

Joshua

Part 9 – Solar Power

Joshua 10

What happened?

1. The Israelites kept their word to the Gibeonites
2. The Israelites marched all night to attack the Amorites
3. God made the sun stand still
 - Truth points us back to God (scientific truth included)
 - “Science is the handmaid of theology” – awe is endgame
 - Relationship of fear – insecurity created when worldview challenged
 - Relationship of anger/rejection – sometimes from fear, sometimes from past – fundamentalism on both sides
 - Relationship of separation – two realms, no interaction
 - Relationship of engagement – listening as the voices speak
 - No need to fear it – because all truth points us back to God
 - God is no deist – spinning the world and leaving it alone
 - We believe in His direct participation and intervention
 - He holds everything together by the word of His power
 - He knits babies together in the womb of their mother
 - He came to earth as a human
 - He still works miracles when His people pray
 - He executes His purposes on the earth (which will one day sum up in everyone bowing to Jesus)
 - Best response: humble perspective and winsome confidence
 - Humble Perspective – (good instinct, just be humble) you may not have it all figured out or new information may come that turns what you do have figured out upside down (Copernicus)
 - Winsome Confidence – don’t be afraid to know what you know with certainty (uncertainty can be an idol), but hold onto it in a way that makes it attractive to others KAISER
4. God gained victory over His enemies

What does it mean?

- God is determined to destroy evil
 - Destruction happens because God was involved but happens with Joshua’s participation
 - God usually works with us (though He doesn’t need us) – because He values relationship with us
 - We will always need God’s power to deal with evil but we get to participate in His victory

- God has unmatched power
 - You can't find that kind of power anywhere else
 - He makes Everest and then commands it to move – He disrupted the entire cosmos
- God hears when we pray
 - His prayer was in line with God's promises – when we align, why not ask big?
 - God's not committed to our bright ideas or being our slot machine
 - Surprise in text is not that the sun stood still but that God listened to Joshua's big prayer (Moses typically received from God, not asked from Him)
 - There's nothing you can ask of God that is too big (Eph. 3.20)– so often we waste our prayers on what is small for the sake of our convenience instead of huge for the sake of His Kingdom
 - Newton – “Thou art coming to a King. Large petitions with thee bring. For His grace and power are such, none can ever ask too much”

Discussion Questions

1. What is the most amazing natural phenomenon you have ever seen? What was so striking about it?
2. Review the relationship(s) between faith and science. Which one do you lean toward most often? Why is that? What typically happens when you do?
3. Who do you know who most typifies the phrases “Humble Perspective” and “Winsome Confidence?” Why are they that way? What can you learn from them?
4. What evil do you see in the world that you can do something about tomorrow? What will you do?
5. What is the biggest prayer you are praying right now for (a) your family? (b) yourself? (c) your church? (d) your job situation / coworkers?