

The Sun Stood Still

11-27-22

Joshua 10:13 (NIV)

The sun stood still,
and the moon stopped,
till the nation avenged itself on its enemies.

As we look at this incredible miracle, it is worth looking at what led up to this event. As we saw last week the Gibeonites tricked Joshua into making an alliance with them. Now they are in trouble and Joshua is obligated to help them. Although Joshua is obligated by a bad decision, the LORD still tells him to go ahead, and HE will give them the power to conquer. The LORD said, “Do not be afraid of them; I have given them into your hand. Not one of them will be able to withstand you.” This should be an encouragement to all of us. Through God’s grace and mercy, HE never leaves us or forsakes us and continues to lead and protect us even when we mess up! Not only that but as we repent and keep our eyes on Jesus, God HIMSELF will intervene more powerfully than we could ever expect. Like Joshua, we go into battle:

Joshua 10:11 (NIV) NO/OH

As they fled before Israel, the LORD hurled large hailstones down on them, and more of them died from the hail than were killed by the swords of the Israelites.

Put this in perspective. We have a large army or hopeless situation before us, and “boom” hailstones fall from the sky and annihilates our problems. **The NT lesson: The impossible standing before us will disintegrate as we move forward.**

We in our fleshly nature say that this impossible and we would be correct. **However, God is telling us that this is a “small thing” for the creator of heaven and earth.** This is God’s specialty. Not only that, one miracle will be followed by an even greater miracle. God is pouring so much favor out on Joshua that he does not have enough time to complete the military victory. Therefore, Joshua asks the LORD to have the sun to stand still.

Joshua 10:12-13 (NIV) NO/OH

¹²On the day the LORD gave the Amorites over to Israel, Joshua said to the LORD in the presence of Israel:

“Sun, stand still over Gibeon,
and you, moon, over the Valley of Aijalon.”

¹³The sun stood still,
and the moon stopped,
till the nation avenged itself on its enemies.

This is not an issue to God. God even does this same miracle for King Hezekiah when he made the request through Isaiah the prophet.

2Kings 20:11 (NIV)

Then the prophet Isaiah called on the LORD, and the LORD made the shadow go back the ten steps it had gone down on the stairway of Ahaz.

God not only stops the sun, but HE also causes it to go backwards. Thus, we see the shadow move backwards. Some of us will say, this is not possible. I cannot believe this.

But if we can't believe this, we are ultimately questioning if God can do any miracles. God is Creator of all things which is itself evidence of HIS majesty.

Fact:

Psalm 8:3 (NIV) NO/OH

When I consider your heavens,
the work of your fingers,
the moon and the stars,
which you have set in place.

Fact:

Psalm 148:4-5 (NIV) NO/OH

⁴Praise him, you highest heavens
and you waters above the skies.

⁵Let them praise the name of the LORD,
for at his command they were created.

The Lord created everything by HIS WORD. HE ordered and regulated the world. This means the order and regularity of the heavenly bodies is because of God's creative involvement.

NT Lesson: We know God can do anything. Like the disciples we fail to grasp the majesty of God presiding over creation. Jesus pointed this unbelief as the reason for their lack of power.

Matt.17:20 (NIV)

Jesus replied, "Because you have so little faith. Truly I tell you, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you."

Faith as small as a mustard! This is saying that if we have the smallest faith, we can move a mountain. **“Faith smaller than a mustard see is no faith!”** So, this is saying that if we have “any” faith at all we can move a mountain.

It is important to observe here that it is not the ‘amount’ of faith which brings the impossible within reach, but the power of God, which is available when we have “any” faith at all. Faith is not from our abilities, but from God alone.

Philippians 4:13

I can do all things through HIM who gives me strength.

With any evidence of faith, we pray with authority.

Ephesians 3:20 (NIV)

Now to HIM who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us.

“Immeasurably more” means God’s capacity to meet our needs far exceeds anything we can conceive. Realizing our human weakness fully makes room for God’s power.

2Cor.12:10 (NIV)

For Christ’s sake, I delight in weaknesses For when I am weak, then I am strong.

When we are most conscious of personal weakness, we are most conscious of the power of Christ resting on us.

Weak people can make the sun stand still!