

Into the Promise: A Journey Through Joshua
Lesson Six: “The Lord Fought”
Joshua 9-12

I. Deception (Joshua 9:1-15)

A. Enemies consolidate (vv. 1-2)

B. Easily deceived

Malcolm Gladwell, *Talking to Strangers*

Dr. Tim Levine’s experiment - Being able to detect who is telling the truth and who is lying out of 44 video tapes – 22 truth telling and 22 lying – only 54% chose correctly. That number is steady for police officers, judges, and even the CIA.

We have a default to truth – thus Levine’s “Truth-Default Theory.” “We start by believing. And we stop believing only when our doubts and misgivings rise to the point where we can no longer explain them away” (p. 74).

Ana Montes – Worked as a Senior Analyst for the DIA (Defense Intelligence Agency). She was their top Cuban analyst and known for her expertise. She was already a Cuban spy when she went to work there and worked undetected for 17 years. She pled guilty in 2002 and was sentenced to 25 years in prison.

Bernie Madoff – He ran a Ponzi scheme for over 20 years that defrauded his clients of over \$50 billion. He was arrested in 2008. He was given 150 years in prison and died in 2021.

C. The danger of leaning on your own understanding (Proverbs 3:5-6)

College
Career
Marriage
Children’s Education
Neighborhood
Church
Suffering

D. Examples of those who relied on their own wisdom without consulting the Lord

Abraham and Sarah, (Going to Egypt, Hagar)

Jacob – Stealing Esau’s blessing, assuming Joseph had been killed

II. Honor the Covenant (Joshua 9:16-27)

In 2 Samuel 21:1-2 we read,

Now there was a famine in the days of David for three years, year after year; and David sought the presence of the Lord. And the Lord said, “It is for Saul and his bloody house, because he put the Gibeonites to death.” So the king called the Gibeonites and spoke to them (now the Gibeonites were not of the sons of Israel but of the remnant of the

Amorites, and the sons of Israel made a covenant with them, but Saul had sought to kill them in his zeal for the sons of Israel and Judah).

Matthew 5:37

III. The Day the Sun Stood Still (Joshua 10)

The five kings had more than likely been emboldened by Israel's initial defeat by Ai. Sin in the camp had removed their protection and brought the judgment of God.

A. The description of their victory (vv. 7-10)

B. The details of the Lord's work (vv. 11-15)

God threw them into confusion and then threw hail stones on them killing more than the ones who died in battle.

Richard Hess give us helpful commentary:

In the first, traditional, view the sun and moon simply stayed where they were in the sky until the battle ended and light was no longer necessary. This has support in the context of Joshua's night march from Gilgal to Gibeon. If it was a full moon, the moonlight could have enabled a safe march. It would also anticipate the miraculous provision for both moonlight and sunlight.¹

C. The battle with the leaders (vv. 16-27)

D. The battle with the towns (vv. 28-40)

These towns covered the southern portion of Canaan.

E. Success and the return to camp (vv. 41-43)

"Joshua captured all these kings and their lands at one time, because the Lord, the God of Israel, fought for Israel. So Joshua and all Israel with him returned to the camp at Gilgal" (Joshua 10:42-43).

IV. Occupying the Land (Joshua 11-12)

Victory over the northern coalition. Hess explains:

God addresses Joshua. The exhortation not to fear occurs here as it did before Ai and before the southern coalition. The victory will occur within a single day. The divine instructions are clear about every element of the threat. Hamstringing the horses ensured that nothing survived that would be usable in a future war.²

The summary –

"So Joshua took the whole land, according to all that the Lord had spoken to Moses, and Joshua gave it for an inheritance to Israel according to their divisions by their tribes. Thus the land had rest from war" (Joshua 11:23).

Joshua 12 is the list of Kings and areas of conquest. They generally follow the order of the conquest as recorded in Joshua 10-11.

Are you praying over and occupying the land the Lord has given you?

Tim Keller observes, “When 10-20% of a city’s population is Christian, the city’s culture begins to change.”³ He calls it the “tipping point” which is a phrase that is the title of another Malcolm Gladwell book. Gladwell describes the tipping point as “that magic moment when an idea, trend, or social behavior crosses a threshold, tips, and spreads like wildfire.”⁴

¹ Richard S. Hess, *Joshua: An Introduction and Commentary*, Logos.

² Richard S. Hess, *Joshua: An Introduction and Commentary*, Logos.

³ Tim Keller. Retrieved from rise.redeemer.com

⁴ Malcom Gladwell, *The Tipping Point*, p. 12.