

# The Lord Fought for Israel

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“7 So Joshua ascended from Gilgal, he and all the people of war with him, and all the mighty men of valor. 8 And the LORD said to Joshua, "Do not fear them, for I have delivered them into your hand; not a man of them shall stand before you." 9 Joshua therefore came upon them suddenly, having marched all night from Gilgal. 10 So the LORD routed them before Israel, killed them with a great slaughter at Gibeon, chased them along the road that goes to Beth Horon, and struck them down as far as Azekah and Makkedah. 11 And it happened, as they fled before Israel *and* were on the descent of Beth Horon, that the LORD cast down large hailstones from heaven on them as far as Azekah, and they died. *There were* more who died from the hailstones than the children of Israel killed with the sword. 12 Then Joshua spoke 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 still over Gibeon; And Moon, in the Valley of Aijalon." 13 So the sun stood still, And the moon stopped, Till the people had revenge Upon their enemies. *Is* this not written in the Book of Jasher? So the sun stood still in the midst of heaven, and did not hasten to go *down* for about a whole day. 14 And there has been no day like that, before it or after it, that the LORD heeded the voice of a man; for the LORD fought for Israel.” (Joshua 10:7-14 NKJV)

Gibeon had tricked Israel into a treaty by pretending to be from a far country. Now this act made peace between Israel and Gibeon, but it infuriated the other kings in the land. It might have been for fear that their subjects would also abandon their kingdoms and attach themselves to Israel that these kings sought the destruction of Gibeon. Whatever the reason, they were determined to make a statement against Gibeon, and so they prepared and attacked.

Surrounded and outnumbered Gibeon sends a plea to Israel for help. Joshua marches all night from Gilgal and comes upon these armies and a great slaughter ensues. Those that Joshua and his men did not kill, the Lord killed with great hailstones.

What is amazing about this incident is the extreme outrage of Israel and God over the action of these wicked kings. Why is such vengeance sought? Why does God stop the sun and moon so that Joshua had the time to take his vengeance?

The commentators don't talk about this much, but God stands up for those who seek His protection. Truly, these Gibeonites had tricked Joshua, but they did so because they feared his God. It is doubtful that this was an act of faith, but they attached themselves to God through Israel. They came under Israel's umbrella of protection.

This act gave motive to the other kings. Therefore, the motive to killed one whose only crime was to seek protection is particularly heinous to God and Joshua. This opened the door to an incredible display of righteous vengeance by God. It also created a great opportunity to take care of these nations all at once, which was in the providence of God.

God protects His children. That doesn't mean there won't ever be a time when the enemy gangs up on you. There will be days when all hope seems to be gone. However, there is always hope in the Lord. There is nothing too big, nothing too fierce that His hand of protection can't stay.