



Sunday, January 12, 2020
Pastor Don Denyes

Intro to Joshua 10

Sometimes it seems the world is winning. When we think about what's going on in our culture today—hyper-expressive individualism, distorted sexual ethics, declining church attendance among younger generations—it can seem like God's purposes are being thwarted. We can start to lose our sense of confidence that He will win in the end. That loss of confidence breeds fear and even desperation and we can turn to man-made solutions to try to “fix” the problem.

But Scripture is clear on this point: God always wins. Several times now in the book of Joshua we have seen God overcome long odds. Moses, the great leader of God's people had died, and fear gripped the camp. But the LORD spoke to Joshua and reminded him and all the people to be strong and courageous. When the spies went into Jericho, there was a good chance they wouldn't make it, but God raised up a prostitute who had faith and they were saved. Here, the allies of Israel, the Gibeonites, are threatened with extinction, but once again God prevails in a most unusual way—by making the sun stand still. Hadn't happened before, hasn't happened since. But God will always accomplish His purposes.

Context

The broader context of this passage is Deuteronomy 7:2: “When the LORD your God gives them [the Canaanites, Hittites, etc.] over to you, and you defeat them, then you must devote them to complete destruction. You shall make no covenant with them and show no mercy to them.” Thus, the entire book of Joshua focuses on the destruction of the enemies of Israel. As Pastor Don noted, chapters 9-11 should probably be taken as a single unit as they describe the events with the Gibeonites and continue with conquests related to the Gibeonites all the way through chapter 11.

Read and Reflect *(Use this section to write down any thoughts you had on the sermon. Make sure to note any questions you had about something in the passage or in the sermon.)*

Read Joshua 10:1-15

“A Day Like No Other”

We must do the fighting (7-11)

We must do the praying (12-14)

God must fight for us (11-14)

Surely the LORD was fighting for Israel (10, 14, 42)

Discuss

- 1) When was a time that you felt helpless or knew that you didn't have the ability to do what you needed to do?
- 2) When you think of God "fighting for you," do you more often tend to think of Him fighting for what you want or fighting for what He wants to accomplish in your life? Why do you think that is?
- 3) What kinds of things tend to dominate your prayer life (thanksgiving, confession, physical needs, spiritual needs, etc.)?
- 4) Pastor Don made it clear that God is faithful to His promises, but not to promises He's never made. What are some common "promises" that people attribute to God that He hasn't made? Are you ever tempted to believe any of them?
- 5) Read Proverbs 15:3. Is that a good verse or a bad verse in your mind? Why?