

Joshua 10:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

Analysis

Joshua's prayer—"Sun, stand thou still upon Gibeon; and thou, Moon, in the valley of Ajalon"—requests nature's suspension to complete battle. The boldness of commanding celestial bodies demonstrates prayer confidence grounded in God's promise. The text's testimony—"And the sun stood still, and the moon stayed, until the people had avenged themselves upon their enemies" (verse 13)—affirms the miracle's reality. Whether through earth's rotation stopping or light refraction, God answered Joshua's audacious prayer, demonstrating His sovereignty over creation.

Historical Context

This miracle occurred during the defense of Gibeon against five Amorite kings (verses 1-5). The extended daylight enabled complete victory. The statement 'there was no day like that before it or after it, that the LORD hearkened unto the voice of a man' (verse 14) emphasizes its unique character. Various scientific explanations attempt to harmonize this with astronomy, but the account primarily testifies to God's sovereign control over His creation, able to suspend natural laws for His purposes.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 – Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How does Joshua's bold prayer challenge your conception of what you can ask God?
2. What impossible requests might God want you to bring before Him in faith?

Interlinear Text

א ז	יְהֹשֻׁעַ	יְהֹוָה	בִּי וּמִ	תְּתִת	יְהֹוָה
H227	Then spake	Joshua	to the LORD	in the day	delivered up
H1696	H3091	H3068	H3117	H5414	H3068

לְעֵינֵי וְאָמַרְתָּ אֶת יִשְׁרָאֵל לְפָנֵי בָנֵי בָנָיו אָמַרְתָּ H853 the Amorites before the children of Israel and he said in the sight H567 H6440 H1121 H3478 H559 H5869

בְּעֵד מֶלֶךְ	יְהִי כְּלֵבֶל	וְעַל מִשְׁבָּא לְ	בְּגִבְעָה וְלִ	שְׁמַע וְעַמְּךָ	יְשִׁבָּא לְ	וְיִשְׁבָּא לְ
of Israel	Sun	upon Gibeon	stand thou still	and thou Moon	in the valley	
H3478	H8121	H1201	H1826	H2394	H6010	

אִלּוֹן of Ajalon

Additional Cross-References

Habakkuk 3:11 (Parallel theme): The sun and moon stood still in their habitation: at the light of thine arrows they went, and at the shining of thy glittering spear.

Isaiah 38:8 (Parallel theme): Behold, I will bring again the shadow of the degrees, which is gone down in the sun dial of Ahaz, ten degrees backward. So the sun returned ten degrees, by which degrees it was gone down.

Isaiah 60:20 (References Lord): Thy sun shall no more go down; neither shall thy moon withdraw itself: for the LORD shall be thine everlasting light, and the days of thy mourning shall be ended.

Isaiah 28:21 (References Lord): 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.

Psalms 148:3 (Parallel theme): Praise ye him, sun and moon: praise him, all ye stars of light.

Psalms 19:4 (Parallel theme): Their line is gone out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. In them hath he set a tabernacle for the sun,

Deuteronomy 4:19 (References Lord): And lest thou lift up thine eyes unto heaven, and when thou seest the sun, and the moon, and the stars, even all the host of heaven, shouldest be driven to worship them, and serve them, which the LORD thy God hath divided unto all nations under the whole heaven.

Joshua 10:13 (Parallel theme): 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.

Job 9:7 (Parallel theme): Which commandeth the sun, and it riseth not; and sealeth up the stars.

Zechariah 2:13 (References Lord): Be silent, O all flesh, before the LORD: for he is raised up out of his holy habitation.