

## The Lord God fought For Israel

Joshua 10:28-43.

Sunday evening, April 18, 2010.

### I. The great southern campaign.

- A. In the passage before us we have Joshua's great southern campaign which would bring all of southern Israel into his hands.
- B. All the cities of the kings who had been defeated in "Joshua's long day" were included with the exception of Jerusalem which would not be taken for many more years.
- C. Sobering indeed is this account as city after city falls, and all their inhabitants are killed with the sword. Rich and poor, young and old, weak and strong; all share the same fate as summarized for us in Vs. 40, "He (Joshua) left none remaining, but utterly destroyed all that breathed, as the Lord God of Israel had commanded.
- D. Seven cities in all fall into the hands of Israel; no doubt their surrounding communities were included, so that the whole of the south-land is now in the hands of Israel. The whole campaign seems to have been a matter of weeks as there was no visit with their families until it was all over.

### II. Some lessons we may glean from this passage.

- A. Observe how great the sin and wickedness of these nations and cities was in the eyes of the Lord. How He visited them with such a great and thorough destruction.
  1. Its only parallels in redemptive history are the judgment of the flood in Noah's days, and the judgment on Sodom and Gomorrah.
  2. These events teach us that when the Lord visits us with his justice, it is all over for us.
  3. These events point to a day when the lord will visit the earth again, and make an end of sin and of sinners. The day of grace and of God's forbearance will draw to a close. Sinners will not be allowed to sin with impunity forever.
  4. We should be especially cautious not to regard ourselves as more righteous than these idolatrous nations. By nature we are very quick to do so. We think in our hearts: "Those nations deserved it because of their idolatry," and they did. But so do we because of our idolatry. Our idols may be more sophisticated than theirs; they may be more socially acceptable; they may even be regarded virtuous in the eyes of many. But in the eyes of the Lord they are detestable idols worthy of judgment.
  5. The only difference for now, between those Canaanite cultures and our own culture is the longsuffering and patience of God.
  6. This is the point the Lord Jesus is trying to teach us in Luke 1:1-9. In those days Herod had slaughtered certain Galileans, and he had mingled their blood with that of their sacrifices. Another incident had occurred; a tower under construction in Siloam collapsed and killed 18 workers. Were these men who were killed worse sinners than those still alive and well? The Lord says "no," rather those still alive and well continue to live under the patience and longsuffering of God, but events like these are meant to assure us

that such patience will run out, and as such we should run to the Lord for repentance, grace, forgiveness and restoration.

- B. Observe here too how much work may be done when we walk in the way of the good works, which God has before ordained, that we might walk in them. Eph. 2:10.

Observe how much work may be done when we have a mind to do the work, and we give ourselves whole heartedly to it.

With these two elements in place a third one was not lacking. The Lord Himself owned their labors. Indeed He united Himself to their efforts, and in them defeated all His and their enemies.

This is a wonderful picture of the union between the Lord as the Warrior King and His people in the old dispensation.

### III. The Lord God fought for Israel.

As the conclusion of this chapter points out, the success of this campaign was owed to the Lord uniting Himself as Warrior King to the efforts of His people.

The same truth still applies today.

- A. We live in a different age. It is the age of the Lord's forbearance and patience. It is the age in which the Lord still gives opportunity for repentance.

The age in which He is gathering a people for Himself out of every tongue and tribe and nation.

- B. In this context a work is to be done as well.

1. In this context too, like Israel of old, we may walk in the pathway of the good works which God has before ordained that we might walk in them.

2. In this context too, much work may be done if we have a mind to do the work, and when we give ourselves wholeheartedly to it.

3. And in this context too, the Lord is pleased to unite Himself to the humble efforts of His people. He does so, not as the Warrior King who executes vengeance against all ungodliness and idolatry of men, but as the gracious Savior Redeemer who as yet still gathers His lambs in His arms.

4. As Joshua and Israel owed their success to the Lord owning their labors, so we do today in the work of the gospel. Pray that we would seek the Lord's face in this regard. All too often we neglect this and we put our faith in our own efforts, and then we are surprised that the Lord does not bless them.

### IV. Some battles are the Lord's alone.

Union with Christ, whether as Warrior King, or as gracious Savior Redeemer is an important truth for our everyday life.

Before these blessings could become a reality however, the Lord God alone fought some battles for Israel.

A. The battle of a sinless life in a hostile world.

B. The battle against the powers of darkness that overwhelmed Him.

C. The battle of enduring the wrath of God for the sins of the world.

D. The battle of satisfying divine justice; that is the law of God.

Let us never forget that the Lord God fights for Israel because the Lord God has fought for Israel, and won.