

## Devotional Thoughts :: Meditations on Joshua 10:16

### Meditations on Joshua 10:16 - posted by PaulWest (), on: 2007/8/24 12:17

Saints, I thought I would share some of my personal meditations here on SI. I've written them for myself, during quiet times, and that's why there's not much book, chapter and verse numbering cross-references imbedded in them. Many of you should be able to track the inferences anyhow. I pray you'll be blessed. I plan on entering much of these into my Xanga blog for convenient archiving, and the link for this page is found on my SermonIndex profile.

Meditations on Joshua 10:16

"During the battle the five kings escaped and hid in a cave at Makkedah" (Joshua 10:16).

During heated battles and strivings against temptations, the very foes we face will be seen to retreat and hide once the upper hand is gained by the believer through faith. We know they hide themselves, and are never destroyed completely, because of their daily opportunistic nature in battle. A dead enemy does not continue to ambush from day to day. We are trained to wear the full armour of God, every day and until the end of our lives. This simple fact alone tells us there is a very real and present danger, a shrewd and invisible enemy that when not fully engaged on the battlefield, is in hiding, regrouping forces, strategies, tactics, and waiting and lurking for the next opportune time to pounce. As the roaring lion has a den, so wicked temptations also have caves of hiding.

There is a battle every true Christian believer fights, and if he is to build a strong, prosperous tower in Christ, he will most assuredly encounter the full wrath and meddlesome threats and tactics of a Sanballat. If Sanballat cannot convince a man to give up, there are other ways to distract construction. One way is to incite the flesh, to stir up lusts and assault the conscience. As King Adonizedek incited the five Amorite kings to make war on newly-covenanted Gibeon, so the enemy will incite temptational rulers to arise and attack the consciences of believers who have been ingrafted into the good olive tree by virtue of the New Covenant.

The conscience must be kept pure and abstain from the fleshly lusts once enjoyed during the former, wild days of ignorance. The five kings of carnality can run the gamut of various and insidious lusts that besiege the believer's conscience daily. For many men, one such king is lust, another may be the love of money. We need to understand that uncovenanted Gibeon was, in itself, a great city. The conscience was put in man by God to bear testimony to the law. But, as an uncovenanted wild olive tree, it was also subject to searing and perversion. When King Adonizedek saw that Gibeon covenanted with Joshua, he immediately alerted the kings of Canaan to combine as one force and attack.

But it wasn't long before the five kings caught wind of their impending defeat! We read in the scriptures that God sent a hailstorm from heaven that destroyed more troops than the Israelites could with a sword. Fearing for their lives, the five kings abandoned their troops and hid themselves in a cave at Mekkedah. When God grants us dominion over sin and the strength to abstain from fleshly lusts, we will often experience times of deep peace, but during these times we need to be aware, for the kings are not dead; they are merely hidden in recess! They've only escaped; they are not destroyed.

The cave where these kings hid was called Mekkedah, or "The Place of Shepherds" in the Hebrew. Joshua rolled great stones before the mouth of the cave to keep these kings shut out of the land, and as believers, we are to guard our hearts and minds from such kings with the Rock of Offense, Jesus Christ. The kings mustn't be allowed to escape and inflict wounds upon the covenanted Gibeonite of our conscience, for such wounds will impede our walks and prayer lives with God. Makkedah is the place of the Shepherd, the place where Christ the Good Shepherd must reign, and it is in His strength that rocks roll and the kings of the world come and go, live and die. The cave of Mekkedah was eventually assigned to the tribe of Judah (Joshua 15), the tribe from which the True Scepter of Righteousness and King of kings arose in the New Testament. The day will come when King Jesus Christ will roll away the stones of time, and as He put His foot on the neck of the Enemy at Calvary, all the kings that have once perverted and surmized and conspired against the holiness of God, and all foes that have purposefully designed to wound and defile the purified conscience of covenanted man will be forcefully driven from their cowardly caves of darkness and into the fearsome light for judgment and execution.

Brother Paul

**Re: Meditations on Joshua 10:16 - posted by hmmhmm (), on: 2007/8/24 14:20**

brother, did you get all that from just that verse ?

anyway, i liked this!

**we are to guard our hearts and minds from such kings with the Rock of Offense, Jesus Christ.**

thank you for sharing

Christian

**Re: - posted by PaulWest (), on: 2007/8/24 17:26**

Quote:

-----brother, did you get all that from just that verse ?  
-----

It is important to see the entire Bible as one book, and I believe that all verses can be linked to each other as a complemented, unified and perfect whole, just as all men and women can be linked back to one of Noah's sons. A great example of this is William Gurnall's massively rich TCICA, based upon one verse in Ephesians chapter six, or William Bridge's thirteen sermons based on Psalm 42:11, comprising "A Lifting Up for the Downcast".

The more you meditatively read (and obey) the Bible from Genesis to Revelation, the clearer the picture emerges that this is so, and also the more substance the Holy Spirit can now use to link verse to verse to verse to verse. This is how Puritan devotions can be so impregnated with scripture. Men like Watson and Gurnall are great examples of the mastery in such devotions. They could effortlessly lead a reader from Ezekiel to 1 Timothy to Exodus to Titus in the course of a single paragraph. How wonderfully saturated they were in the Word of God!

Brother Paul

**Re: - posted by hulsey (), on: 2007/8/24 17:56**

Quote:

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I have a book that is a series of 16 sermons preached by Jeremiah Burroughs based on just one part of a verse in Leviticus chapter 10:

Quote:

----- I will be sanctified in them that come nigh unto me  
-----

Based on that one statement from verse 3 the sermons on Gospel Worship amount now to a book that is about 300 pages long!

**Re: Meditations on Joshua 10:16 - posted by Nile (), on: 2007/8/25 10:39**

Good stuff PaulWest, thanks for sharing. :-)

**Re: - posted by TaylorOtwell (), on: 2007/8/25 12:26**

Dear Brother Paul,

Thank you for sharing. I was edified and encouraged to walk with the Lord!

What do you think of this in the chapter... when they bring the five kings back out of the cave. The chief men of war put their feet on the necks of the kings, yet Joshua is ultimately the one who slays them. So does the true and better Joshua, our Lord Jesus Christ who leads us into the promised land do the same? We tell our Lord of these corrupt kings in our land, and we put our feet on them, yet the Lord ultimately strikes the death blow to our corruptions. Let us walk holy with the Lord Jesus brother Paul!

**Re: - posted by PaulWest (), on: 2007/8/25 15:14**

Quote:  
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You've got it, brother! Only the Lord can kill the actual kings; we are called to subdue the fleshly lusts, to put our feet on their necks, so to speak. Remember that it was Joshua who commanded the men to trap the kings in the cave with rocks, but later it was Joshua who did the real slaying. We see this principle all throughout the New Testament, and crystallized in Romans 8:13. The Lord killed more of the kings' armies with hailstones than the Israelites could by their own strength. This is a thrilling, vibrant account of New Testament Christian warfare at its finest. From Gibeon's covenant with Joshua to the conspiracy of Adonizedek, to the combined assault of the kings' armies to the cave hiding and trapping, to the subduing of the kings by the chief men and their final slaying by Joshua, all this speaks of Christian battle.

You'll remember that Adonizedek who conspired all this was King of Jerusalem at the time, coming after King Melchizedek of Jerusalem who had previously ministered to Abraham with bread and wine. We see also that the wicked Pharaoh who conspired to kill the Hebrew babies came after Pharaoh King of Egypt who loved Joseph and provided food for Jacob/Israel. This is all a picture of how Adam once communed with God in purity and spiritual nourishment until a different king, an alien king entered the throne of men's hearts who didn't share the same spiritual affections toward God's Israel. A completely different dynamic, though the king's presence is legal one. Instead of blessing and feeding and life, it was now cursing and starving and death. Instead of preservation, it was now extermination.

Brother Paul