

SUPERNATURAL WEAPONS

Southern Campaign of the Conquest involved three parts.

- Gibeonite peace treaty (Josh.ch.9)
- Gibeon war (Josh.10:1-27)
- Major cities captured (Josh.10:28-43)

The important strategic defense positions were conquered during the Gibeon war of the Southern Campaign (Josh.10:41-43). It pretty much broke the back of Israel's enemies in conquest of the land.

The explanation for such a tremendous victory is given in Josh.10:42: "All the kings and their lands Joshua conquered in one campaign, because the Lord the God of Israel, fought for Israel."

God will disclose three more supernatural weapons of warfare during the Southern Campaign (Josh.10:10-14).

_____, _____ and _____.

You will recall that in the Central Campaign, God used miracles with the Jordan Crossing and the wall of Jericho. These miracles caused the enemies hearts to melt (Josh.5:1).

What about the Christian and spiritual warfare?

"For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses. We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ." (2 Cor.10:3-5)

Weapons of warfare

- Divinely powerful for destruction of fortresses
- Destroying things raised up against the knowledge of God
- Decision to take every thought captive to the obedience of Christ.

This study will study FIVE aspects of the Supernatural Weapons used in the Southern Campaign.
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1. The second part of the Southern Campaign involved the king of Jerusalem leading a coalition army against Gibeon (Josh.10:1-5).

Notice once again the role of military intelligence as the king of Jerusalem makes preparation for warfare (Josh.10:1-2).

Gibeon was 1 of 31 city-states in the Palestine (Josh.12:7-24).

The Gibeonites appealed to Joshua and their peace treaty with Israel for help against this attack (Josh.10:6-7).

2. The soldiers of Gibeon were described as gibbowrim (Josh.10:2). A gibbowr was a veteran decorated combat soldier.

Gideon was declared an Israelite gibbowr: "And the angel of the Lord appeared to him and said to him, 'The Lord is with you O valiant warrior.'" (Judges 6:12)

“Suffer hardship with me, as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. No soldier in active service entangles himself in the affairs of everyday life, so that he may please the one who enlisted him as a soldier.” (2 Tim.2:3-4)

Good Soldier of Jesus Christ

- Suffer orientation
- Service orientation
- Superior orientation

The rest of the nations in the southern region were fearful of Gibeon’s military siding with Israel. They apparently didn’t think that Israel would interfere with their attack upon Gibeon. Yet the Israelite army marched all night uphill to fight for the Gibeonites (20 - 25 miles/ Josh.10:9).

3. This makes the three miracles performed on the Southern Campaign even more spectacular.

They would overshadow the gibbawrim of both Israel and Gibeon.

Three miracles were performed by the Lord.

1 st miracle: “And the Lord confounded (hamam / kal impf) them.” (Josh.10:10)

2 nd miracle: “The Lord threw (shalak / hiphil. Pf) large stones from heaven on them (hailstones).” (Josh.10:11)

3 rd miracle: “O sun, stand still (damam / kal impv) at Gibeon, and O moon in the valley of Aijalon **until** the nation avenged themselves of their enemies.” (Josh.10:12-13)

4. The third miracle is referred to as the longest day in human history.

(Josh.10:12-14) “And the sun stopped (amad / kal impf) in the middle of the sky, and did not hasten to go down for about a whole day (keyom tamim).” (Josh.10:13)

It resulted in an extension of daylight for battle. “And there was no day like that before it or after it, when the Lord listened to the voice of a man; for the Lord fought for Israel.” (Josh.10:14)

“For about a whole day” is reference to **23 hours and 20minutes**. Joshua needed an extension of daylight to complete the battle, so he prayed for a prolonged day. This God gave by slowing down the earth’s rotation, making one full day rotation last nearly 48 hours (Gen.1:14-19) (day 4).

The other **40 minutes missing** is recorded in Isa. 38:8. “Behold, I will cause the shadow on the stairway, which has gone down with the sun on the stairway of Ahaz, **to go back ten steps**. (10 degrees equal 40 min.) So the sun’s shadow went back ten steps on the stairway on which it had gone down.”

(King Hezekiah mortal illness; 2 Kings 20:1-11)

5. One important lesson to learn is the power of prayer.

“And there was no day like that before it or after it, **when the Lord listened to the voice of a man**; for the Lord fought for Israel.” (Josh.10:14)

Notice the boldness of Joshua to demand that sun and moon stand still and the sun stopped in the middle of the sky (Josh.10:12-13; Hab.3:11).

“And this is the confidence which we have before Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, he hears us. And if we know that He hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests which we have asked from Him.” (1 John 5:14-15)

“Do not fear them, for I have given them into your hands; not one of them shall stand before you. (Josh.10:8) “For the Lord fought for Israel.” (Josh.10:14)