

Shock and Awe



Suggested Props: A simple map drawn on a white board indicating Jerusalem on the southern end; Gibeon located about 10 miles NW of Jerusalem so students may visualize 5 armies of the south around Jerusalem coming against Gibeon, ally of Israel.

Scripture: [Joshua 10: 12-14](#)

Then spake Joshua to the Lord in the day when the Lord delivered up the Amorites before the children of Israel, and he said in the sight of Israel, Sun, stand thou still upon Gibeon; and thou, Moon, in the valley of Ajalon.

And the sun stood still, and the moon stayed, until the people had avenged themselves upon their enemies. Is not this written in the book of Jasher? So the sun stood still in the midst of heaven, and hasted not to go down about a whole day.

And there was no day like that before it or after it that the Lord hearkened unto the voice of a man: for the Lord fought for Israel.

Introduction:

The Bible is full of mysteries. I still don't understand all of God's Word. By the way, you shouldn't trust anyone who says that they do understand it all. I have learned enough and seen enough miracles to know that I can trust ALL of God's Word to be true. I can't explain them all, but I can believe them all.

Miracles like the parting of the Red Sea, parting of Jordan River, the manna, Gideon's fleece along with:

- *Exodus 10: 21-23 "...darkness over the land of Egypt, even darkness which may be felt." (3 days)*
- *Amos 8:9 "...the Sun to go down at noon, and I will darken the earth in the clear day."*
- *Luke 23: 44-45 "...sixth hour, and there was a darkness over all the earth until the ninth hour."*
- *II Kings 20:11 "...and he brought the shadow 10 degrees backward."*

For several years there has been a "rumor" on the internet stating that NASA ran computer programs to precisely calculate the astronomical movement to get precise locations of all stars and planets for hundreds of years into the future. This meant that time had to be measured back into the past as well.

In doing this they found a whole day missing. I do not know if this actually happened; furthermore, I don't care. A calculation of this magnitude would have a certain amount of error based on the accuracy of instruments measuring the location of planets and stars. Twenty four hours lost over 6000 years would not be too surprising. We certainly do not need a computer calculation to explain a miracle of God.

Swindled into War (Defending the pseudo-Allies):

Joshua had led the Children of Israel across a dry Jordan River; Jericho had fallen; Ai and Bethel had fallen. God had told Joshua to go into the Promised Land and conquer it. ([See Joshua 1: 1-9](#)) The Gibeonites saw they were in a position to be conquered as well so they pulled a fast one on Israel. At this time in history maps were scarce and inaccurate; there were no satellite images to get good intel, so the Gibeonites took advantage of this. They loaded down animals with old provisions to make the Israelites think they were coming from a far distance. When they reached the Israelites

they fooled them into thinking that they were from someplace far away and wanted to make a treaty with Israel for peace and to form a league with them. The Bible says: *Joshua 9:14-15 And the men took of their victuals, and **asked not counsel at the mouth of the Lord.** And Joshua made peace with them, and made a league with them, to let them live: and the princes of the congregation swore unto them.*

Did you notice what the Bible said that they forgot to do? I do not care how powerful a soldier you are: you must always follow the plan of your commander.

Three days later Israel finds out that Gibeon is nearby and was one of the places God had asked them to conquer, but it was too late to fix the mistake because they had already promised to protect and “league” with them. This is where the problems begin.

When the kings of the southern cities in the region hear of this “treaty” then they are very upset. Five kings got together with their armies and surround Gibeon. Now Joshua has a situation on his hands.

This seasoned war hero, Joshua, has learned from his experiences. **ASK GOD before you make your next move !** So he asks God about going to fight for the safety of Gibeon. God says: *“Fear them not...I (God) have delivered them into **thine hand.**”* God even sends down great stones from heaven and kills more with a hailstorm than Joshua’s army did.

Joshua and the Israeli Army see the Lord is fighting with them; then the Kings of the Southern Alliance begin to run for home. But as the sun is about to set (remember there was no way to light up the battlefield; no night vision goggles; no spotlights; it was about to get dark) Joshua made a very bold and unusual request of God.

Joshua 10:14 says *“no day like it...that the Lord hearkened unto the voice of a man.”* Joshua asked God to stop time for about a day to let him finish the battle.

Joshua could have asked for more hailstones or lightening from Heaven to finish the enemy, but he knew that he was commanded to conquer the region so he elected to fight; He just needed more day light hours to do his job.

Shock and Awe:

God made time stand still!!! Can you imagine the fear that the heathen armies must have experienced? Some of these southern kings worshipped the sun and moon gods; now the Israelites had done something to make the sun and moon stand still!

How could God stop the earth from rotating without causing massive problems? Remember that God is not stuck in time like we are. People are still trying to figure out how it happened. Did God use some sort of catastrophic event? Did Mars get too close? We will never know this side of Heaven and in Heaven we won’t care.

The important thing is that Joshua was doing what God asked him to do. He had great faith in God and His Word. He sought God’s will and then **obeyed.**

If you want power with God it requires you to believe God and His Word and then obey: **EVEN WHEN YOU DO NOT FULLY UNDERSTAND.**

Surrender to be a War Hero like Joshua:

WHY isn’t every Christian like Joshua? We should have enough faith to believe God’s Word and trust Him to bring it to pass.

Read your Bible and listen for the still small voice of the Holy Spirit. Whatever He says, Just Do It! (*Joshua 10:25 “Fear not, nor be dismayed, be strong and of good courage...”*)

Do all things in God’s way, no matter what it is. He will test your faith in small ways at first, but, if you pass His tests, He will move you up to greater things. Be ready to exercise your faith in whatever God asks: Even if you consider it a small thing. That is how Joshua started.

We need some Great Christian Heroes. There are plenty of ordinary, timid, powerless ones.

The same faith that Joshua had, you can have also. He was just as human as we are. His God is our God. Be a War Hero for the Lord: Ask, Listen, and Respond.

Conclusion:

In order to be a “Hero” for the Lord, you must first be “one of His”. If you have never accepted Jesus as your Savior, that is the first step.

(Present Salvation here.)