

Joshua 07-06-22b

Let's pick up our study now. We're looking at what the Word of God has to say specifically related to this solar, lunar manifestation of miraculous manifestation there. Is that too many souls? Too many manifestations.

Yeah, it was a manifestation of a manifestation. The sun standing still in Joshua's day, the sun going backward in Hezekiah's day. You could imagine that there is some doubt as to the exact duration.

It seems like this took place in a very short amount of time. I mean, Hezekiah didn't have to wait like three hours for the sun to go the wrong way. It seems to have just gone backward while he was watching.

It was a sign from God. Trying to ascertain the physical means by which these things might have taken place really misses the point. God can do whatever God wants to.

But at the same time, I do want to address particularly a scientific, historical issue raised by the sun standing still in Joshua's day. It did not hasten to go down for about a whole day. And yet, biblical critics are quick to point out that such an unusual solar phenomenon would surely have been recorded in the annals of civilizations for which we have records from this time, such as the Egyptians, such as the northern nations.

Babylon wasn't around yet in 1400 B.C. But you have civilizations for which we have the Tel El Amarna tablets and the archives at Ebla and various places at different times in history give us records. And there are solar observations that the Chinese made that go back seemingly millennia. And there's no record in any extra-biblical source of this long day.

We have accounts of eclipses. There are Egyptian inscriptions that track eclipses and talk about various comets. There are records of Halley's Comet visiting way back before Halley and so forth.

So what's the deal here? Why is there such a silence in the secular record concerning this extraordinary solar event? Well, I don't know. But I will offer you my personal hypothesis. And it is a pure Sam Hall invention.

I've never seen it or read it anywhere. I don't know and I don't care. All I know is it makes sense to me.

And if you like it, you can have it. And if you don't, you can dump it. The question of perception comes to mind.

How do we perceive? I've been looking at the creation week. And what is the standpoint of the observer in Genesis 1? Are you outside or inside the putative expanding bubble of

the Big Bang or whatever? I mentioned to you recently that back when I was a midshipman and demands were long and time was short, that at night the last thing after I finally turned off my flashlight in the shower and went to bed long after lights out, and I had maybe four hours of sleep until I had to get up and go march on the Red Beach because I had demerits and I had to go march them off. One hour would get rid of five demerits.

And I can tell you, if you get up to 115, you've marched off a lot of demerits. And that's an hour every morning. You get up an hour before everybody else with all the other ne'er-do-wells and miscreants and go down there and bow face, walk the thing, manual of arms, bow face, walk the thing, manual of arms, bow face.

I watched the sunrise many a morning over what they called the Red Beach, which was the tiled roof of the lower decks in the chow hall and whatnot. So time was short and sleep was short, and I was having enough trouble coping without being short of sleep. So being a believer and part of my late night time was being spent trying to keep up with my Bible study and so on, so the last thing before I'd go to sleep, I would pray to God and I would say, Lord, I'm only going to get three, three and a half hours of sleep tonight.

Can you please make it seem like it's eight hours of good, solid rest? Because I know it's in your power to do so. You know I'm trying to do my best, et cetera. And I had the distinct feeling that God answered that prayer.

I, on short sleep, and I've actually sort of done that ever since, but I just seemed to get by well on not too much sleep. And I say all of that to suggest that God is in control of the hearts and minds and souls of his people. And at the risk of doing what my homiletics professor said never to do, and pushing an idea too far, there is a conceit, there is an artifice, there is an idea that has come out in science fiction movies where someone has a special watch.

And when they push the button, time freezes, everybody freezes. Of course, magically, air keeps moving and they can breathe it, and light keeps shining and they can see. You know, if you're actually going to freeze the physics of the universe, everything would instantly go black and you would suffocate if you were... But, you know, for whatever reason, time slows down for everyone else and these people can move around very quickly, and so they can seemingly do magical things.

The boss is shaking his finger and the guy goes up and puts a flowerpot on his head and then walks out of the room and when time resumes, the guy suddenly finds a flowerpot falling down in front of his face. I'm sure you've seen this sort of thing. What I'm suggesting to you is a possibility.

I'm not saying it happened this way, but the idea suggests itself to me that in the physics of the universe, the sun and the moon and the earth and all of the normal orbital

rotations and revolutions took place as usual. But, they who wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength. They will mount up with wings as eagles.

By the way, they who wait upon the Lord mount up with wings. Is this not a supernatural ability? Man can't fly. If man were supposed to fly, God would do what? Give him wings.

The Bible says, they that wait upon the Lord will mount up with wings like eagles. And we say, well, that's metaphorical. That's talking about a great run and not be worried, walk and not faint.

Well, I would suggest to you that during this afternoon, God perhaps granted to the Israelite army excessive energy. And for them, time slowed down. Think how easy it's going to be to overtake your enemies when you're moving three times as fast as they are.

You've got three times the energy. You can cover three times the distance. It is as though the rest of the world has gone into slow motion.

And they are there for the taking. And God grants this long day because you're slicing time into many more pieces than they are. It's as though you've got a three gigahertz Pentium chip and everybody else is running on an old 633.

You are doing and seeing and accomplishing a lot more in the same amount of time. And it is as though that day is twice as long. And this is the actual physical perception of the Israelites.

They look up and the sun has just taken forever to go down. And they are absolutely massacring these combined armies. They are chasing these people down all the way as far as they could possibly flee.

The first guy to turn around and run the other way has gotten clear down to Ezekiel and these far off places. And the Israelites are catching them and killing them. There is this supernatural hail coming down and slaughtering vast quantities of them.

There is clearly something very bizarre going on on this day. And I don't know for sure what it was. But I would suggest to you that the lack of secular records of a miraculous solar manifestation at this time in history is not a problem for the biblical account.

Because it is told from the standpoint of an Israelite author who was there at the time, Joshua. And Joshua says the sun did not hasten to go down for about a day. Which means they got twice as much done in that day as they normally could.

It is as though they, Israel, the son of God, you remember Israel is my son, out of Egypt I have brought my son, he says later on. This son gets the double portion as it were. It is a double portion of time.

It is a double day. They get twice as much done in a single day. The reason I suggest this to you as one of several possible alternatives.

God is God. He can do anything he wants. If he wants to freeze the sun and not let the pagans know about it or all the pagan records have perished because God didn't need their authentication, that is perfectly fine too.

The reason this particular idea appeals to me is because it is consistent with so many other promises in the word of God that my grace is sufficient for you. If you wait upon the Lord, he will renew your strength. You will be able to do things you never thought you could do.

You will mount up with wings as eagles. You will run and not be weary. You will walk and not faint.

With God all things are possible. And that to me, looking at the Israelites, outnumbered, outmanned, outgunned by the confederation of the entire southern region of the land. They go in armed basically with the promise of God and the confidence of Joshua that God has told Joshua these people are delivered into your hand.

I want you to kill them to the last man. And Joshua says, let's go. That it doesn't matter what the physics of the universe may say about your chances or about the possibilities or about the odds or the proportions where the strength is.

It is not by might nor by power but by my spirit, saith the Lord. And I would suggest to you that this is why both the sun and the moon are mentioned. Why the moon? You don't need the moon to do a day's work.

Half the time anymore, we don't even know what phase the moon is in or where it is in the sky. You might glance at it if you've got a gibbous moon or you get one of those low on the horizon and it looks like a big old giant Halloween moon. The refractive quality of the atmosphere will sort of magnify it and you say, wow.

Or you get an interesting halo around it at night. But a lot of times, we're oblivious to the moon. We're not in an agricultural economy anymore and unless you're a loony, a lunatic, you're not really influenced or affected by the moon.

Why is the moon mentioned here? I ask myself. But I think certainly for our purposes in looking at this, with the wealth of information we have from all 66 books of the Bible, it is a reminder, to me at least, that it is both the grace that God gives through His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, and the grace that is given by God, the Holy Spirit, who reflects the glory of Christ. That's His mission and His purpose.

And both of those are prominent in the sky during the time that the Israelites are doing their work. And it is as though they both need to be there. Joshua says, Son, stand thou

still over Gibeon, and moon, in the valley of Ajalon.

Now, Ajalon is, if I remember right, it's 23 miles northwest of Jerusalem. It's way over. It's more than halfway to the coast of the Mediterranean, if you look at it on a map.

And so you could probably triangulate and kind of figure out where everything is. But why does Joshua address the moon? What does he need the moon for? In practical terms, he doesn't. But under the influence of God's Holy Spirit, he speaks to the Lord and he makes this declaration, Son, stand thou still.

He calls to the sun and commands it to stay in place. He calls upon it to remain where it is. He calls upon the moon to remain where it is.

We have been given the great privilege as believers in this age to call upon the Lord. I will call upon God and the Lord shall save me. It is because of God's grace manifested in the Lord Jesus Christ and manifested in God the Holy Spirit that we are able to accomplish the plan and purpose of God.

And it is by no other means. It is not by works of righteousness which we have done. It is not our talents.

It's not our abilities. You know these things. It is all of grace.

Dr. Lewis Barry Schaffer wrote a book. It's called All of Grace. And it does nothing but detail the nature of our salvation.

Now, lest you think that I'm just pontificating without foundation, there is a passage of scripture that I will guess you don't know about. I'll guess you don't know about it because I've been to seminary and I didn't remember it. And I've been through the book in which it is found.

And so if I don't remember, I'm banking on the fact that you don't remember it either. If you do, then Lord bless you. Turn with me to Habakkuk chapter 3. Habakkuk chapter 3. This chapter gives us a prayer of Habakkuk the prophet on Shigionot.

And I think again this is probably the name of a tune. The text of this is basically in Hebrew it says, Upon Shigionot, Al Shigionot, which means on or according to. And they don't really know what that last term means.

It's obviously a feminine plural. It could be a style of... People have speculated that this could be sort of like Andante or Allegro in terms of a musical notation that you should sing this with verb or you should sing it meditatively or slowly, quickly. It could be a tune name.

Nobody knows what it is. Shigionot, it's mostly left untranslated. Some versions like the NET in the English translation leave it out altogether and just say this is a prayer of

Habakkuk the prophet because they don't know what it means.

But the words are what we're interested in. Oh Lord, I have heard your speech. Notice Joshua has received the word of the Lord and then Joshua speaks and the Lord responds to him.

God says I will honor those who honor me. Right? God spoke and Joshua listened. Now when Joshua speaks, God listens.

That's no accident. The order there is not an accident. Joshua is able to speak because he has been able to listen and to hear and obey.

Oh Lord, I have heard your speech and was afraid. Oh Lord, revive your work in the midst of the years. Remember Hezekiah talking about how he was being cut off in the midst of his years.

He wasn't going to finish his life. In the midst of the years make it known. In wrath, remember mercy.

God came from Teman, the Holy One from Mount Paran. Remember these are where? Where are these mountains? Mount Timon. Eliphaz the Hite.

Timonite. Where is it? It's over by Edom. Remember that? The heights of the mountains of wisdom and so on.

It's over to the east. It's on the other side of the Jordan. His glory covered the heavens and the earth was full of His praise.

His brightness, verse 4, was like the light. He had rays flashing from His hand. And there His power was hidden.

Before Him went pestilence. And fever followed at His feet. What did God promise the Israelites? He said, I will go before you.

I will send hornets into the land. I will drive out the enemies before you. I will put pestilence on them.

One of you will put the flight of a thousand and so on. He stood, verse 6, and measured the earth. He looked and startled the nations.

And the everlasting mountains were scattered. The perpetual hills bowed. His ways are everlasting.

That which was thought to be immovable. That which was thought to be unchangeable. Changed.

What is an everlasting mountain? Well, a mountain has always been there. Can't

remember a time when that mountain wasn't there. That mountain got scattered.

Like a herd of deer. I saw the tents of Cushon in affliction. What's interesting about this, if you look up Cushon, it is the southern half of the land of promise.

That's what Cushon is. That's specifically what that term refers to. It's the southern half of the land of promise.

This is exactly the confederation that Israel is fighting at the battle of Gibeon. I saw the tents of Cushon in affliction. The curtains of the land of Midian trembled.

Where is the land of Midian? South and a little bit east. Back over there, remember Og, king of Bashan and other people that they've already tromped upon over to the east and the south before they ever came across the Jordan. Oh Lord, were you displeased with the rivers? Was your anger against the rivers? Was your wrath against the sea that you rode on your horses, your chariots of salvation? Your bow was made quite ready.

Oaths were sworn over your arrows. This is a reference back to God's oaths, God's promises, God's confirmation in parting the Red Sea, in parting the Jordan River, right? Selah, that means stop and think about that for a while. As near as we can tell.

You divided the earth with rivers. The mountains saw you and trembled. The overflowing of the water passed by.

The deep uttered its voice and lifted its hands on high. Do you know what this means? What are the untamable, chaotic waters always representative of? This is the wicked. This is the forces of darkness.

Look at verse 11. What's it say? The sun and moon stood still in their habitation. At the light of your arrows they went, at the shining of your glittering spear.

You marched through the land in indignation. This is the land promised to Israel. This is the land promised to Abraham.

God fought for Israel. Isn't that the point? We've had the question, why does it make this odd statement at the end of that account in Joshua 10? There never was a day like it before or since when God heard the voice of a man. The Lord fought for Israel.

That's the point. Why did God listen to the voice of a man? Because Joshua is the commander of the army and when Joshua says, this is the way the battle needs to go. This is the kind of time we need.

God, in essence, subordinated himself to the commander of the Israelite army and fought under General Joshua, so to speak. And there's never been a day like it before or since where God honored the voice of that man and essentially, this would be like General Eisenhower saying, OK, Monty, you make the call today. How do you want this

battle to go? I'll do whatever you say.

Or, OK, General Patton, you just tell me what you want and I'll give it to you. He's superior, he outranks, but on this day, he says, you make the call. And on this day, Joshua says, well, I want time to stop so we can accomplish our God-given mission.

And God says, OK, you got it. God heard the voice of Yeshua. Who sits at the right hand of the Father making intercession for you and me? Asking for resources on our behalf.

Asking for provision on our behalf. Asking for tolerance and forgiveness and patience on our behalf. There is one mediator between God and men.

Who is it? The man, Christ Jesus. That's what the verse says. There is one mediator between God and men.

The man, Christ Jesus. God listens. God hearkens to the voice of a man.

And his name is Yeshua. Habakkuk 3.11 The sun and moon stood still in their habitation at the light of your arrows they went. Remember that supernatural hailstorm? Hail normally doesn't fall out of a clear blue sky.

There was some sort of a huge thunderhead thing that came in. And supernaturally, this hail only pulverized the enemy. Israelites were running all through there.

But guess what? If my hypothesis, and it is pure hypothesis. Think nothing of it if you think it's silly. But I can imagine these hailstones from the Israelite point of view floating softly to earth.

Squashing Amorites right and left. Israelites are just dodging between them. Hacking and slashing.

They say, well, these 10 guys are already squashed. Here's a guy still kicking. And they stick him.

But the hail is not a problem for them. Because they've got twice as much time. The hail is only falling half as fast for them.

God has supernaturally orchestrated the laws of physics on this day from the viewpoint of the Israelites for them specifically and not for their enemies. And they are just making mincemeat. The weather is not a problem for them.

The lightning is not a problem for them. The hail is not a problem for them. Time is not a problem for them.

Energy is not a problem for them. They had a forced march. 18 miles the previous night.

They chased these people down and slaughtered them willy-nilly. Why? Because they

have waited on the Lord. They are obedient.

You'll never find a greater pinnacle for the army of Israel than on this day. This is a day of victory. This is a day of obedience.

This is a day when God fights right beside them. The light of your arrows. The shining of your glittering spear.

You marched through the land in indignation. You trampled the nations in anger. You went forth for the deliverance of your people.

Habakkuk 3.13 You went forth for the deliverance of your people. For salvation with your anointed. You can't help but think of Joshua.

Yeshua. You struck the head from the house of the wicked by laying bare from foundation to neck. And we're about to see in the next section of Joshua what happens to the head of the confederated kings that were leading this army.

You struck the head from the house of the wicked. You thrust through with his own arrows the head of his villages. They came out like a whirlwind to scatter me.

Their rejoicing was like feasting on the poor in secret. You walked through the sea with your horses through the heap of great waters. When I heard my body tremble, my lips quivered at the voice.

Rottenness entered my bones and I trembled in myself that I might rest in the day of trouble. When he comes up to the people, he will invade them with his troops. And you get the idea that God basically gallops through these waters with his chariots and his horses and the horses' hooves are trampling the enemy underfoot.

And that's exactly what these hailstones have done. It's like the hooves of the horses and the wheels of the chariots of the Lord have just literally rolled over and squashed all of these enemies of Israel. But the key here is the reference in verse 11.

The sun and moon stood still. There's only been one day when the sun stood still. There was another day where it went backward but there's only one day where it stood still.

The sun and moon and they're both specifically mentioned in identical terms here. And Ahmad literally means to be still. It's used of the tongue to be silent.

It's often translated to be silent because it physically means your tongue stands still. Your mouth doesn't move. Zip your lip.

Quell your tongue. Curb your tongue, Maeve. You know how they used to say? Well, that's what Ahmad means in Hebrew.

It means to be still. And they became fixed. They didn't move.

And that's what it says here. So here's the overflowing of the water passing by the deep utters its voice and lifts its hands on high but it's all in vain because God establishes His throne on the sea and on the flood. God dominates.

Jesus much later is going to actually command the wind and the sea and they will obey Him. They will hearken to the voice of that same man. So all of these things are wrapped together.

We have the benefit of our perspective in the late portion of the church age to see the connection between Joshua chapter 10, Isaiah chapter 38, Habakkuk chapter 3 and the saving work of the Lord Jesus Christ on the cross on our behalf which is the culmination and the fulfillment of all of these shadows that are just like Hebrew storytelling. They give you different aspects and different views. Now, what is the answer to the question, so what? It might be interesting to see these similarities and common elements and so on.

But I've got a life to live. I've got tasks to accomplish. I have things to do.

Places to go. People to see. A job to perform.

A paycheck to collect. Bills to pay and so on. So after we're all through looking at this, so what? If that's how we look at our life, if it's a task list to be checked off, if it's a set of goals and values and priorities that are in this life, we are messing up.

When Joshua looked over the battlefield, he didn't say, Lord, can you please slow down those Canaanites? Could you please trip them so we can catch them? Joshua looks up. Joshua addresses the Lord. Joshua has a sense of the bigger picture.

When he addresses the sun and he addresses the moon, he is recognizing for us that there are much bigger issues at stake than simply winning a battle. Remember I was asking in the first session, why here? Why now? Israel is going to fight a lot of battles. David will fight battles.

Saul and the armies of Israel. Why didn't David reach up in his hand and cry out to the Lord and say, Son, stand still so we can slaughter these Philistines and the Lord strike down Goliath with a bolt of lightning or something? It's a different picture. It's a different time.

This time, this place, here is Yeshua 40 years after the nation of Israel marches out of Egypt and becomes a nation under God. If you want to talk about a nation under God, that's your nation under God. It's 40 years that they've been in existence.

The first generation drops. This is the generation of promise. This is the generation that

represents faith and inheritance and victory and overcomers.

These are the overcomers. They are obedient. They are faithful.

They defy the odds. They are not scared by the giants. We talked about that egg lawn and some of these other places where giants dwelt that scared the daylights out of the ten spies.

This generation is not afraid. They go in. They represent everything that you and I want to be.

That's what this generation, that's what this army, that's what Joshua and these people represent. It's what you and I want to be. We want to be overcomers.

We want to be those who inherit the land, who inherit the promises, who collect on that double portion blessing that was earned by the Lord Jesus Christ on the cross and is shared with many brethren. We are His body. We are His bride.

And we want to be worthy of that calling. So, how do you do it? Well, how do these people do it? You look, first of all, at Joshua, just the way we look at the Lord Jesus Christ. He is our example.

Looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of what? Our faith. So, we're going to fold up our Bibles and go home and go about our business. Tomorrow is Saturday.

We've got a lot of stuff to do. Everybody does. So, what's the difference that the sun stood still 3,400 years ago? It makes a big difference because that represents the grace of God.

Those heavenly light sources were given to the entire earth, Deuteronomy says. They're not the province of any one people. They are a universal gift.

Joshua looks up and says, this can be parlayed into something greater. This can be parlayed into something more. All of us have opportunities.

All Christians have a Bible, don't they? But how many of us claim the promises of God by faith and walk by faith and not by sight and are justified by faith and keep in step with the Spirit and do all of those other things that we are commanded to do? It makes a difference. And God will supernaturally intervene in our lives. It may not be on this scale.

We may not actually see the sun freezing the sky. But when's the last time we had the temerity, that we had the boldness, we had the confidence to call on God for extraordinary things because we know that we're here to do extraordinary things. Things that have spiritual ramifications, things that reflect spiritual goals, spiritual values, spiritual priorities.

If we look at our life that way, tomorrow I've got to do some stuff in my house. I've got to pound some nails and saw some boards and do some things. Well, I can look at tomorrow as a day to pound nails and saw boards.

Or I can look tomorrow as a day to overcome some of the weaknesses in my soul, to win some spiritual victories, to do things as unto the Lord and not unto men, to be a godly man as I do those things because I often fail. I get narrow-minded. I get short-sighted.

I get myopic. I get impatient. I'll get the same things accomplished at the end of the day on Saturday.

Same nails will be pounded. Same boards will be sawed. But how does that day stack up in the record of my life, in the judgment and evaluation of God? You face the very same thing I do tomorrow.

Are we going to look up and say, Lord, I need some supernatural intervention so that I can lick these enemies and drive them completely out, get completely rid of them. I don't have the strength. I don't have the time.

I've already done an 18-mile forced march and pulled an all-nighter. It is not by my might and it's not by my power that this is going to happen. But I want to win that victory.

I want to fulfill that mission. It's a God-given mission. You have been commanded to be holy.

I have been commanded to be holy. And it makes a difference. It's not only going to matter.

One of these days, somebody is going to bulldoze down my house and all the nails and all the boards are going to go away. What is not going to go away is the record I write tomorrow of that day. The mental attitude victories that I win or fail to win.

The mental attitude battles that I fight or fail to fight. The enemies that I either face or shrink and run away from. That's what the sun standing still is all about.

You and I have to have an intervention from God to accomplish this spiritual victory. To beat the principalities and powers and the rulers of the darkness of this age, the flesh, the influence of the world, the influence of all kinds of things that are trying to drag us away, trying to distract us and deflect us and tell us that our inner decisions are not important. It's all important.

All of this is an artifice. We are given situations specifically to test us. To verify this, go back to our passage in Kings.

What was my chapter in 2 Kings? Do you remember? Yes, chapter 20. The rest of the acts of Hezekiah. 2 Kings 20.

All his might and how he made a pool and a tunnel and brought water into the city, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Judah? If you want to find out about Hezekiah's tunnel, I've got that inscription hanging in my office. How the tunnelers met together under the rock. The author here isn't really interested in that.

He says, Hezekiah rested with his fathers. There is a parallel account of this over in Chronicles. This is the passage I really want to show you.

Look at 2 Chronicles 32. Because that's what it refers to in Kings. It says, if you want to read about that, look at the book of Chronicles.

This is 2 Chronicles 32, verse 30. Now, back up to verse 27. 2 Chronicles 32, verse 27.

Hezekiah, this is the Hezekiah who turned his face to the wall, got the poultice of figs, got his three days, went and worshipped God, got his 15 years. He had very great riches and honor. He made himself treasuries for silver, for gold, for precious stones, for spices, for shields, and for all kinds of desirable items.

Storehouses for the harvest of grain, wine and oil, and stalls for all kinds of livestock and folds for his flock. He hammered a lot of nails. He sawed a lot of boards, didn't he? Moreover, he provided cities for himself and possessions of flocks and herds in abundance, for God had given him very much property.

This same Hezekiah also stopped the water outlet of upper Gihon and brought water by tunnel to the west side of the city of David. Hezekiah prospered in all his works. However, comma, verse 31, regarding the ambassadors of the princes of Babylon, whom they sent to him to inquire about the wonder that was done in the land.

What was the wonder that was done in the land, I wonder? So that the princes of Babylon sent ambassadors to Hezekiah saying, hey, what's up? Some people think that they also saw the sun go backward. I think it may be more likely, although that's certainly possible, that I think it's likely that everybody was so certain that Hezekiah was going to die. Why would the Babylonians think that Hezekiah knew why the sun went backward? But they sent ambassadors.

But you remember what happened? Do you remember that story? Hezekiah was so flattered that the Babylonian envoys came that he tried to impress them and showed them all of this stuff we just read about, showed them all of the treasures in the temple and all that, and pretty soon Babylonians came and collected it all and took it back, and his pride got the better of him. Regarding the ambassadors who sent to inquire about the wonder that was done in the land, look at the last part of verse 31. God withdrew from him in order to test him that he might know all that was in his heart.

All of that that went on, the sickness unto death, shadow backing up, which way do you want the sign to go, hearing his prayer, granting him light to enter the house of God, it

was all a test from God to see what was in his heart. And he blew it. And he blew it big time.

He wrote that great prayer, and he was going great guns, but as soon as the ambassadors came, he got full of himself. He said, oh, let me show you what a great king I am. Let me show you my treasures.

Let me show you my treasures. Let me show you the golden shields from my great-great-great-grandfather Solomon. Let me show you this and show you that.

And the Babylonians said, hey, nice stuff. Bring the trailers, men. And they hauled it all away.

And Jesus may be referring back to this when he tells the parable about the man who kept accruing more and more things. And he says, Thou fool, do you not know that this night your soul will be required of you? What did Hezekiah do with his 15 additional years? God heard his prayer and gave him time. God heard Joshua's prayer and gave him time.

God heard Hezekiah's prayer and gave him time. What did Joshua do with that time? God's will. God said, Wipe out the inhabitants of the land of the last man.

That's exactly what Joshua did. To the letter. Total dedication to the plan and purpose of God.

What does Hezekiah do with his extra time? He gets 15 more years of life. God had said, You are going to die. Get your house in order.

You're a dead man. Hezekiah said, Oh, please, Lord. More time.

God says, All right, 15 years. Three days from now, you can get up and worship me. Look, I'm lighting up the stairway for you.

I'm backing up the sun. So that you can see your way back into my house. Because this is why you're on your deathbed to begin with.

Lack of faith. Lack of obedience. Lack of attention to your mission as the king.

Hezekiah gets 15 more years. And what does he do? If you study the record of that 15 years, it is a record of failure. It is a record of faithlessness.

It is a blot on what was otherwise a pretty good life. If Hezekiah had died 15 years earlier, he would have had a much better life record. He basically screws up in that last 15 years.

He doesn't even care about the heritage and the legacy and the dynasty of David. God

says, I'll keep peace during your reign, but after you, everything's going to go in the handbasket. And Hezekiah says, Hey, great.

As long as it's peaceful in my time, I don't really care about the dynasty. I don't care about the Davidic kings who will come after me. I don't care about the kingdom.

I don't care about the people who are going to suffer because of my mistakes. I'm just happy that God's going to keep it peaceful during my time. As long as I get mine, I don't care.

This is what the environmentalists all say about how we're screwing up the environment and our grandchildren aren't going to pay the price. The idea is, don't be so cotton-picking selfish. Have a little bit of foresight.

Look ahead. As believers, what should we do about tomorrow? What should we do about Saturday? What kind of a day is it going to be? Are we going to be looking ahead to the millennial kingdom and the kingdom of the Father? Are we going to be looking up, like Joshua did, laying up for ourselves treasure in heaven, calling upon God and His supernatural enablement to redeem the time because the days are evil. Paul says, redeeming the time because the days are evil.

That's our mission. We've got to turn evil time into something good. And it can only happen by calling on God's supernatural enablement.

That, to me, is what's going on in Joshua chapter 10. God gives His people extra time. What do you do with it? We've got time tomorrow.

What are we going to do with it? Is it going to count for eternity? Or is it just going to be a nice little checklist marked off? Any unbeliever can accomplish a task list. Any unbeliever can pay the light bill down at Home Depot, which is what I'm going to be doing. Buying enough stuff to swell their profit margin.

But it's not so much what we do, it's how we do it, why we do it, where we are looking as we do it. Israel is going to fight a lot of battles, but there will never be one greater than this one because God is fighting alongside. They are so in harmony with the plan and purpose of God.

They are fighting alongside the Lord God, and He's doing most of the work. Like a child with his father. And that's how we should be.

That should be our goal in our Christian life. Well, we're out of time for tonight. We'll resume and see what happens to the leadership as a harbinger of things to come.

The leadership of the enemy coalition next time. Let's close in a word of prayer. Father, thank you for this wonderful picture of the opportunity that we have in your plan to fulfill

your purpose.

We pray that God the Holy Spirit will remind us of these truths in the hours and days ahead so that we can truly glorify the Lord Jesus Christ in all that we do. We ask it in His name. Amen.