Learning from the Gibeonites - Part II
By Rich Jacobs

Now it came about when Adoni-zedek king of Jerusalem heard that Joshua had captured Ai, and had utterly destroyed it (just as he had done to Jericho and its king, so he had done to Ai and its king), and that the inhabitants of Gibeon had made peace with Israel and were within their land, that he feared greatly, because Gibeon was a great city, like one of the royal cities, and because it was greater than Ai, and all its men were mighty. Therefore Adoni-zedek king of Jerusalem sent word to Hoham king of Hebron and to Piram king of Jarmuth and to Japhia king of Lachish and to Debir king of Eglon, saying, “Come up to me and help me, and let us attack Gibeon, for it has made peace with Joshua and with the sons of Israel.”

Joshua 10:1-4

Discussion Questions:
1. What did Adoni-zedek, king of Jerusalem, hear about the Israelites? Did he hear anything different from what Rahab or the Gibeonites heard? Explain.
2. Why did the Gibeonites’ surrender to Israel seem so critical to Adoni-zedek? Does this tell you anything about the Gibeonites and their faith?
3. Adoni-zedek was king of Jerusalem (“Salem”), like Melchizedek, before him. Recall that Melchizedek was called the “King of Righteousness” and he was greeted with honor by Abraham (see Genesis 14 and Hebrews 6-7). How do Adoni-zedek and Melchizedek differ in faith? in actions? Does Adoni-zedek live up to his name? Explain.

Some Possible Noteworthy Points:
• The Gibeonites were gentiles (“nation”) who came to fear God because of His judgments in Egypt and because of His power shown in the Israelites. Proverbs 9:10 - “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.”
• The Gibeonites’ fear of God was based on their belief (“faith”) in what God could do — essentially, faith in who He was. Notice that this faith saved them from God’s judgment and from destruction. Ephesian 2:8 - “For by grace you have been saved, through faith . . .”
• Not only does the faith of the Gibeonites save them from judgment and destruction, but they were appointed to serve God Himself in His Temple - a place of great honor (Joshua 9:23ff)
• Adoni-zedek is a gentile king who rules from Jerusalem and has assembled a multinational coalition of gentile powers. He claims to be the Lord of Righteousness, but he is bent on the destruction of Israel and her allies. He is opposed to the will of God. Is it possible that he could foreshadow the antichrist of the last days?

Then the men of Gibeon sent word to Joshua to the camp at Gilgal, saying, “Do not abandon your servants; come up to us quickly and save us and help us, for all the kings of the Amorites that live in the hill country have assembled against us.”

Joshua 10:6

Discussion Questions:
1. What was the original “deal” that the Gibeonites made with the Israelites? What were the Gibeonites asking of Israel now?
2. Do you think that Israel had a responsibility to rescue the Gibeonites from their hostile Amorite neighbors? Why or why not?


So Joshua came upon them suddenly by marching all night from Gilgal. And the LORD confounded them before Israel, and He slew them with a great slaughter at Gibeon, and pursued them by the way of the ascent of Beth-horon and struck them as far as Azekah and Makkedah. As they fled from before Israel, while they were at the descent of Beth-horon, the LORD threw large stones from heaven on them as far as Azekah, and they died; there were more who died from the hailstones than those whom the sons of Israel killed with the sword. Then Joshua spoke to the LORD in the day when the LORD delivered up the Amorites before the sons of Israel, and he said in the sight of Israel,

“O sun, stand still at Gibeon,
And O moon in the valley of Aijalon.”

So the sun stood still, and the moon stopped,
Until the nation avenged themselves of their enemies.

Is it not written in the book of Jashar? And the sun stopped in the middle of the sky and did not hasten to go down for about a whole day. There was no day like that before it or after it, when the LORD listened to the voice of a man; for the LORD fought for Israel.

Joshua 10:9-14

Some Possible Noteworthy Points:

- The word translated confounded is “hamam” (הָמַם), which means “to make a noise, to confuse”. This verse suggests that God Himself sowed confusion and disarray in this mighty Amorite army.
- Beth-horon, in Hebrew, means “house of burning”, which may imply “house of anger”. In 166 BC, Jewish forces under Judas Maccabaeus defeated a larger Seleucid force under Seron at Beth-horon. This war eventually freed Israel from Antiochus IV, a Seleucid ruler prophesied in Daniel 11 and an antichrist foreshadow. In 66 AD, a Jewish army defeated a Roman legion at Beth-horon by pelting it with stones, among other things. Unfortunately, this lead eventual destruction under Titus in 70 AD.
- Azekah is where Saul was confronted by the Philistines and where David defeated the giant, Goliath (1 Samuel 17). Makkedah is of uncertain derivation and may mean “crookedness, or even “burning”.

Discussion Questions:
1. How did this powerful Amorite coalition army get defeated and destroyed by a smaller Israelite army?
2. What remarkable miracles took place during this battle?
3. Do you think there could be any prophetic implications to these remarkable event? Explain.
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came out of the temple from the throne, saying, “It is done.” . . . And huge hailstones, about one hundred pounds each, came down from heaven upon men; and men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail, because its plague was extremely severe. Revelation 16:16, 17, 21

Discussion Questions:
1. Do you recall what armies were gathering in Har-magedon (Armageddon) and against whom they were arrayed? Who was the leader of these armies and what was His goal? Who was the leader of the victorious army?
2. What led to the destruction of the ungodly armies gathered at Armageddon?
3. Why did Joshua ask the sun and moon to “stand still”? What does this say about what God is willing to do for his faithful people?
4. Do you see any parallels between these verses in Revelation 16 and the verses in Joshua 9 and 10? Explain.

Son of man, set your face toward Gog of the land of Magog, the prince of Rosh, Meshech and Tubal, and prophesy against him and say, ‘Thus says the Lord GOD, “Behold, I am against you, O Gog, prince of Rosh, Meshech and Tubal. I will turn you about and put hooks into your jaws, and I will bring you out, and all your army, horses and horsemen, all of them splendidly attired, a great company with buckler and shield, all of them wielding swords . . . After many days you will be summoned; in the latter years you will come into the land that is restored from the sword, whose inhabitants have been gathered from many nations to the mountains of Israel which had been a continual waste; but its people were brought out from the nations, and they are living securely, all of them”. . . Thus says the Lord GOD, “Are you the one of whom I spoke in former days through My servants the prophets of Israel, who prophesied in those days for many years that I would bring you against them? It will come about on that day, when Gog comes against the land of Israel,” declares the Lord GOD, “that My fury will mount up in My anger” . . . “I will call for a sword against him on all My mountains,” declares the Lord GOD. Every man’s sword will be against his brother. With pestilence and with blood I will enter into judgment with him; and I will rain on him and on his troops, and on the many peoples who are with him, torrential rain, with hailstones, fire and brimstone. I will magnify Myself, sanctify Myself, and make Myself known in the sight of many nations; and they will know that I am the LORD.” Ezekiel 38:2-4; 8;17-17; 21-23

Final Points:
• Joshua 10 may also prophetically foreshadow God’s destruction of Gog, the final antichrist, who arises at the close of Christ’s Millennial reign. God does not allow Gog’s efforts to gain momentum or prosper, but destroys him immediately.
• Among other things, the Lord uses hailstones to destroy Gog.
• Scripture says Gog arises because Satan had been released from his 1000-year imprisonment for a brief time. All this is required because God must finally prove to the nations that He is God!