



Pointers and questions on

JOSHUA 1-12

Session 8

10:1-43

Cleaning up in the south

Summary

- 10:1-15** Other local kings conspire to attack Gibeon, whose inhabitants, in their view, have acted treacherously by forming an alliance with the Israelites. Joshua takes an army to defend Gibeon and routs their enemies. God supernaturally extends daylight to enable the job to be completed.
- 10:16-28** Joshua captures, and later kills, the kings of the five cities that had joined forces against the Gibeonites.
- 10:29-43** The Israelites go on to systematically overthrow the remaining cities in the southern half of the country.

Questions to get you thinking

1. These five Amorite kings, previously at each other's throats, now joined forces to face a common threat. What will it take, do you think, to bring together the divided Christian church with its many denominations?
2. Why do you think Joshua answered the Gibeonites' appeal for help since there is no indication that his pact with them extended to a military treaty. In fact, if he had turned down their request, the five kings would have defeated them, thus ridding Joshua of an embarrassing problem.
3. Look at verses 7-11 and how they alternate between, on the one hand, the Lord and, on the other, Joshua and Israel. Any lessons here for how to live the Christian life?
4. The LORD is the God of heaven and earth. In what two ways does he show it in this chapter? Can he still intervene in the normal order of things this way?
5. The LORD listened to a man (v14). What can this teach us about prayer?
6. Look at verses 24-25. What effect would putting their feet on the defeated kings' necks have had on Israel's leaders? Is there a place for symbolic actions in the Christian life? Talk about this in connection with baptism, the laying on of hands and the Lord's Supper. These are applicable at all times, but could there also be room for one-off symbolic actions?
7. Notice what Joshua said to his commanders at the beginning of v25. Compare his words with 1:6-7, 9 and 8:1. Who spoke the same words there? Are *you* ready to share with other Christians the things that the Lord has shown you from his Word or by his Holy Spirit?
8. Look at verses 29-43. These conquests are described in a brief, routine way – very different from the detailed and exciting descriptions of the conquests of Jericho and Ai. Why do you think this is, since the end result was the same and both were tributes to the help given by the LORD? Does this have any bearing on the testimonies given by (a) new Christians and (b) those who have walked with God for many years?
9. The LORD, the God of Israel, fought for Israel (v42). He still fights for his people – the church today. What kind of battles are we called to fight? In what ways can we expect him to help us in those battles?

