



THE SOVEREIGNTY OF MANKIND

PART SIX

We will continue to look within scripture to review other acts of God and allowing man to have sovereignty. In Part Six we will look at Joshua and his request to extend the day to allow him the time to complete the battle with the Amorites. In Joshua 10, we find the Battle of Bethhoron. Joshua has chased the Amorite kings of Jerusalem, Hebron, Jarmuth, Lachish, and Eglon to defeat them, and when they reach Bethhoron, some crazy events take place. We reach a famous passage in Joshua 10:12-13:



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 upon 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.

- Joshua 10:12-13

This is the famous long day of Joshua. Joshua was quite a warrior, and he wanted the day to last long enough for him to finish the job of demolishing the Amorites. God granted Joshua's request and lengthened the day. At first read we might say, "Hey. That is pretty neat" and not think much more about it.

While the typical Sunday School class might simply trust God's power to hold the world together – and rightly so – this is still a difficult passage for those who have studied astronomy and astrophysics. We normally assume that God had to slow or stop Earth's rotation (what we are taught) on its axis in order to lengthen the day for Joshua. However, anybody with a background in astronomy knows there would have been worldwide catastrophe if the Earth had slowed its rotation on its axis.

However, there's a good potential answer to this based upon what we have been taught. We know from the preceding verses that something massive was taking place in the Heavens. We read in Joshua 10:11:

“And it came to pass, as they fled from before Israel, and were in the going down to Bethhoron, that the LORD cast down great 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.”

We assume that there were regular hailstones of ice, but it might be they were actually meteorites. Stones from Heaven began raining down on the Amorites and smashing them. That must have been a terrifying experience, but the real miracle is that the stones hit the Amorites and not the Israelites. Think about that! Pinpoint accuracy of stone like missiles hitting all around the Israelites but only hitting their target of the Amorites. We see here evidence that something extraordinary was taking place in space, because what happens next is truly remarkable: the Sun stood still in the sky.

What happened that day astronomically based upon physicists? We know that the length of the year has changed during the past several thousand years. According to ancient calendars, Earth’s orbit around the Sun (what we have been taught) originally took 360 days and it is suggested that Mars’ orbit was 720 days. These were two planets (planets do not exist) in an orbital resonance. Because the orbits are elliptical and move forward a little each year (a gravity-caused phenomenon called a “precession”) their orbital pattern looks much like the flowers on a daisy. Every now and then – every 108 years – Mars and Earth would have sung closely to one another, causing some noticeable astronomical events due to their forces of gravity upon one another. It is believed the most significant of these took place during the time of King Hezekiah, throwing off the resonance between Earth and Mars and forever changing the lengths of their years. For more detail on the scientific reasoning one can research the information in a book titled “The Mysteries of the Planet Mars or Beyond Newton.”

What we know from the Bible is there are no planets. We know from the Book of Enoch that the Sun and Moon enter and exit the atmosphere through portals or gates. We know that God fixed the Earth, and it shall not be moved.

The Bible claims that the earth is flat over dozens of times, and the world tells us that it shouldn’t be trusted as a reliable source. The Bible is often considered to be perfect and inspired by “God” which is an issue when it gets almost all facets of astronomy completely wrong.

I'll start listing the verses to support my claims. There's a lot of them so buckle your seatbelts. The Bible claims the earth is a disk (Isaiah 40:22 and Job 38:13-14). The Bible claims the earth can be measured in a line not a curve (Job 38:4-5). The Bible claims water is straight and not curved (Job 37:10). The Bible claims the earth is fixed and not movable (Psalm 33:9, Psalm 93:1, Psalm 96:10, Psalm 104:5, Psalm 104:5, Psalm 119:89-90, Isaiah 45:18, Zachariah 1:11, 1 Chronicles 16:30). The Bible claims that the earth is suspended by pillars and hangs on nothing (1 Samuel 2:8, Job 9:8, Job 26:7, Psalm 75:3, 2 Peter 3:5).

So, what we know is that what science tells us is false. But the events in Joshua did happen.

What is fascinating that scientists tell us about the Joshua account is not just its astronomical implications. It is that we have stones crashing down on Israel's enemies just in time to demolish them on behalf of Joshua and his armies. When did God put those stones in orbit? Certainly not the day before. Those stones may have been circulating in the solar system (there is no solar system) for thousands of years. What is more, they were placed just right to have a 20/20 marksmanship and hit only the Israelites' enemies and not the Israelites themselves.

Joshua prayed, and the entire Universe was affected. That is something. When we pray, we might be surprised to discover that God's responses to our prayers required preparation that took place long before we prayed. God tells us that everything we need has already been provided and held in a Storehouse awaiting the time it is manifested into our life experience. God knows the end from the beginning, and He saw our lived-in advance. Does that violate our sovereignty? We can look at it in two ways. We can suggest that God put into Joshua's heart to pray for that which God was already planning to do in the heavenlies. We can also consider the alternative: God prepared the answer ahead of time, because He saw from eternity past the thing that Joshua would request. Which is it? It might very well be a combination of the two.

One thing we can take away from the story of Joshua is that Joshua asked God of what he felt he needed to complete God's requested work (our calling) and he request was granted. When we look at our sovereignty the outcome we seek in our lives is based upon our spiritual walk with Christ. While we have sovereignty we also have from that the control over how and what we ask for. It is through our walk of obedience that

God grants the blessing from His storehouse to ours but when disobedience is present then what we think we have asked for is not what we receive. Let us look at Deuteronomy 28:

Blessings for Obedience

Deu 28:1 And it shall come to pass, if thou shalt hearken diligently unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to observe and to do all his commandments which I command thee this day, that the LORD thy God will set thee on high above all nations of the earth:

Deu 28:2 And all these blessings shall come on thee, and overtake thee, if thou shalt hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God.

Deu 28:3 Blessed shalt thou be in the city, and blessed shalt thou be in the field.

Deu 28:4 Blessed shall be the fruit of thy body, and the fruit of thy ground, and the fruit of thy cattle, the increase of thy kine, and the flocks of thy sheep.

Deu 28:5 Blessed shall be thy basket and thy store.

Deu 28:6 Blessed shalt thou be when thou comest in, and blessed shalt thou be when thou goest out.

Deu 28:7 The LORD shall cause thine enemies that rise up against thee to be smitten before thy face: they shall come out against thee one way, and flee before thee seven ways.

Deu 28:8 The LORD shall command the blessing upon thee in thy storehouses, and in all that thou settest thine hand unto; and he shall bless thee in the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee.

Deu 28:9 The LORD shall establish thee an holy people unto himself, as he hath sworn unto thee, if thou shalt keep the commandments of the LORD thy God, and walk in his ways.

Deu 28:10 And all people of the earth shall see that thou art called by the name of the LORD; and they shall be afraid of thee.

Deu 28:11 And the LORD shall make thee plenteous in goods, in the fruit of thy body, and in the fruit of thy cattle, and in the fruit of thy ground, in the land which the LORD swore unto thy fathers to give thee.

Deu 28:12 The LORD shall open unto thee his good treasure, the heaven to give the rain unto thy land in his season, and to bless all the work of thine hand: and thou shalt lend unto many nations, and thou shalt not borrow.

Deu 28:13 And the LORD shall make thee the head, and not the tail; and thou shalt be above only, and thou shalt not be beneath; if that thou hearken unto the commandments of the LORD thy God, which I command thee this day, to observe and to do them:

Deu 28:14 And thou shalt not go aside from any of the words which I command thee this day, to the right hand, or to the left, to go after other gods to serve them.

Curses for Disobedience

Deu 28:15 But it shall come to pass, if thou wilt not hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to observe to do all his commandments and his statutes which I command thee this day; that all these curses shall come upon thee, and overtake thee:

Deu 28:16 Cursed shalt thou be in the city, and cursed shalt thou be in the field.

Deu 28:17 Cursed shall be thy basket and thy store.

Deu 28:18 Cursed shall be the fruit of thy body, and the fruit of thy land, the increase of thy kine, and the flocks of thy sheep.

Deu 28:19 Cursed shalt thou be when thou comest in, and cursed shalt thou be when thou goest out.

Deu 28:20 The LORD shall send upon thee cursing, vexation, and rebuke, in all that thou settest thine hand unto for to do, until thou be destroyed, and until thou perish quickly; because of the wickedness of thy doings, whereby thou hast forsaken me.

Deu 28:21 The LORD shall make the pestilence cleave unto thee, until he have consumed thee from off the land, whither thou goest to possess it.

Deu 28:22 The LORD shall smite thee with a consumption, and with a fever, and with an inflammation, and with an extreme burning, and with the sword, and with blasting, and with mildew; and they shall pursue thee until thou perish.

Deu 28:23 And thy heaven that is over thy head shall be brass, and the earth that is under thee shall be iron.

Deu 28:24 The LORD shall make the rain of thy land powder and dust: from heaven shall it come down upon thee, until thou be destroyed.

Deu 28:25 The LORD shall cause thee to be smitten before thine enemies: thou shalt go out one way against them, and flee seven ways before them: and shalt be removed into all the kingdoms of the earth.

Deu 28:26 And thy carcase shall be meat unto all fowls of the air, and unto the beasts of the earth, and no man shall fray them away.

Deu 28:27 The LORD will smite thee with the botch of Egypt, and with the emerods, and with the scab, and with the itch, whereof thou canst not be healed.

Deu 28:28 The LORD shall smite thee with madness, and blindness, and astonishment of heart:

Deu 28:29 And thou shalt grope at noonday, as the blind gropeth in darkness, and thou shalt not prosper in thy ways: and thou shalt be only oppressed and spoiled evermore, and no man shall save thee.

Deu 28:30 Thou shalt betroth a wife, and another man shall lie with her: thou shalt build an house, and thou shalt not dwell therein: thou shalt plant a vineyard, and shalt not gather the grapes thereof.

Deu 28:31 Thine ox shall be slain before thine eyes, and thou shalt not eat thereof: thine ass shall be violently taken away from before thy face, and shall not be restored to thee: thy sheep shall be given unto thine enemies, and thou shalt have none to rescue them.

Deu 28:32 Thy sons and thy daughters shall be given unto another people, and thine eyes shall look, and fail with longing for them all the day long: and there shall be no might in thine hand.

Deu 28:33 The fruit of thy land, and all thy labours, shall a nation which thou knowest not eat up; and thou shalt be only oppressed and crushed alway:

Deu 28:34 So that thou shalt be mad for the sight of thine eyes which thou shalt see.

Deu 28:35 The LORD shall smite thee in the knees, and in the legs, with a sore botch that cannot be healed, from the sole of thy foot unto the top of thy head.

Deu 28:36 The LORD shall bring thee, and thy king which thou shalt set over thee, unto a nation which neither thou nor thy fathers have known; and there shalt thou serve other gods, wood and stone.

Deu 28:37 And thou shalt become an astonishment, a proverb, and a byword, among all nations whither the LORD shall lead thee.

Deu 28:38 Thou shalt carry much seed out into the field, and shalt gather but little in; for the locust shall consume it.

Deu 28:39 Thou shalt plant vineyards, and dress them, but shalt neither drink of the wine, nor gather the grapes; for the worms shall eat them.

Deu 28:40 Thou shalt have olive trees throughout all thy coasts, but thou shalt not anoint thyself with the oil; for thine olive shall cast his fruit.

Deu 28:41 Thou shalt beget sons and daughters, but thou shalt not enjoy them; for they shall go into captivity.

Deu 28:42 All thy trees and fruit of thy land shall the locust consume.

Deu 28:43 The stranger that is within thee shall get up above thee very high; and thou shalt come down very low.

Deu 28:44 He shall lend to thee, and thou shalt not lend to him: he shall be the head, and thou shalt be the tail.

Deu 28:45 Moreover all these curses shall come upon thee, and shall pursue thee, and overtake thee, till thou be destroyed; because thou hearkenedst not unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to keep his commandments and his statutes which he commanded thee:

Deu 28:46 And they shall be upon thee for a sign and for a wonder, and upon thy seed for ever.

Deu 28:47 Because thou servedst not the LORD thy God with joyfulness, and with gladness of heart, for the abundance of all things;

Deu 28:48 Therefore shalt thou serve thine enemies which the LORD shall send against thee, in hunger, and in thirst, and in nakedness, and in want of all things: and he shall put a yoke of iron upon thy neck, until he have destroyed thee.

Deu 28:49 The LORD shall bring a nation against thee from far, from the end of the earth, as swift as the eagle flieth; a nation whose tongue thou shalt not understand;

Deu 28:50 A nation of fierce countenance, which shall not regard the person of the old, nor shew favour to the young:

Deu 28:51 And he shall eat the fruit of thy cattle, and the fruit of thy land, until thou be destroyed: which also shall not leave thee either corn, wine, or oil, or the increase of thy kine, or flocks of thy sheep, until he have destroyed thee.

Deu 28:52 And he shall besiege thee in all thy gates, until thy high and fenced walls come down, wherein thou trustedst, throughout all thy land: and he shall besiege thee in all thy gates throughout all thy land, which the LORD thy God hath given thee.

Deu 28:53 And thou shalt eat the fruit of thine own body, the flesh of thy sons and of thy daughters, which the LORD thy God hath given thee, in the siege, and in the straitness, wherewith thine enemies shall distress thee:

Deu 28:54 So that the man that is tender among you, and very delicate, his eye shall be evil toward his brother, and toward the wife of his bosom, and toward the remnant of his children which he shall leave:

Deu 28:55 So that he will not give to any of them of the flesh of his children whom he shall eat: because he hath nothing left him in the siege, and in the straitness, wherewith thine enemies shall distress thee in all thy gates.

Deu 28:56 The tender and delicate woman among you, which would not adventure to set the sole of her foot upon the ground for delicateness and tenderness, her eye shall be evil toward the husband of her bosom, and toward her son, and toward her daughter,

Deu 28:57 And toward her young one that cometh out from between her feet, and toward her children which she shall bear: for she shall eat them for want of all things secretly in the siege and straitness, wherewith thine enemy shall distress thee in thy gates.

Deu 28:58 If thou wilt not observe to do all the words of this law that are written in this book, that thou mayest fear this glorious and fearful name, THE LORD THY GOD;

Deu 28:59 Then the LORD will make thy plagues wonderful, and the plagues of thy seed, even great plagues, and of long continuance, and sore sicknesses, and of long continuance.

Deu 28:60 Moreover he will bring upon thee all the diseases of Egypt, which thou wast afraid of; and they shall cleave unto thee.

Deu 28:61 Also every sickness, and every plague, which is not written in the book of this law, them will the LORD bring upon thee, until thou be destroyed.

Deu 28:62 And ye shall be left few in number; whereas ye were as the stars of heaven for multitude; because thou wouldest not obey the voice of the LORD thy God.

Deu 28:63 And it shall come to pass, that as the LORD rejoiced over you to do you good, and to multiply you; so the LORD will rejoice over you to destroy you, and to bring you to nought; and ye shall be plucked from off the land whither thou goest to possess it.

Deu 28:64 And the LORD shall scatter thee among all people, from the one end of the earth even unto the other; and there thou shalt serve other gods, which neither thou nor thy fathers have known, even wood and stone.

Deu 28:65 And among these nations shalt thou find no ease, neither shall the sole of thy foot have rest: but the LORD shall give thee there a trembling heart, and failing of eyes, and sorrow of mind:

Deu 28:66 And thy life shall hang in doubt before thee; and thou shalt fear day and night, and shalt have none assurance of thy life:

Deu 28:67 In the morning thou shalt say, Would God it were even! and at even thou shalt say, Would God it were morning! for the fear of thine heart wherewith thou shalt fear, and for the sight of thine eyes which thou shalt see.

Deu 28:68 And the LORD shall bring thee into Egypt again with ships, by the way whereof I spake unto thee, Thou shalt see it no more again: and there ye shall be sold unto your enemies for bondmen and bondwomen, and no man shall buy you.