

A DEEPER DIVE

June 21, 2026
Joshua 10:12-15

Prayer Focus— Each day this week as you meet with your savior, lift up in prayer the places in the world where there is war, destruction, and little hope. Also pray for the missionaries that you know of and support. Pray for our nation and our leaders, and also your local church and community. Pray daily for our Pastors and Elders. Finally, follow the instruction in Philippians 4:4-7 make your prayer personal. Remember 1 Peter 5:7.

Monday: Reading – Joshua 10:9-11

Consider this – The Lord fought for Israel

Let's review. What are the two things that happened before, during, or after the battle that was a display of the Lord's hand? It seems pretty obvious that these were miraculous events. Would Joshua have won the battle without these things happening? If you think so, under what circumstances would he have won? If you don't think so, why not, considering verse 8? Why do you think the Lord intervened so dramatically here? Who should get the glory from these victories? Why is that important?

Tuesday: Reading – Joshua 10:12-15

Consider this – What is a miracle?

Spend some few minutes trying to succinctly define or explain what a miracle is. It is easy to just google the topic and find lots of definitions and explanations—but don't do that, at least not yet. Define the term for yourself, and list some miracles that are in the Bible, and that you have heard of or experienced. What's the difference between a miracle and a blessing?

Wednesday: Reading – Joshua 10:12-15

Consider this – Where are these places?

It's a good idea when reading about events like this to get a map and orient yourself in terms of distances and locations. You can look it up or look at the link – <https://www.penn.museum/sites/expedition/the-bible-reports-on-gibeon/>

Thursday: Reading – Joshua 10:12-15

Consider this – Cosmology, what cosmology?

Joshua prays to the Lord for more time to complete his victory. What two things does he ask for? The Bible does not record that the Lord corrected Joshua's cosmology by telling him that actually it's the earth that's moving. Why not? What is the most important thing in this section of the story? Why do you think so?

Friday: Reading – Joshua 10:12-15

Consider this – How can this be?

Miracles in general, and this one in particular have caused many people to stumble when considering the Bible and the stories therein. Jefferson compiled two works, The Philosophy of Jesus of Nazareth, and The Life and Morals of Jesus of Nazareth. The latter is known as the "Jefferson Bible." Do you know what he did when he was compiling the information for these works? It is interesting reading. Jefferson, of course, is only one example of many that could be brought up who had issues with the idea of miracles. The so-called new atheists held that not only was a belief in miracles incorrect thinking, it was actually harmful to

society. Where do you land in terms of miracles? Do you dismiss them? Do you think they are a thing of the past?

Saturday: Reading – Joshua 10:12-15.

Consider this – A day like no other.

In Davis' commentary about this section, he notes that there are two ways that this passage has been looked at by various people. First is that Joshua is asking for an extension of the daylight hours, the second is that he was asking for an extension of darkness. No matter where you stand on the issue, the request was made for one reason—"so that Israel could make the most of its victory." The second view is not so crazy as it may seem at first, since it coincides well with verse 9. Davis comments that he "prefers the darkness view, because it is more suitable to the context." If Joshua prayed his prayer at the beginning of the day before the sun rose, this makes sense. What do you think?

Other ideas come up to explain this, including that the passage is a metaphor, or poetic. Since the sun doesn't need a miracle to "stand still" some look at this as a way to describe complete victory.

Some think that maybe this is a reference to an eclipse.

And, of course, there is a problem with stopping the earth's rotation around the sun (i.e. the sun standing still). Here's what my A.I. friend notes—Scientifically, abruptly stopping the Earth's rotation of roughly 1,037 mph (1670 kph) would cause apocalyptic global devastation, launching oceans and unanchored objects eastward at supersonic speeds. Is this a legitimate concern? How would you explain this to someone who questioned you about it?

This section brings forth skeptics and believers from all the corners. But Davis focuses on verse 14. He says, "That day was unique not for some unusual daylight or darkness but because Yahweh listened to a man's prayer." That is something to ponder.

From the Henri Nouwen Society – Joshua saw God's hand at work—do you see it? Think about this

It is God's love that allows us to love one another. It is that first love that is the basis for all creative human relationships. It is that love that we want to make visible to each other, among each other, and with each other. Jesus said, "Love one another because I have loved you first."

Sunday - Go to church with the anticipation of hearing from the Lord.

Questions? Comments? Email me, Steve Callaway, at stvc13@gmail.com.