**A Three-Part Series on the Book of Joshua: Legacy Makers – What will you leave behind? Part One**

**SBJ: Your Daily Battle**

**(Joshua 10: 1-15)**

***Pastor Datuk Kee Sue Sing***

Now Adoni-Zedek king of Jerusalem heard that Joshua had taken Ai and totally destroyed it, doing to Ai and its king as he had done to Jericho and its king, and that the people of Gibeon had made a treaty of peace with Israel and had become their allies. He and his people were very much alarmed at this, because Gibeon was an important city, like one of the royal cities; it was larger than Ai, and all its men were good fighters. So Adoni-Zedek king of Jerusalem appealed to Hoham king of Hebron, Piram king of Jarmuth, Japhia king of Lachish and Debir king of Eglon. “Come up and help me attach Gibeon,” he said, “because it has made peace with Joshua and the Israelites.”

Then the five kings of the Amorites – the kings of Jerusalem, Hebron, Jarmuth, Lachish and Eglon – joined forces. They moved up with all their troops and took up positions against Gibeon and attacked it.

The Gibeonites then sent word to Joshua in the camp at Gilgal: “Do not abandon your servants. Come up to us quickly and save us! Help us, because all the Amorite kings from the hill country have joined forces against us.” So Joshua marched up from Gilgal with his entire army, including all the best fighting men. The LORD said to Joshua, “Do not be afraid of them; I have given them into your hand. Not one of them will be able to withstand you.” After an all-night march from Gilgal, Joshua took them by surprise. The LORD threw them into confusion before Israel, so Joshua and the Israelites defeated them completely at Gibeon. Israel pursued them along the road going up to Beth Horon and cut them down all the way to Azekah and Makkedah. As they fled before Israel on the road down from Beth Horon to Azekah, the LORD hurled large hailstones down on them, and more of them died from the hail than were killed by the swords of the Israelites. On the day the LORD gave the Amorites over to Israel, Joshua said to the LORD in the presence of Israel: “Sun, stand still over Gibeon, and you, moon, over the Valley of Aijalon.” So the sun stood still, and the moon stopped, till the nation avenged itself on its enemies, as it is written in the Book of Jashar. The sun stopped in the middle of the sky and delayed going down about a full day. There has never been a day like it before or since, a day when the LORD listened to a human being. Surely the LORD was fighting for Israel! Then Joshua returned with all Israel to the camp at Gilgal. (Joshua 10: 1-15)

# Introduction

D-day (6 June 1944) is a significant day. On that day, there was a turning point in World War 2, and some would say, in world history because the Allied forces invaded the Nazis at Normandy beach. The first 24 hours of an invasion often decides the outcome, and it will be the longest day.

This passage relates the day the sun stood still in the midst of a fierce battle between Israel and an alliance of 5 kings.

The Israelite’s battles really are a picture of our own daily battle. If you are a Christian, then you are engaged in a battle, whether you like it or not. We have an enemy who desires to see us defeated and destroyed; to take away what is rightfully ours in the kingdom of God. This is an ongoing fight which can be a fierce one. Many Christians are defeated in their Christian lives because they are not seriously engaged in the fight.

**“The saddest symptom about many so-called Christians is the utter absence of anything like conflict and fight in their Christianity.” ~JC Ryle**

In every battle, we have a powerful ally who is at work to enable and fight for us.

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**The Big Idea:** In our daily battles which are unavoidable, simply ask God for victory.

We can apply the same principles Joshua employed in defeating the enemies:

# Understand the nature of our battle

So Joshua marched up from Gilgal with his entire army, including all the best fighting men. (Joshua 10:7)

For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. (Ephesians 6:12)

Nearly every battle a Christian will face is a spiritual battle. These battles will vary; between times of temptation, doubt, hopelessness, anxiety, despair, grief, sadness, loss or bereavement, opposition or criticism, betrayal, and to be humble and be our true selves. None of us are exempt from these. There have been times of great victories and blessings but at the same time, there have been many challenges and obstacles, missteps and mistakes. Our battle is against the triple alliance.

1.1 The triple alliance

The three chief enemies against whom we must wage war:

**First**, our battle is against the world – ‘the enemy around us’. This includes the love of worldly thing and the wish to be part of the world.

**Second**, it is against the flesh – ‘the enemy within us’. The flesh betrays us, sabotages us and undermines us even if we have a great desire to serve and follow God with our minds and bodies. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.

**Third**, it is against the devil – ‘the enemy above us’. The devil is a master strategist of the daily assault against us. He sometimes attacks openly or uses deviousness and craftiness but always with an unerring sense of where our weaknesses lie.

These three form an unbeatable combination. We are to march against the world, the flesh and the devil.

# Use every weapon at our disposal

## God’s promises (Joshua 10:8)

The LORD said to Joshua, “Do not be afraid of them; I have given them into your hand. Not one of them will be able to withstand you.” (Joshua 10:8)

We need to hold onto God’s Word.

### Fear not – that’s the key!

“But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.” (1 Corinthians 15:57)

Fear holds us back from great exploits of faith. The great breakthrough came when Joshua held fast to the promises of God, not to the weapons or the army.

When life is filled with difficulties, do we look at our own resources or do we look to God? Whom do we look to first? The Lord never saved us so we could be defeated. When He saved us, He did so with a promise that we can have the assurance of victory in the end.

There is a critical difference between having the promises of God and holding fast to the promises of God! Many of us have the promises of God, but few hold fast to the promises of God and act on them!

## God’s help (Joshua 10:10-11)

The LORD threw them into confusion before Israel, so Joshua and the Israelites defeated them completely at Gibeon. Israel pursued them along the road going up to Beth Horon and cut them down all the way to Azekah and Makkedah. As they fled before Israel on the road down from Beth Horon to Azekah, the LORD hurled large hailstones down on them, and more of them died from the hail than were killed by the swords of the Israelites. (Joshua 10:10-11)

The more amazing thing is the hailstones hit only the Canaanites, not the Israelites. This is supernatural help against all odds. Joshua was a military commander who could rely on the heavens.

God is involved in our battles. His help is what we all need. We also need to work with God.

### Work with God

“The Lord threw them into confusion…Israel pursued them…killed by the swords of the Israelites.” (Joshua 10:10-11)

The Lord did His part, and the Israelites did their part. They worked together. God could have done it by Himself but He wants our cooperation. We are to work with God, not that He needs us, but there are some areas in which He wants us to be involved in and some tasks He wants us to do. We are also to work as hard as we can in witnessing, sharing, ministry, prayer and giving. When we work in partnership with God, amazing things happen.

## God’s power (Joshua 10:12-14)

On the day the LORD gave the Amorites over to Israel, Joshua said to the LORD in the presence of Israel: “Sun, stand still over Gibeon, and you, moon, over the Valley of Aijalon.” So the sun stood still, and the moon stopped, till the nation avenged itself on its enemies, as it is written in the Book of Jashar. The sun stopped in the middle of the sky and delayed going down about a full day. There has never been a day like it before or since, a day when the LORD listened to a human being. Surely the LORD was fighting for Israel! (Joshua 10:12-14)

God stopped the sun in the heavens and extended the daylight hours for Joshua and his army to finish the battle – upon Joshua’s request. No man in history had ever done what Joshua did. When he stood before his army, he called their attention and it was a deliberate act of faith by addressing the sun and commanding it to stand still over Gibeon.

We may question whether God can really do this and hence question the bigness of God. We all know the Earth orbits around the Sun on its axis at in inclination of 23 degrees. Why then did Joshua address the Sun to stand still rather than the Earth? Joshua was simply describing what we see in the sky every day.

Some suggested explanations:

* Poetical
* Refraction
* Slower rotation of the earth
* Earth literally stopped rotating

If God is the Creator of the universe, He could also choose to suspend the laws of the universe. It is within His power to do so. If He can create it, He can control it. The miracle allowed the Israelites victory over the Canaanites.

### The audacity of Joshua’s prayer

The most exciting and instructive aspect of this story:

“There has never been a day like it before or since, a day when the Lord listened to a man. Surely the LORD is fighting for Israel!” (Joshua 10:14)

God heard the prayer of a mere man. There is power in prayer. Our God is a prayer-listening, a prayer-answering and prayer-exceeding God.

### Girl Praying Clip ArtDare we pray audaciously?

Audacious prayer honours God because we actually believe our God is a powerful God and His promises are true.

This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us—whatever we ask—we know that we have what we asked of him. (1 John 5:14-15)

If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him! (Matthew 7:11)

# As a church, if we were to pray boldly and mean it and implore God to use us mightily, what would happen?

# Keep marching forward (Joshua 10:29-39)

Do not stop advancing. Keep advancing to gain new territory. In any battle, there is no substitute for victory.

Then Joshua and all Israel with him moved on from Makkedah to Libnah and attacked it. The Lord also gave that city and its king into Israel’s hand. The city and everyone in it Joshua put to the sword. He left no survivors there. And he did to its king as he had done to the king of Jericho.

Then Joshua and all Israel with him moved on from Libnah to Lachish; he took up positions against it and attacked it. The Lord gave Lachish into Israel’s hands, and Joshua took it on the second day. The city and everyone in it he put to the sword, just as he had done to Libnah. Meanwhile, Horam king of Gezer had come up to help Lachish, but Joshua defeated him and his army—until no survivors were left.

Then Joshua and all Israel with him moved on from Lachish to Eglon; they took up positions against it and attacked it. They captured it that same day and put it to the sword and totally destroyed everyone in it, just as they had done to Lachish. Then Joshua and all Israel with him went up from Eglon to Hebron and attacked it. They took the city and put it to the sword, together with its king, its villages and everyone in it. They left no survivors. Just as at Eglon, they totally destroyed it and everyone in it. Then Joshua and all Israel with him turned around and attacked Debir. They took the city, its king and its villages, and put them to the sword. Everyone in it they totally destroyed. They left no survivors. They did to Debir and its king as they had done to Libnah and its king and to Hebron. (Joshua 10:29-39)

Daily our battle goes on; only the enemy looks different each day. Our objectives however, must be clear:

## The fight to conquer (Joshua 10:16-27)

We have to be ruthless to conquer our enemies.

Now the five kings had fled and hidden in the cave at Makkedah. When Joshua was told that the five kings had been found hiding in the cave at Makkedah, he said, “Roll large rocks up to the mouth of the cave, and post some men there to guard it. But don’t stop; pursue your enemies! Attack them from the rear and don’t let them reach their cities, for the Lord your God has given them into your hand.”

So Joshua and the Israelites defeated them completely, but a few survivors managed to reach their fortified cities. The whole army then returned safely to Joshua in the camp at Makkedah, and no one uttered a word against the Israelites. Joshua said, “Open the mouth of the cave and bring those five kings out to me.” So they brought the five kings out of the cave—the kings of Jerusalem, Hebron, Jarmuth, Lachish and Eglon. When they had brought these kings to Joshua, he summoned all the men of Israel and said to the army commanders who had come with him, “Come here and put your feet on the necks of these kings.” So they came forward and placed their feet on their necks. Joshua said to them, “Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged. Be strong and courageous. This is what the Lord will do to all the enemies you are going to fight.” Then Joshua put the kings to death and exposed their bodies on five poles, and they were left hanging on the poles until evening. At sunset Joshua gave the order and they took them down from the poles and threw them into the cave where they had been hiding. At the mouth of the cave they placed large rocks, which are there to this day. (Joshua 10:16-27)

Joshua confronted the five kings and publicly pronounced victory over them and put them to death. Spiritually speaking, we need to do the same. In dealing with the “kings” of our life, for example our secret sins, we should:

* Confront them
* Drag them out
* Proclaim victory over them

We will never prosper or move on in the power of God until our sins are handled God’s way. Our flesh must die on a daily basis or it will keep us from walking in victory and power.

## In God alone (Joshua 10:40-43)

So Joshua subdued the whole region, including the hill country, the Negev, the western foothills and the mountain slopes, together with all their kings. He left no survivors. He totally destroyed all who breathed, just as the Lord, the God of Israel, had commanded. Joshua subdued them from Kadesh Barnea to Gaza and from the whole region of Goshen to Gibeon. All these kings and their lands Joshua conquered in one campaign, because the Lord, the God of Israel, fought for Israel. Then Joshua returned with all Israel to the camp at Gilgal.(Joshua 10:40-43)

“… the LORD, the God of Israel, fought for Israel.” (Joshua 10:42)

It is the Lord who gave Joshua and the Israelites the victory. Their hope, and our hope, should be in God alone. The battle is the Lord’s and He will fight for His people.

# Sad Little Cloud Clip ArtConclusion

What battle are you wrestling with in life? Why can’t you seem to gain the victory over it? Why can’t you defeat your enemy?

Church, why not stop. Ask God to intervene, ask for a miracle that only **he** can do and then listen and obey His voice and do it His way!

When burdens are heavy upon our shoulders, release them unto the Lord. Lay hold of His promises and act on them.

Sermon summary and prayer points contributed by Zhenli.





SERMON: Your Daily Battle

**Pray:**

* We will recognise our battles and our sins that need to be defeated.
* We will always be battle ready since battle rages on constantly in our daily Christian walk.
* We will have boldness to pray audaciously.
* We will act on our faith and work with God in ministry.
* We will find our strength in God’s power.

***Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. (Ephesians 6:13)***

**MINISTRIES &EVENTS: CHOSEN – A Men’s Conference**

*On October 20th – 22nd.*

**Pray:**

* Men who attend will learn how to fulfil their purpose in life.
* Christian men will be the salt and light in the workplace and leaders in the church.
* We will have strong Christian families built on Godly values.
* For the preparations ahead, speakers and volunteers assisting with the conference.

***He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God. (Micah 6:8)***

MALAYSIA MY NATION: BULLYING IN SCHOOLS

*There have been recent cases of bullying cases in schools resulting in serious injury. For example, there was a Form Two student who suffered from bleeding in the brain after being assaulted by his seniors.*

**Pray:**

* Students will be taught right moral values and to have a clear conscience from the home environment.
* Teachers will be aware of bullying and to take steps to protect the children who have been victimised.
* Parents will be vigilant for signs if their children are bullied and to provide comfort and love.
* Laws and regulations will be enforced.

***Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it. (Proverbs 22:6)***

* **A TRANSFORMED WORLD: Child Refugees**

*(CNN) – UNICEF has reported that almost 50 million children globally have been displaced from their homes. Nearly half of these child refugees are from Syria or Afghanistan. Children have been injured and killed in conflicts worldwide.*

**Pray:**

* People will have compassion on refugees in their midst.
* Child refugees will have access to shelter, food, healthcare and education.
* The Church will show mercy and extend help to the needy.
* Governments will take steps to protect these children and offer appropriate help for their families.
* Protection from harm for the children.

***"The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.' (Matthew 25:40)***