a coalition of neighboring kings organized to attack the Gibeonites. The Gibeonites call on Joshua for help.

Applications -

- **The power of sharing and hearing.** Notice in vs. 1-2 that the king heard about what was going on with Joshua and the people of God. First, faith comes by hearing. We should make sure we are telling others about what God is doing in our lives and our church. What are some examples of what you are saying? Second, fear comes by hearing also. Fear is believing that something bad is going to happen. People need to also hear that God's love is complimented by His wrath. Third, in order to talk about what God is doing through us, we have to let Him work through our lives. We have to obey Him. *Let's work on obeying God and being a vocal witness about what He is doing in and through our lives.*

- **Our reputation.** Notice in vs. 2 that the city had a reputation for having fighting men, being larger than Ai, and being like a royal city. What is our earned reputation? First, it is possible to have an inflated image of ourselves. Reputation is concerned with what others are saying about us. Would anyone describe our church as a church that really works hard on evangelism, edification, love, and worship? Or are we more known for complaining, the size of our building, or our dissatisfaction with one another? *Let's work on developing a godly reputation.* More important than what people say about us is what God knows about us. When we give an account before the Lord, He will remember how we lived our lives.

- **Coalitions.** Notice in vs. 3-5 that those who were not affiliated with God formed a coalition to stop what God was doing. First, coalitions can be very powerful. Without coalitions, there is no telling what kind of civil rights would have been affirmed in the 1960's. It seems that if our inner city communities are going to experience an increase in quality of living then coalitions will have to be formed. Second, as Christians form coalitions with non-Christians, we must guard against being drawn into hiding our Christianity from the non-Christians in the coalition and guard against being drawn to the idols of the world, including the idol of fate and chance (i.e., the gods of atheism). Third, thank God that He who is in believers is greater than the coalitions of the world. If the whole world is against us but God is for us, we are on the winning team (i.e., as in the text). *Let's live like we understand the value of coalitions but with ultimate confidence in God.*

- **Opposition that comes from drawing closer to God.** Notice in vs. 4-5 that there is some danger in drawing closer to the Lord. Similar to how enemies popped up for the Gibeonites, when the Gibeonites were drawing closer to God, we can expect enemies and

opposition to pop up in our lives, when we draw closer to God. For example, when we start studying, serving, and giving at discipleship levels, non-disciples can pop up and be sources of stress. When we resolve to be godlier spouses or singles, the devil has a way of raising up people and circumstances to try to block our path. *Let's work on having the faith to deal with the opposition that comes when we draw closer to God.* Prayerful study and obedience with the support of other disciples can help us develop our faith.

- **Benefits of being a part of a good church.** Notice in vs. 6 that the Gibeonites had some people of God to call on, when things got rough in their lives. In similar fashion, the church ought to be a place and people that its members can call on, in the times of trouble. Sometimes the church can provide prayer and companionship. Other times the church may provide emergency funds and supplies. And yet at other times, the church may provide advocacy and support for a noble cause. It is better to have a church and not need it than to need a church and don't have one. *Let's work on appreciating the benefits of having in a good church and being a good church.* "Being a good church" is essential to living out this application. If everyone is taking and no one is giving then church comes up short. Thus, the importance of every member growing to study, serve, and give should be obvious.

Conclusion: Let's work on obeying God's word. God has much for those who obey Him.