**THE DAY THE SUN & MOON STOOD STILL**

*Wandering in the Wilderness*

SS Lesson 28

7/20/2025

Joshua 10:8-16

**Lesson Review:** In our twenty-seventh lesson in this series, we looked at the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of the Gibeonites. Their actions showed us the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. In their deception, the Gibeonites used \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to gain acceptance from the Israelites. The Gibeonites disguised their true identities to avoid the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of their sin. This shows how often people want to avoid God’s judgment or chastening, but they are unwilling to truly confront the source of their problems. Sinful man often thinks that he can hide his sins. Secondly, Israel’s choice showed us the danger of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. In their zeal for battle, Joshua and the leaders failed to ask God for His \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Also, the Israelites made a big mistake because they based their decision on \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ instead of faith. The Israelites leaned on what they could see, touch, and reason out. This reminds us of the Bible’s command to trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Thirdly, the outcome of the Israelites’ encounter with the Gibeonites showed us the consequences of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Unfortunately, Israel was bound by their \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, even after discovering the truth of the situation. As a result, Israel had to work around their mistake rather than simply \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ it. They could not go back and change what had been done. They even had to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the Gibeonites from battle. That battle is what we are going to be looking at today when we look at the miracle of the sun and the moon standing still!

1. **JOSHUA REFUSED TO LET HIS FAILURES HINDER HIS FAITH IN GOD'S ABILITY & POWER.**
2. **Notice that Joshua did not have to fear defeat this time because he had God’s confirmation of success before going into the battle.** *Joshua 10:8 “And the LORD said unto Joshua, Fear them not: for I have delivered them into thine hand; there shall not a man of them stand before thee.”* God’s promise in verse eight gave Joshua something solid to stand on before the fighting ever began. This was not a vague hope or a wishful feeling; it was a clear word from the Lord that victory was guaranteed. In both of the failures that occurred, Joshua had not sought an answer from the Lord before taking action. He sent men to AI without consulting the Lord, and he made a deal with the Gibeonites without asking God for direction. This time, Joshua had a clear answer. He didn’t have to question whether the battle was worth fighting or whether God would come through; he already knew the outcome. That certainty freed him from hesitation and empowered him to ask God to do something miraculous. He wasn’t trying to manipulate God’s will—he was acting boldly within it. When we are grounded in the promises of God, it removes the fear of failure and the paralysis of uncertainty. We are not called to timid living but to bold obedience, especially when we know the Lord has spoken. Like Joshua, we must learn to move with full confidence when God has already given us the answer.
3. **Notice that Joshua had already seen God’s power through the hail stones that rained down from the sky.** *Joshua 10:11 “And it came to pass, as they fled from before Israel, and were in the going down to Bethhoron, that the Lord cast down great stones from heaven upon them unto Azekah, and they died: they were more which died with hailstones than they whom the children of Israel slew with the sword.”* Before Joshua ever asked for the sun and moon to stand still, he witnessed an unmistakable act of divine intervention. The hailstones served as proof that God was fighting on Israel’s behalf, and it stirred Joshua’s faith even further. This was not the time to hold back or assume God had limits. He had already demonstrated His authority over nature in spectacular fashion. The falling hail from heaven wasn't random; it was targeted and effective, revealing that God was in full control of the battlefield. When God starts to move, we shouldn’t shrink back: we should press forward in faith. Small victories and signs of God’s help encourage us to believe Him for even greater things.
4. **Notice that Joshua asked God for a very specific miracle, even though he had never seen such a thing done before.** *Joshua 10:12 “Then spake Joshua to the Lord in the day when the Lord delivered up the Amorites before the children of Israel, and he said in the sight of Israel, Sun, stand thou still upon Gibeon; and thou, Moon, in the valley of Ajalon.”* Joshua didn’t make a general request. He asked for something concrete, extraordinary, and unprecedented. He had never seen anyone pray for the sun to stop, and yet he asked anyway. This bold request wasn't based on tradition or prior experience. It was rooted in the belief that God could do whatever was needed to fulfill His promise. Joshua’s faith was not limited by logic or history. He believed in a God who was not bound by time, nature, or human understanding. We shouldn’t be afraid to pray boldly and specifically. Even if we’ve never seen it done before, faith stretches beyond past experiences and relies in the living God who is still able to do wonders. Remember that every miracle had a first time that it occurred!
5. **JOSHUA RECOGNIZED THAT THE BATTLE COULD NOT BE WON WITHOUT THE LIGHT.**
6. **Notice that Joshua recognized that the darkness provided an opportunity for the enemy to gain an advantage in the battle.** *Joshua 10:9 “Joshua therefore came unto them suddenly, and went up from Gilgal all night.” John 3:19 “And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.”* Joshua knew that the enemy would use the cover of darkness to scatter, escape, or even regroup for another attack. The darkness would hinder Israel’s ability to pursue them, and the momentum of the victory could be lost. From a spiritual standpoint, darkness represents the realm where Satan operates most effectively—where lies, temptation, fear, and confusion thrive. Joshua’s bold prayer was a request that God would not allow that window of opportunity for the enemy. We live in a world that is filled with much darkness, and it seems that Satan is working in every place. Thankfully, we can have confidence that God can help us to deal with the darkness and wickedness of this world. Of course, it is important for us as believers to hate the darkness that is all around us. Too many men are lovers of darkness more than light.
7. **Notice that Joshua recognized that the light was absolutely necessary for the children of God to have victory in the battle.** *John 8:12 “Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.” Psalm 119:105 “Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.” Ephesians 5:8 For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light:”* Light was not just helpful: it was essential. Without it, God’s people could not see the path ahead, could not identify the enemy, and could not finish the work they had begun. Joshua’s request for the sun and moon to stand still shows that he saw the light as God’s provision for victory. In the same way, the light of God’s presence and truth is not optional in the Christian life; it is vital. Christ is called the Light of the World, and without Him, we stumble, lose direction, and become ineffective in spiritual warfare. Victory is not won in the shadows but in the clear light of obedience, Scripture, and prayer. We must walk in the light. We need the Word of God to be the lamp that guides our feet and enlightens our choices. We cannot afford to walk in darkness. If we do, we will certainly stumble and fall.
8. **JOSHUA RECEIVED AN UNMATCHED ANSWER FROM GOD. THE LORD LITERALLY STILLED THE SUN & MOON. THE MIRACLE WOULD HAVE BEEN FELT WORLDWIDE.**
9. **Notice that the Lord hearkened to the voice of a man, showing how willing He is to respond to the bold prayers of His people.** *Joshua 10:13-14 “And the sun stood still, and the moon stayed, until the people had avenged themselves upon their enemies. Is not this written in the book of Jasher? So the sun stood still in the midst of heaven, and hasted not to go down about a whole day. 14 And there was no day like that before it or after it, that the LORD hearkened unto the voice of a man: for the LORD fought for Israel.”* This miracle stands as a testimony to what happens when God’s people pray in faith. Joshua didn't just pray for something small; he asked God to do something no one had ever seen before. The Bible makes a point to highlight that this was unlike any other day, not just because of the sun standing still, but because God hearkened. He listened, responded, and acted upon Joshua’s request. This should stir every believer’s heart to pray bold, faith-filled prayers. God is not distant or unwilling. He delights to show Himself strong for those who trust in Him.
10. **Notice that Joshua’s bold prayer had far-reaching effects that were felt by countless others all around the world.** *Habakkuk 3:11 “The sun and moon stood still in their habitation: at the light of thine arrows they went, and at the shining of thy glittering spear. 12 Thou didst march through the land in indignation, thou didst thresh the heathen in anger.”* Joshua's request was not a private or personal matter. When he prayed, the Lord answered in such a dramatic way that the very course of nature was altered. The sun and moon stood still, meaning the entire rhythm of day and night was disrupted. People across the globe would have noticed that something was different. Crops, animals, schedules—everything would have been touched. All of that happened because one man prayed in faith. It is a reminder that when God moves in response to prayer, the impact often reaches far beyond what we can see. Never underestimate how your walk with God and your prayer life can influence others. When we walk by faith, the ripple effect can extend far beyond us.