

The day the sun stood still.



**Joshua 10**

*United - we stand  
With God's help  
We have the victory*

# There are different reactions to people becoming followers of Jesus

Some are:-  
Pleased, puzzled, interested



Some feel betrayed, abandoned, angry



Some turn to violent opposition



In Joshua's day, this was the reaction

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 were living near them. 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 attack Gibeon," he said, "because it has made peace with Joshua and the Israelites."

Cf. Psalm 2



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.



A coalition of the southern cities.

Why did they attack Gibeon?

- Anger/revenge
- Strategic position

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."



Aligning yourself with God's people can get you into trouble!

What should you do when that happens?



A 'perfect' opportunity for Israel to forget about the promise?

“You got yourselves into this mess now ....”

Or joined together in a common cause?

**UNITED - WE STAND**



**OR**



# With God's help

when you call in prayer



It shows God's continued ordering of events in how things develop

They face all the southern kingdoms together in one go!

So Joshua marched up from Gilgal with his entire army, including all the best fighting men.

No hesitation – rapid response!

No half- hearted response – the best men.

Uphill (3,300 feet) – 30 mile journey by night!

**RAPID  
RESPONSE**

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."

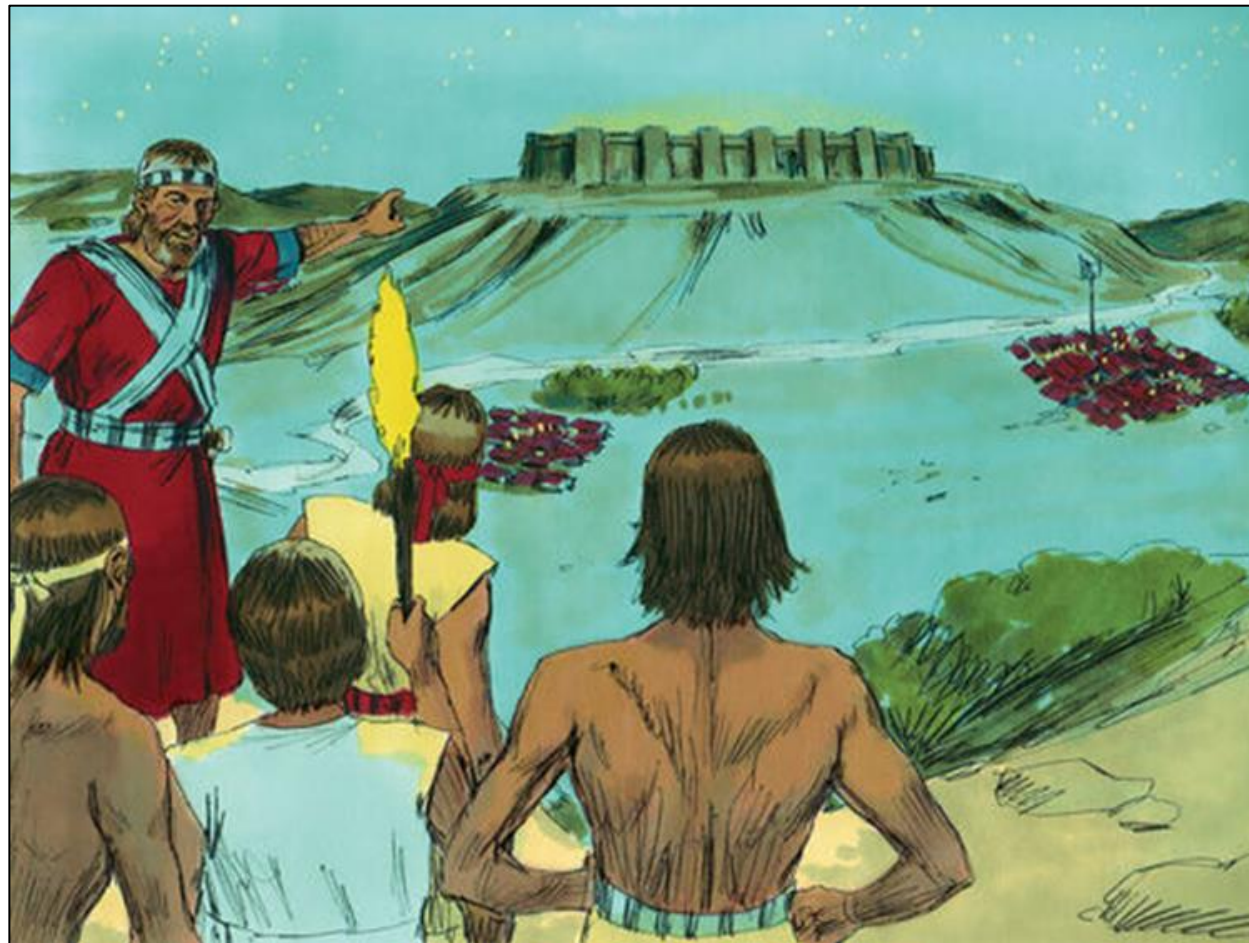
God's encouragement

All you have to do is fight – we have won already!



**PROMISED**

After an all-night march from Gilgal, Joshua took them by surprise. The **LORD** threw them into confusion before **Israel**, who defeated them in a great victory at Gibeon.

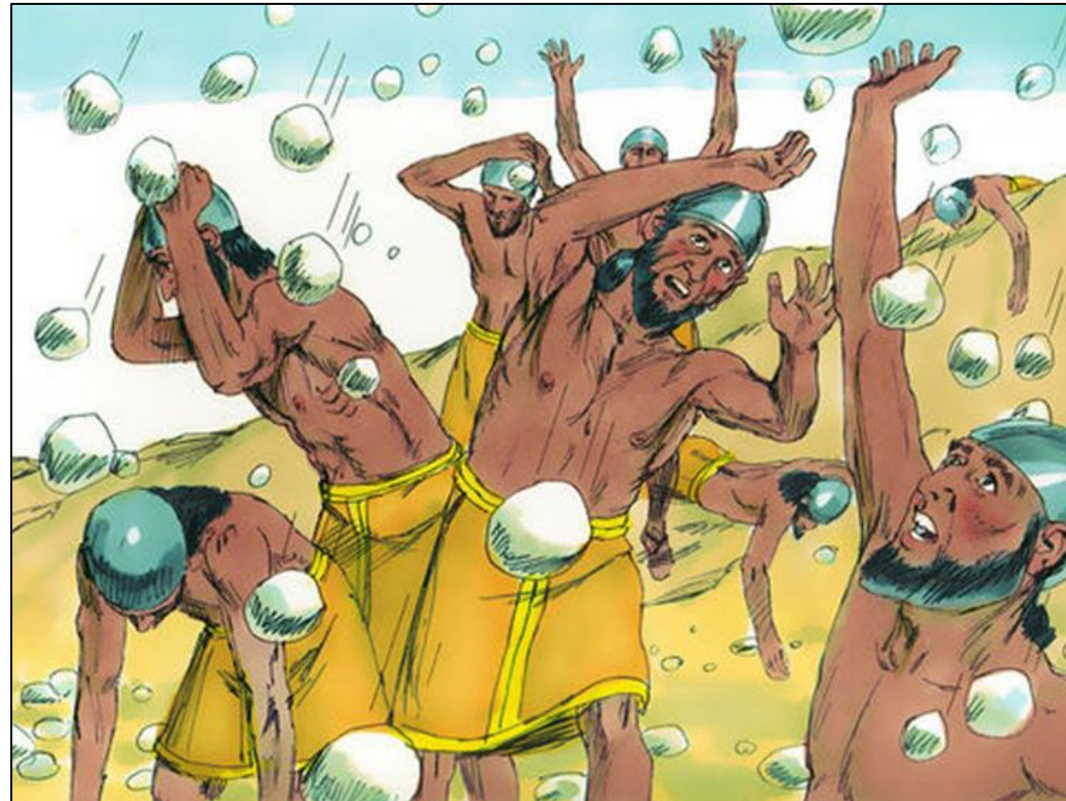


Israel pursued them along the road going up to Beth Horon and cut them down all the way to Azekah and Makkedah.



As they fled before Israel on the road down from Beth Horon to Azekah, **the LORD hurled** large hailstones down on them from the sky, and more of them died from the hailstones than were killed by the swords of the Israelites.

God can use his own weapons!



On the day **the LORD gave** the Amorites over to Israel, Joshua said to the LORD in the presence of Israel.. "O sun, stand still over Gibeon, O 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.

More of God's  
weapons!



Why did Joshua  
say it?



How did God do it?



It was a MIRACLE

There has never been a day like it before or since,  
a day when the LORD listened to a man.

A long time later (700 yrs) ....



Isaiah 38:7-8 "'This is the LORD's sign to you (Hezekiah) that the LORD will do what he has promised: I will make the shadow cast by the sun go back the ten steps it has gone down on the stairway of Ahaz.'" So the sunlight went back the ten steps it had gone down.

There has never been a day like it before or since,

A very long time later (1400 yrs) ....



Matthew 27:45 From noon until three in the afternoon darkness came over all the land.

There has never been a day like it before or since,

Some day soon ? ....



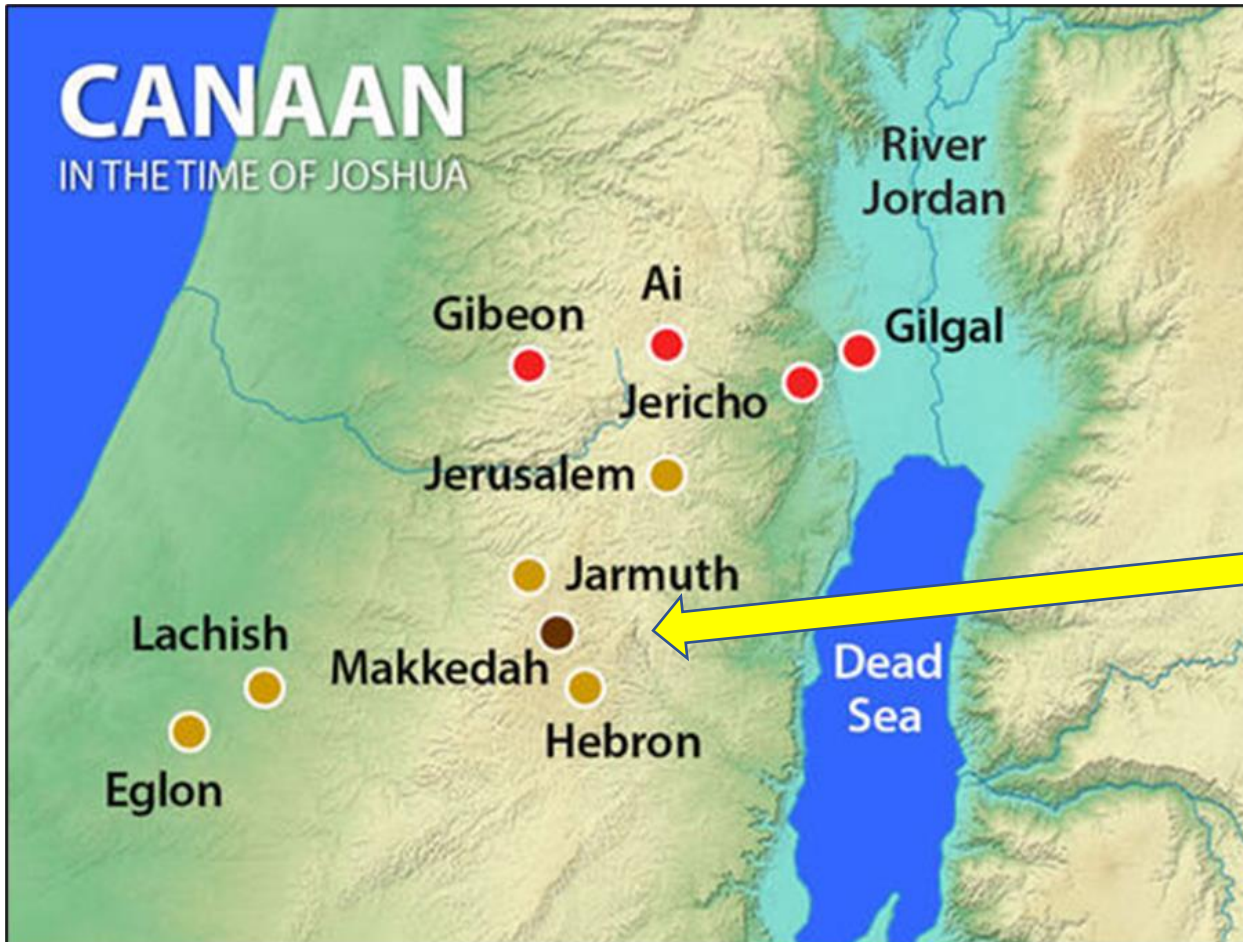
The *sun* will  
become dark,  
and the **MOON** will  
turn blood red before  
that *great* and **TERRIBLE**  
day of the *Lord* arrives.  
- Joel 2:31 (NLT)



Zechariah 14:6-7 On that day there will be neither sunlight nor cold, frosty darkness. It will be a unique day--a day known only to the LORD--with no distinction between day and night. When evening comes, there will be light.

# God helps

Surely the LORD was fighting for Israel!



After liberating Gibeon, Joshua establishes a temporary base at Makkedah in order to subdue the southern kingdoms

# We have the Victory

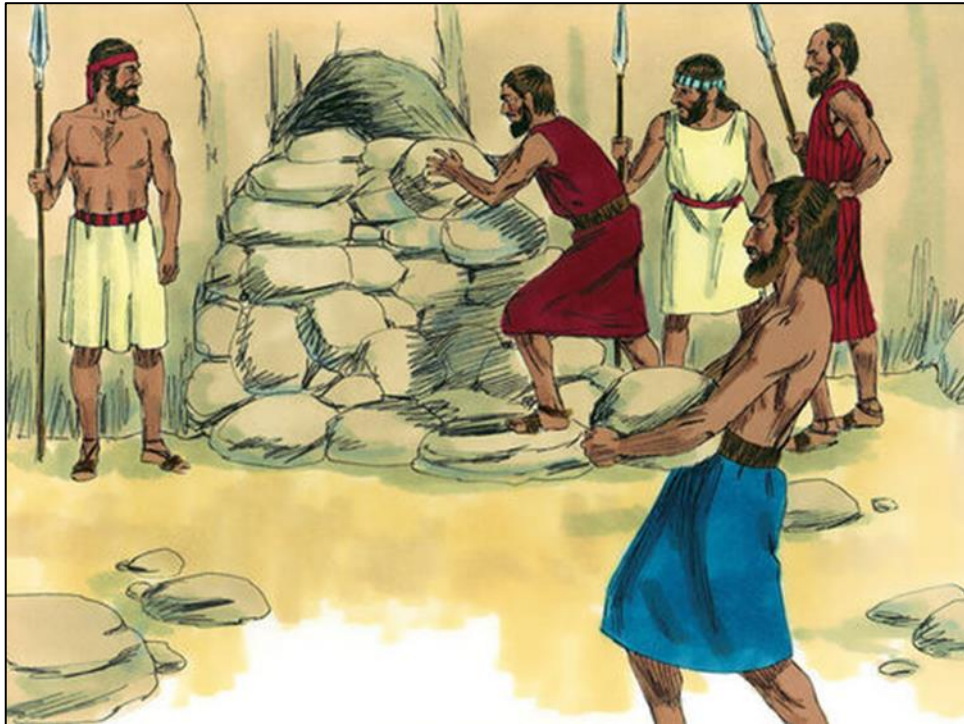
The Gibeonites were rescued!

The coalition of the South was broken and was about to be destroyed



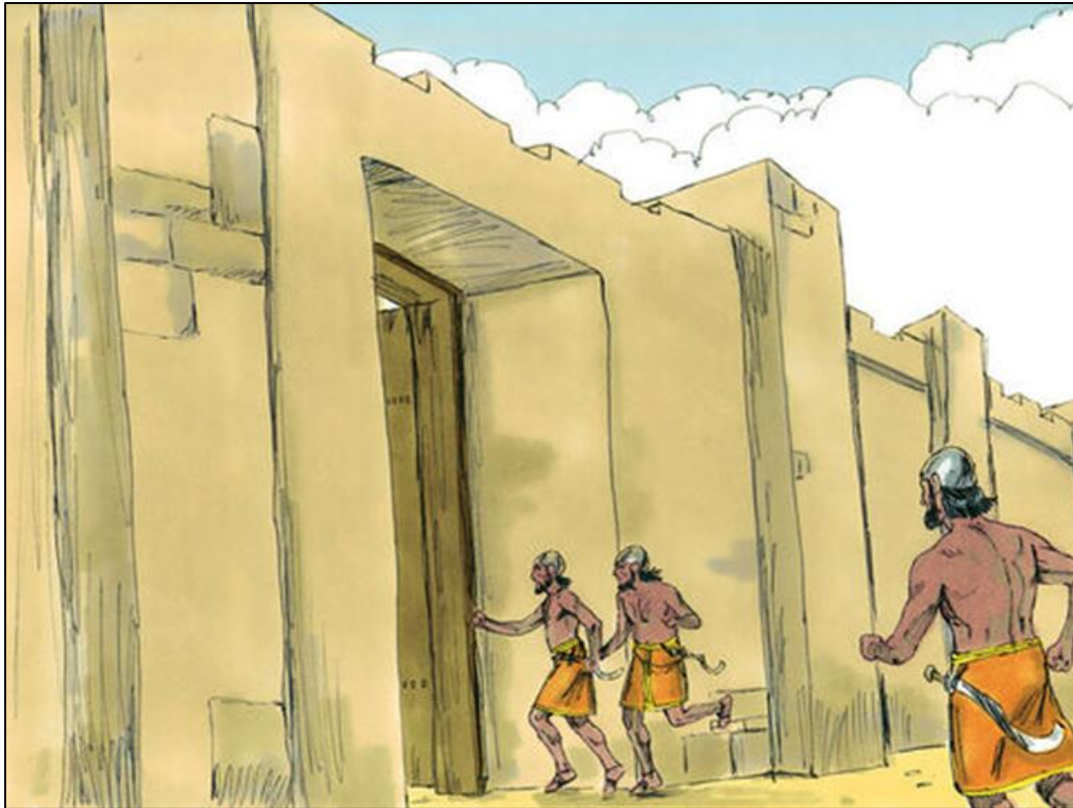
**WON**

Jos 10:16-19 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."



Get your priorities right.  
Some things can be left till later.

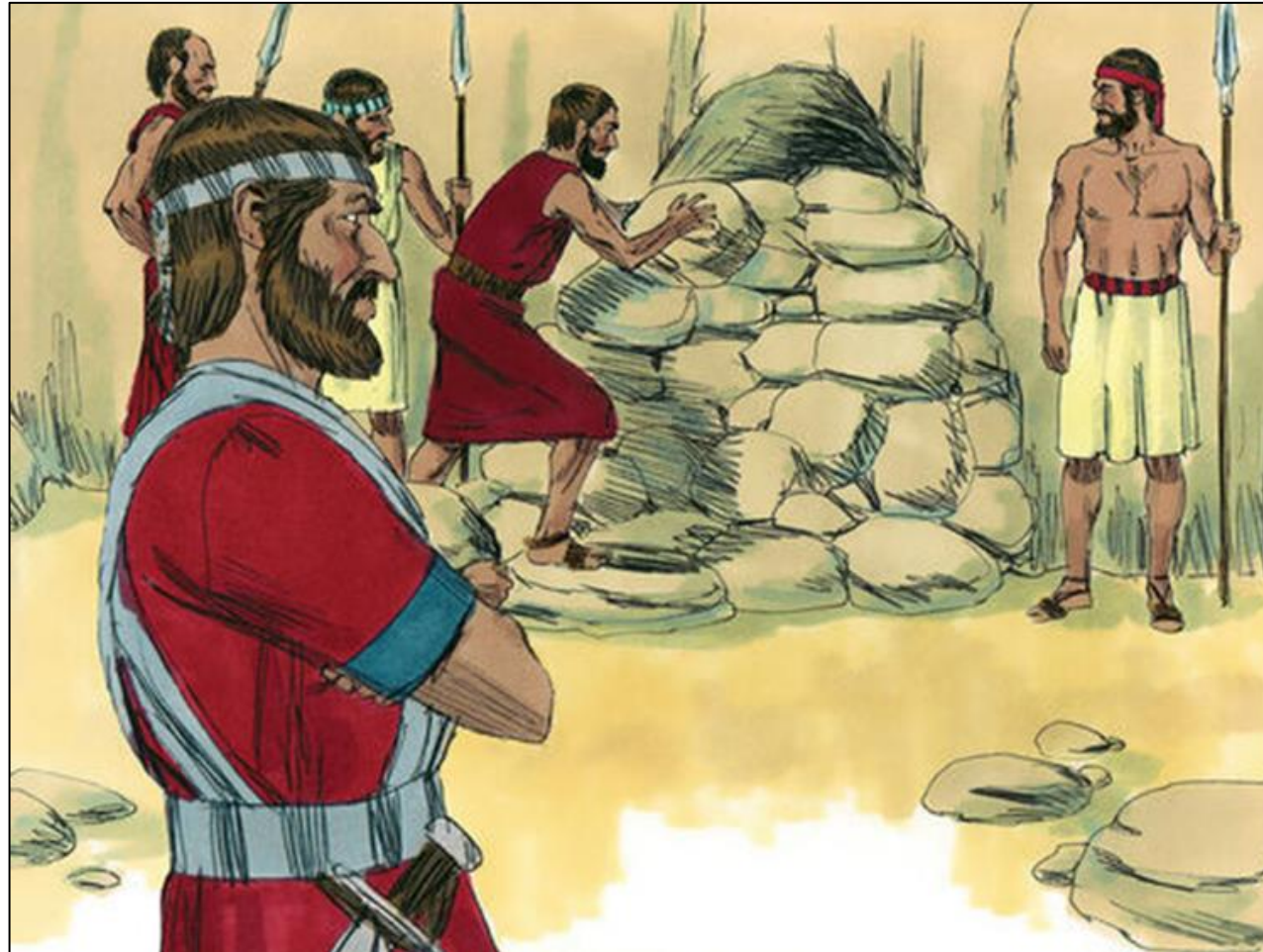
Joshua 10:20-21 So Joshua and the Israelites defeated them completely, but a few survivors managed to reach their fortified cities. The whole army then returned safely to Joshua in the camp at Makkedah, and no one uttered a word against the Israelites.



The opposition was silenced



Joshua 10:21-22 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.

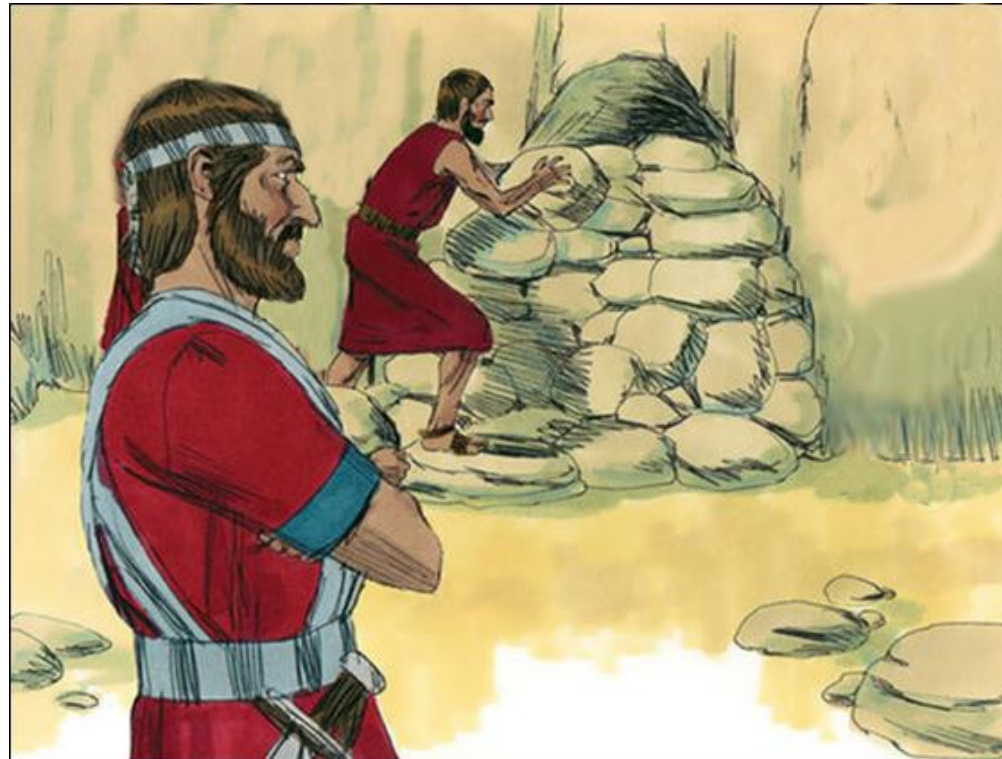


Joshua 10:24-27 When they had brought these kings to Joshua, he summoned all the men of Israel and said to the army commanders who had come with him, "Come here and put your feet on the necks of these kings." So they came forward and placed their feet on their necks. Joshua said to them, "Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged. Be strong and courageous. This is what the LORD will do to all the enemies you are going to fight."

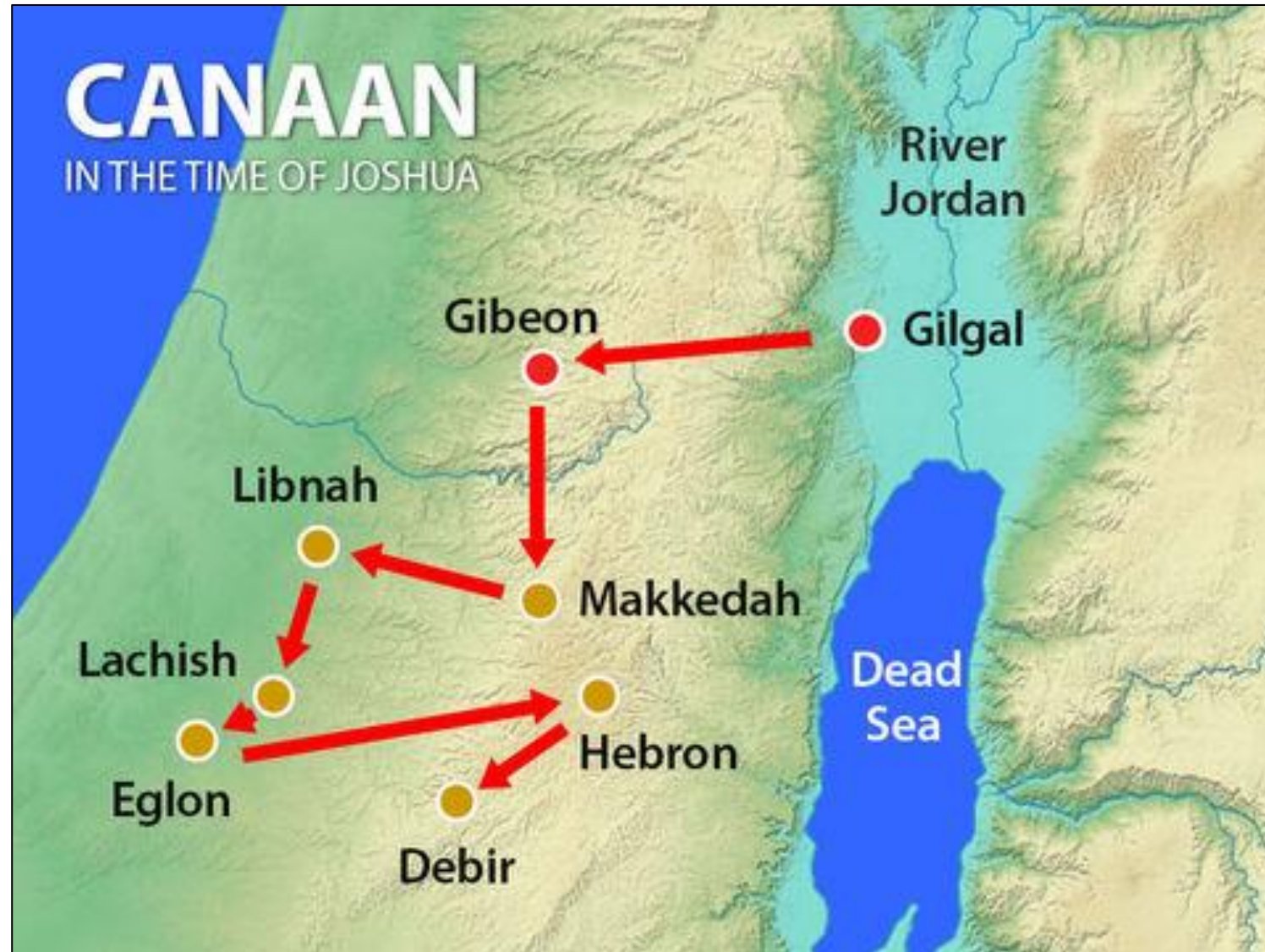


Romans 16:20 The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus be with you.

Joshua 10:26-27 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.



# The Campaign against the cities of the captured kings



Joshua 10:28 That day Joshua took Makkedah. He put the city and its king to the sword and totally destroyed everyone in it. He left no survivors. And he did to the king of Makkedah as he had done to the king of Jericho.



Joshua 10:28-30 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. ...



Joshua 10:32 The LORD gave Lachish into Israel's hands, and Joshua took it on the second day.

Joshua 10:34 Then Joshua and all Israel with him moved on from Lachish to Eglon; they took up positions against it and attacked it.

Hebron then Debir



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. ... 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.

They went out from the place of commitment in faith and came back there victorious.





# Finally ...

Ephesians 6:10-12 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armour of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. 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.

2 Corinthians 10:4 The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds.



# Finally finally...

And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb  
and by the word of their testimony,  
and they did not love their lives to the death.

Revelation 12:11