



BIBLE RADIO PRODUCTIONS

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BIBLE ADVENTURES SCRIPT:

A1843 ~ Joshua Commands the Sun.

Welcome to Bible Adventures. Help for today. Hope for tomorrow. Jesus is Lord of all.

Since the Israelites had left their slavery in Egypt some 45 years earlier, there remained now only two of the original men alive. During this time, God had done many things that we would consider contrary to nature. Things like providing about 2 million people with food from heaven every day for 40 years aren't what we consider 'normal'. Another example is holding back the flow of a flooded river to allow His people to cross into their promised land.

Today's *Bible Adventure* covers the story behind another 'contrary to nature' event that God performed but He's never done again in the history of the world.

DRAMA - [The Bible In Living Sound.](#)

After the people of the large city of Gibeon, which was close to Jerusalem, had tricked Joshua and the leaders of Israel into making a treaty with them, it wasn't long before a group of 5 kings in that region threatened to attack Gibeon and punish them for only looking after themselves.

These 5 kings were collectively known as the 'Amorites'. They had descended from Noah through his son Ham and grandson Canaan. The Israelites, however, were descendants of Noah's son Shem, and they were now having many victorious battles against the Amorites.

When threatened by the Amorites, the Gibeonites called for Joshua's help. So Joshua and the Israelite army made an all-night and up-hill, 35-kilometre march from Gilgal to reach the Gibeonites. The Israelites arrived in Gibeon before the attacking kings were ready for them. God threw the kings into confusion and the Israelites won a great victory that day. The Lord gave additional help by sending hailstones on a fleeing Amorite army and these hailstones killed many soldiers.

God had promised Joshua complete victory. But as the sun was soon to go down, a large number of enemy soldiers would be saved under the cover of darkness. Joshua commanded the sun to stand still over Gibeon so that the battle could be completed. In response, God miraculously stopped the sun. There are a number of different opinions about how these words should be translated. Clearly, however, there was a major event that occurred in the physical heavens. It seems to our modern knowledge that the earth stopped rotating on its axis for about 12 hours that day. Is this possible? Of course it was, but only for our God!

Whatever happened on the day and how God did it, it was an unforgettable demonstration of God's power over His created universe. It really wasn't the Israelite army that was winning the land for them, but God Himself.

How is any of this history relevant to us today? We learn that God faithfully helped Joshua and the Israelite army because they, in turn, were committed to Him, both individually and as a nation. Since the coming to earth of the Lord Jesus Christ, God's Son, God made and continues to make a new covenant with individuals of any nation in the world. There's no Christian 'nation' at the present time on earth, but individual Christians live in the nations that they are born in. The Bible prophesies that one day in the future, Jesus' kingdom will be the only kingdom on earth.

Jesus died a terrible death and in separation of His loving Father to pay the penalty of all human sin. To prove Jesus' divine nature and perfect victorious sacrifice, God raised Him back to life as the first person to be given a new undying body. Each human who wants to live in fellowship with Jesus and later in heaven needs to make a full confession of their sin to Jesus, and humbly and sincerely ask Him to cancel out their debt of sin that they owe God. The Lord Jesus gladly and freely does this for any and all who believe that Jesus is God's Son and the only way of meeting God in heaven. As a result, the Holy Spirit takes up residence in the new believer's life and this person is made into a new creation who now has an inheritance in God's heavenly kingdom. There's no other way to God in heaven than this. Don't let people deceive you by saying that there are many ways to heaven. Jesus is the one and only way.

The new believer is made right in God's sight by trusting in Christ. This is called 'justification'. Justification is a once-only work of God, resulting in God's declaration of a Christian as 'not guilty' before Him, all because Jesus took our place for our sin and bore God's punishment for us by dying on the cross. Sanctification refers to spiritual separation from the world and continues throughout a believer's lifetime. The first stage brings about moral change and a breakthrough from the power and love of sin. It's the point at which believers can count themselves 'dead to sin but alive to God'. Once sanctification has begun, we're no longer under sin's dominion; our desires change to please God our Father and we develop a love of being in God's presence and serving Him.

The second stage of sanctification requires a lifetime to complete. As we grow in grace through daily spiritual renewal, we are steadily changed to be more and more like Jesus. The apostle Paul himself claimed that he had not reached perfection, but that he 'pressed on' to attain everything that Christ desired for him. John makes it clear that we'll never be totally free from the temptation or consequences of sin in this life. But thankfully, once God has begun His work in us, He will finish it faithfully for His eternal purposes.

The Bible is our guide to everything we think, say and do. However, there are many doctrines out there in churches that aren't Biblical. They're either extra-'Biblical' or man-made. Both is what the Bible calls 'false doctrine'. Paul told the Church at Rome to avoid those who do not hold to the doctrine that he taught.

What is the most helpful thing that new Christians can learn so they can start being effective in knowing Jesus and telling others about their new-found faith? Each new Christian has to learn that we're in a spiritual battle for the rest of our earthly lives. Our spiritual enemy is Satan and his many demons. He tries to do everything he can to side-track us from walking daily with the Lord Jesus and we can win the victory over Satan by remaining in Christ.

The Apostle Paul explained this kind of war in Ephesians Chapter 6: "For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armour of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand."

What is the whole armour of God? Firstly, the belt of truth – truth is God's viewpoint on every matter and must be accepted internally so that it can be acted on externally. Secondly, the breastplate of righteousness – when a person becomes a believer in Christ, that person is given Christ's righteousness in place of their sinful nature and guilt from personal sin.

Thirdly, readiness to share the Gospel of peace – God offers us a spiritual peace that reaches far beyond what we can ever understand or explain. When we receive and walk in this peace, it settles like a guard over our hearts and minds. We have freely received this Gospel and now we need to share it with others.

Fourthly, the shield of faith – faith is critical in achieving victory in spiritual warfare. When Paul wrote these words, a Roman soldier carried a very large shield to protect his entire body. Faith must be in God’s truth only, because faith is only as valuable as to the thing to which it’s tied.

Fifthly, the helmet of salvation – the helmet mentioned is the guarantee of our salvation and eternal life. It’s a gift of God’s grace. A soldier needs his helmet in battle or his enemy will likely kill him. In your prayers, always remember to give thanks for your salvation.

Lastly, the sword of the Spirit – the previous five items of armour are for the soldier to wear and defend himself. But the sword of the Spirit is the Word of God for attacking Satan. The Holy Spirit will bring to mind words from the Scriptures as we pray for help in battle situations. We mustn’t pray only for ourselves, but let us remember our Christian brothers and sisters as they go through their trials of life. Our prayers help them to be victorious too.

Just as God was with Joshua and his army as they obeyed His commands, so will He be with us today if we faithfully follow His words and walk in living faith in Christ. In Psalm 37, Verse 5, it says: “Give yourself to the Lord; trust in him and he will help you.”

The drama is from The Bible In Living Sound.

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