

JOSHUA'S LONG DAY

WHY STUDY THE BOOK OF JOSHUA?

JOSHUA'S NAME IS THE SAME AS YESHUA IN HEBREW WHICH MEANS SALVATION.

The book of Joshua follows the Torah

ALL THE FEASTS ARE FOUND IN THE CONQUERING OF THE PROMISED LAND:

PASSOVER: JOSHUA 2- RAHAB AND THE SCARLET CORD OVER THE WINDOW ENTRANCE TO HER HOME

UNLEAVENED BREAD: JOSHUA 5:11

FIRST FRUITS: JOSHUA 5: 1-12, JOSHUA 4:1-6

SHAVOUAT: JOSHUA 3:10-17

TRUMPETS: JOSHUA 6

YOM KIPPUR: JOSHUA 10

SUKKOT: 21:43-45

For millennia scholars have pulled apart and dissected the events of the 10th chapter of Joshua trying to decipher the time and reason for Joshua's command to have the sun and moon stand still. This celestial event has been associated with eclipses, aliens, cosmic forces and so on. But have we been asking the *right* question of why this story is one of the most significant of the old testament?

1. Could the request for more time in the day be because Joshua wanted to keep the **Sabbath**? Is there anything in these chapters that indicate that the purpose of the command for the sun and moon to stand still was because Joshua needed more time before the onset of **Sabbath** to finish his campaign?
2. Can the events of the Long Day happen in the future?
3. Are the events in Joshua a type and shadow of things to come?

Joshua 1:8-9

(8) This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success

(9) Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage, be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed; for the Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest.

Joshua 5: 13-14

(13) And it came to pass, when Joshua was by Jericho, that he lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold there stood a man over against him with his sword drawn in his hand: and Joshua went unto him, and said unto him, Art thou for us , or for our adversaries?

(14) And he said, Nay; but as captain of the host of the Lord am I now come. And Joshua fell on is face to the earth, and did worship, and said unto him, What saith my lord unto his servant?

The Lord promised Joshua that he would go before him and that the Lord would fight for him. The Captain of the Lord's army even appeared to Joshua to assure him of the upcoming victories! (Joshua 5: 13-15) As long as Joshua did not veer off the law, the Lord would be with him. (Joshua 1: 8-9) No one could have been more confident in the Lord than Joshua.

The story of Joshua's long day really begins in chapter 9. The events chronicled take place over the course of a week. Joshua's conquest of the promised land started with the city of Jericho and then proceeding with the city of Ai.

9



After conquering Jericho and Ai Joshua camped his troops in nearby Gilgal. News of these conquests quickly spread to the nearby city of Gibeon 25 miles away. The princes of Gibeon knew they were next to be conquered therefore, they devised a scheme to make “peace” with Israel.



Dressing in old clothes and shoes and packing moldy bread to “fake” a long trip, the princes of Gibeon traveled to Gilgal and requested a league or covenant with Joshua for peace. Joshua’s mistake was not taking the matter before the Lord, but instead went forward and made a covenant with the princes believing they were from faraway. After 3 days the truth and identity of the princes of Gibeon was discovered but it was too late. The covenant had already been made. It is at this point in scripture our Sabbath story begins.

Joshua 9:17

*And the children of Israel journeyed, and came unto their cities on the **third day**. Now their cities were Gibeon, and Chephirah, and Beeroth, and Krjath Jearim. (18) And the children of Israel smote them not, because the princes of the congregation had sworn unto them by the Lord God of Israel. And the congregation murmured against the princes.*

Reference to the **third** day is clear. The Hebrew word used here is shelishee (שלישי).

It is the exact word used in Genesis 1:13 for the creation of the third day. This word is always used in reference to the 3rd day of the week. From creation to the time of Joshua, there were no names for the days of the week for they were always known as the first day, the second day, the third day and so on. This time marker in verse 17 tells us that the day of the week is the **third** day. (our Tuesday)

Joshua 9:18

And the children of Israel smote them not, because the princes of the congregation had sworn unto them by the Lord God of Israel. And all the congregation murmured against the princes. (vs 19) But all the princes said unto all the congregation, we have sworn unto then by the Lord God of Israel: now therefore we may not touch them.

It is in the next few verses that tell how Joshua deals with the prince's deception. He curses them and makes them bondmen and hewers of wood and drawers of water for the house of God. (Joshua 9:23) The **fourth day** ends in verse 27 with the conclusion of the curse.

The fifth day begins:

Joshua 10 :1-5

(1) Now it came to pass, when Adoni-zedec king of Jerusalem had heard how Joshua had taken Ai, and had utterly destroyed it, as he had done to Jericho and her king, so he had done to Ai and her king; and how the inhabitants of Gibeon had made peace with Israel, and were among them

(2) That they feared greatly, because Gibeon was a great city, as one of the royal cities, and because it was greater than Ai and all the men thereof were mighty

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(3) Wherefore Adoni-zedec king of Jerusalem sent unto Hoham king of Hebron, and unto Piram king of Jarmuth, and unto Japhi'a king of La'chish, and unto Debir king of Eglon, saying

(4) Come up unto me, and help me, that we may smite Gibeon: for it hath made peace with Joshua and with the children of Israel

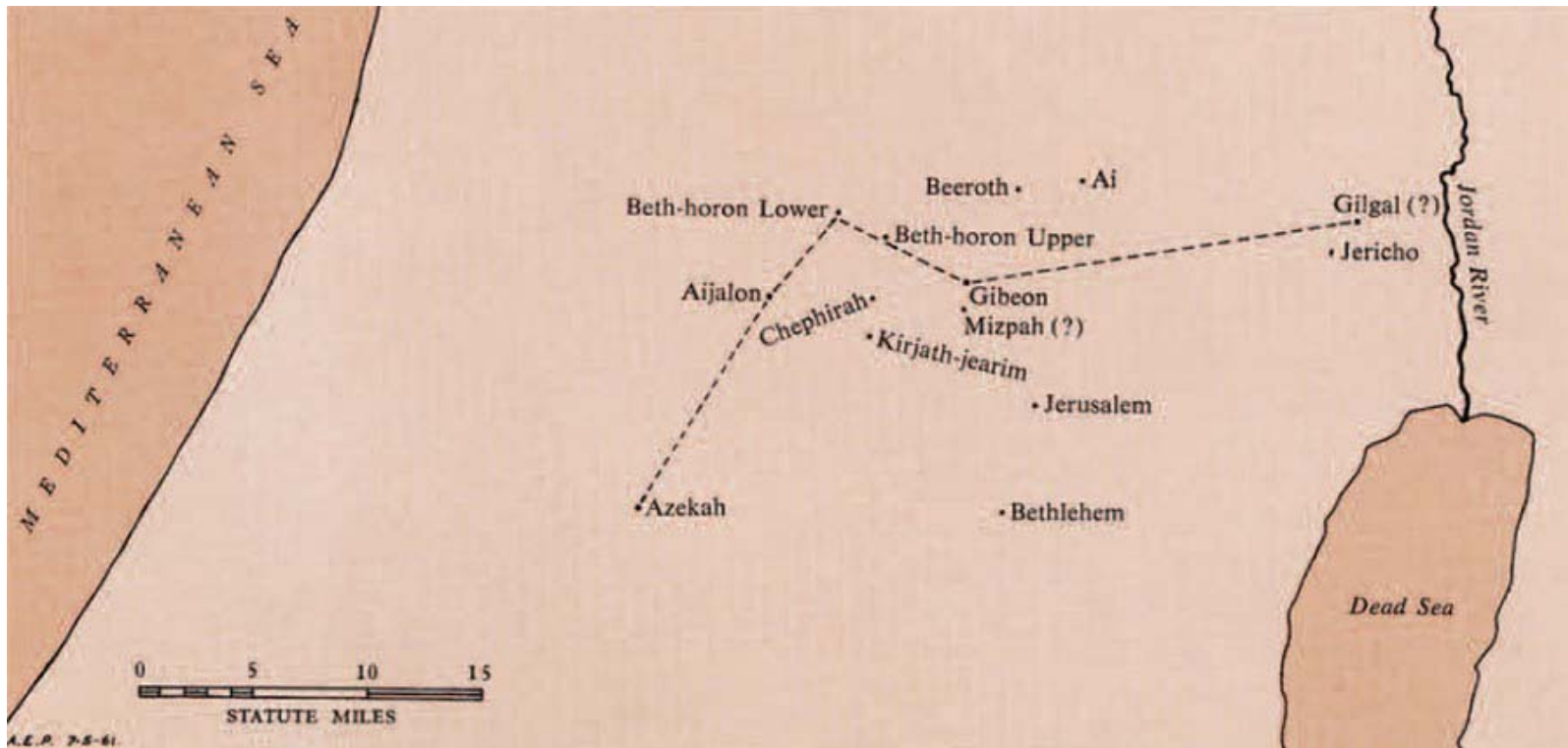
(5) Therefore, the five kings of the Amorites, the King of Jerusalem, the King of Hebron, the King of Jarmuth, the King of La'chish, the King of Eglon gathered themselves together, and went up they and all their hosts and encamped before Gibeon, and made war against it.

The Hebrew word for “It came to pass” is hayah
ה'הstrongs #1961

To cause, to come, to follow, happen, altogether

This word is word indicates the *order* of events not necessarily a time frame.

Less than six miles from Gibeon on the same plateau, Jerusalem the city of the newly formed Amorite league got wind (within a few hours) of the events in Gibeon and the fall of Ai and Jericho. King Adoni-zdec of Jerusalem had to act quickly. The Israel occupation of Jericho, Ai and now Gibeon, gave the Israelites control of the northern plateau and severed Palestine in two. King Adoni-Zedec quickly sent word to four neighboring kings who set their armies on course for Gibeon.



The Gibeonites hearing of the alliance between the five Kings knew they would be overwhelmed by the Amorites within hours before Joshua had any inkling. Acting swiftly the Gibeonites quickly sent word to Joshua in Gilgal for help. Joshua honoring his covenant with the Gibeonites, marched his army through the night (25 miles) to come to the aid of Gibeon. It is with these events (Joshua 10:9-10) scripture marks the beginning of the **SIXTH** day.

Joshua 10: 9-11

(9) Joshua therefore came unto them suddenly, and went up from Gilgal all night.

(10) And the Lord discomfited them before Israel, and slew them with a great slaughter at Gibeon, and chased them along the way that goeth up to Beth-horon, and smote them to Azekah, and unto Makkedah.

(11) And it came to pass, as they fled from before Israel, and were in the going down to Beth-horon that the Lord cast down 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.

The Hebrew word for stone in is eben אבן Strong's # H68
Build, a stone, carbuncle, mason, plummet, chalk, hail, head, sling stone weight

Is 28:21 For the Lord shall rise up as in Mount Perazim, he shall be wroth as in the valley of Gibeon, that he may do his work, his strange work; and bring to pass his act, his strange act.

Is 30:30 and the Lord shall cause his glorious voice to be heard, and shall shew the lighting down of his arm, with the flame of a devouring fire, with scattering, and tempest, and hailstones.

Rev 16:21 And there fell upon men a great hail out of heaven, every stone about the weight of a talent: and men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail; for the plague thereof was exceeding great

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.

(13) And the sun stood still, and the moon stayed, until the people had avenged themselves of 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.

Habakkuk 3:11-12

(11)The sun and moon stood still in their habitation: at the light of thine arrows they went and at the shining of they glittering spear

(12) Thou didst march through the land in indignation, thou didst thresh the heathen in anger.

The word "stand still" is damam בַּמָּם

It means to be dumb; by implication, to be astonished, to stop; also to perish-cess, be cut down forbear, hold peace quiet self, rest be silent, keep silence be still, tarry, wait

Joshua 10:13-14

(13) 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 the heaven, and hasted not to go down about a whole day

(14) And there was no day like that before or after it, that the Lord hearkened unto the voice of a man: for the Lord fought for Israel.

Joshua 10: 15-27

(15) And Joshua returned, and all Israel with him, unto the camp to Gilgal.

(16) But these five kings fled, and hid themselves in a cave at Makkedah.

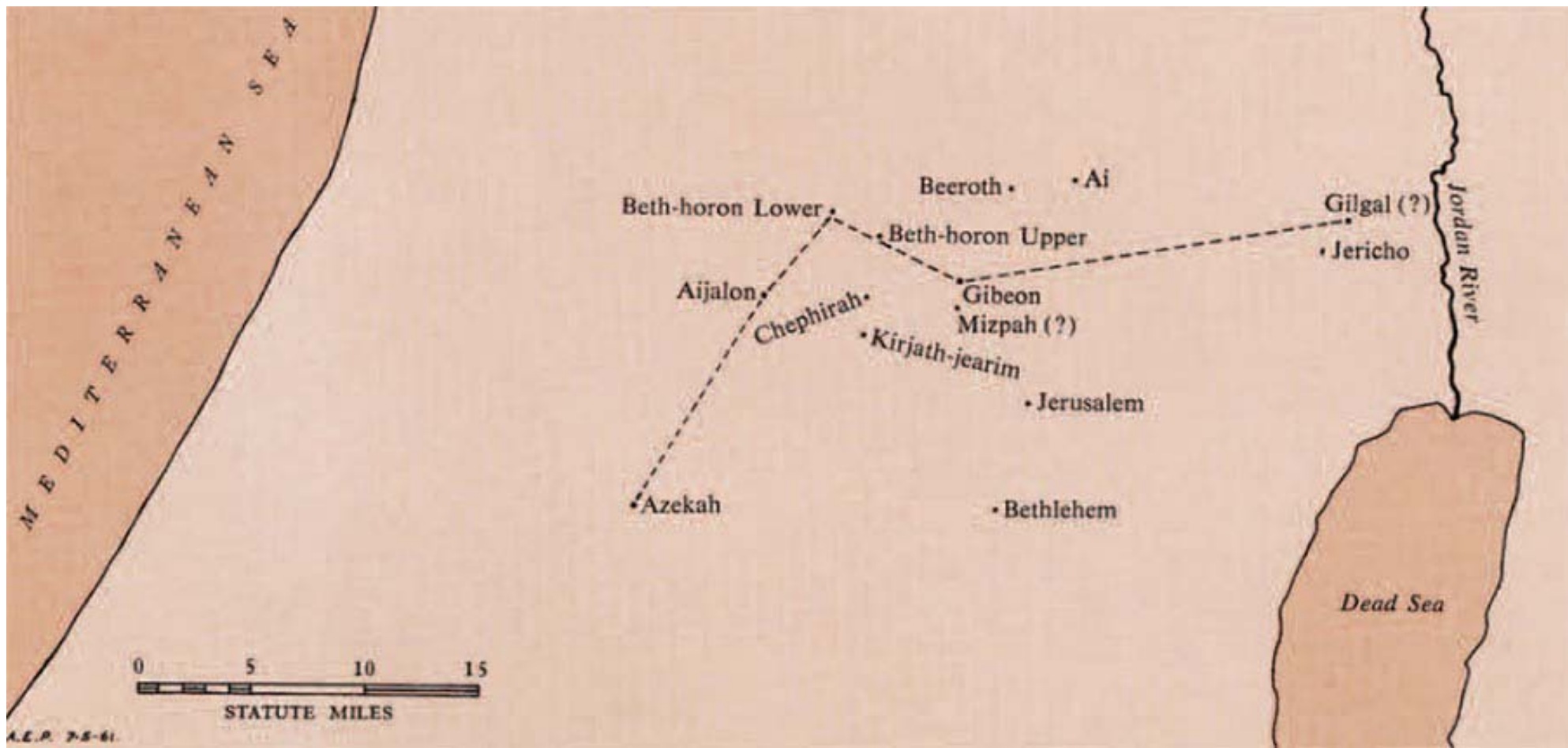
(17) And it was told Joshua, saying, The five kings are found hid in a cave at Makkedah

(18) And Joshua said, Roll great stones upon the mouth of the cave, and set men by it for to keep them:

(19) And stay ye not, but pursue after your enemies, and smite the hindmost of them; suffer them not to enter into their cities; for the Lord your God hath delivered them into your hand.

(20) And it came to pass, when Joshua and the children of Israel had made an end of slaying them with a very great slaughter, till they were consumed, that the rest which remained of them entered into fenced cities.

(21) And all the people returned to the camp to Joshua at Makkedah in peace; none moved his tongue against any of the children of Israel



(22) Then said Joshua, Open the mouth of the cave, and bring out those five kings into me out of the cave.

(23) And they did so, and brought forth those five kings unto him out of the cave, the king of Jerusalem, the King of Hebron, the King of Jarmuth, the King of Lachish, and the king of Eglon.

(24) And it came to pass, when they brought out those kings unto Joshua, that Joshua called for all the men of Israel, and said unto the captains of the men of war which went with him, Come near, put your feet upon the necks of these kings. And they came near, and put their feet upon the necks of them.

(25) And Joshua said unto them Fear not, nor be dismayed, be strong and of good courage: for thus shall the Lord God to all you enemies against whom ye fight.

(26) And afterward Joshua smote them and slew them, and hanged them on five trees until evening

(27) And it came to pass at the time of the going down of the sun, that Joshua commanded, and they took them down off the trees, and cast them into the cave wherein they had been hid, and laid great stones in the cave's mouth, which remain until this very day.

We have seen that Joshua was obedient to the Law of God.

The events of the Long Day can be a shadow of the events of the return of Messiah

There can be another day like the Long Day