

“Precarious Possession”

(Joshua Ch. 10)

Introduction:

Precarious:

- Depending on the will or pleasure of another
- Dependent on *uncertain* premises; dubious*
- Dependent on chance circumstances, unknown conditions, or uncertain developments

God wanted His people to possess the land for 4 basic reasons...

- 1) To Keep His promise (Genesis 12:7)
- 2) To set the stage for later developments in His kingdom Plan (Gen. 17, 49) positioning Israel for event in the periods of the kings and prophets.
- 3) To punish peoples that were an affront to Him because of their extreme wickedness and depravity (Leviticus 18).
- 4) To be a testimony to other peoples as God's covenant heart reached out to all nations (Gen. 12 & Joshua 2)

Here in chapter 10 of Joshua, Gibeon, a royal Canaanite city, capitulated to Israel by making a league with them. This caused panic and consternation to the 5 principal Kings of Canaan. As a result, they formed an alliance to attack Gibeon to try and re-capture this lost strategic city.

Remember, Gibeon was part of the Canaanite alliance that the Lord instructed Joshua not to make a league with along with the other 6 city-states mentioned in Deuteronomy 7. The interesting thing about this is that the Gibeonites knew this.

That is why they went to such extremes to fool Joshua and the Israelites into making a league with them!!!

- *(Deuteronomy 7:1-2; NKJV)*
- *(Luke 11:24-26; NKJV)*
- *(2 Peter 2:18-22; NKJV)*
- *(Proverbs 26:11):*

Verses 1-2:

Adonizedek, king Jerusalem, upon hearing of the destruction of Ai and Jericho, and the recently instituted peace between Gibeon and Israel, viewed the Gibeonite league as a dangerous trend in southern Canaan. He discerned that opposition against the Israelites was wearing down when such a great city as Gibeon, a royal city, one that was greater than Ai, established a league with Israel. Something had to be done.

An ancient proverb that says, *“hasn't the enemy of my enemy now become my friend?”*

19th century philosopher, Friedrich Nietzsche said, *“The best weapon against an enemy is another enemy.”* (Chinese civil war 1927 - 1949)

Verses 3-5:

The Jerusalemite king summoned other kings whose positions were threatened by Gibeon's association with Israel.

Now, Israel will have to expend precious resources to honor their league with Gibeon. This is now nothing more than a distraction, or a diversion to get them *“bogged down”* and more vulnerable!!

Verses 6-11:

Immediately upon hearing the Amorite encroachment around Gibeon, Joshua ascended from Gilgal, he and all the people of war with him, and all the mighty men of valor.

“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.” (1 Peter 5:8 NKJV)

Then Jonathan said to the young man who bore his armor, "Come, let us go over to the garrison of these uncircumcised; it may be that the LORD will work for us. For nothing restrains the LORD from saving by many or by few." (I Samuel 14:6; NKJV)

(David told the Philistine Giant, Goliath...) This day the LORD will deliver you into my hand, and I will strike you and take your head from you. And this day I will give the carcasses of the camp of the Philistines to the birds of the air and the wild beasts of the earth, that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel. Then all this assembly shall know that the LORD does not save with sword and spear; for the battle is the LORD's, and He will give you into our hands." (I Samuel 17: 46-47; NKJV)

Verses 12-14:

Joshua 10:13 says "*the sun did not hasten to set for an entire day,*" it is possible that a retardation for the sun's movement caused the rotation of the earth to take forty-eight hours rather than the usual twenty-four. But such an interpretation hardly silences the criticism of inevitable catastrophe (the earth rotates at approximately 1,000 mph. Its circumference is 24,000 miles at the equator. It takes 24 hours for the earth, resulting in 24,000 miles/24 hours = 1,000 mph). This is one of the favorite passages that the detractors, scoffers, and biblical critics love to attack. The Iliad, which was an epic poem apparently written by Homer during the 10 years Trojan War in about the 8th century B.C., he references King Agamemnon praying to Zeus to "*not let the sun go down before the Achaeans were victorious*".

"Declare His glory among the nations, His wonders among all peoples. For the LORD is great and greatly to be praised; He is to be feared above all gods. For all the gods of the peoples are idols, But the LORD made the heavens." (Psalm 96:3-5; NKJV)

Verses 15-20:

Joshua now completes the "*mopping up*" operation of southern Palestine.

Verses 21-28:

Upon returning to the cave, Joshua commanded that the pagan kings be brought out and told his men, “*put your feet upon the necks of these kings*”. This as a well-known Oriental symbol of victory and superiority, as Assyrian and Egyptian monuments attest. But Joshua’s command was more of encouragement than conceit (**v. 25**).

Verses 29-39:

No indication of time if given for the rest of this chapter, but the implication is that the rest of southern Canaan fell within weeks, perhaps days, from the point.

Verses 40-43:

The expanse of Joshua’s victories is now surveyed. All of the hill country south of Jerusalem between the Dead Sea and the Mediterranean Sea was subdued and destroyed.