

13.09 Joshua's Long Day (Joshua 10:1–27)

✓ “Check” it out; opinion, inference, supposed conversation, or fact one can verify follows.

[. . .] indicates a remark to the teacher that should not be read aloud. It also indicates answers to questions.

Visuals and Tools:

- “Joshua” Flash-a-Cards by A Beka Book, Pensacola, FL, 1985, and/or pictures and other visuals found at the end of this lesson. Please give credit to the sources of pictures.
- Check “Activities” and “Handwork” found below for additional needed materials.

Bible Time Tips and Terms to Teach: Tips and terms are enlarged for flashcards at the end of this lesson. Print, cut out, and glue to card stock, or just print on colorful cardstock.

- *conquest*: the putting down of an enemy
- *Amorites*: probably tribes of giants

Scripture: (ESV)

Joshua 10:1 As soon as Adoni-zedek, king of Jerusalem, heard how Joshua had captured Ai and had devoted it to destruction, doing to Ai and its king as he had done to Jericho and its king, and how the inhabitants of Gibeon had made peace with Israel and were among them, 2 he feared greatly, because Gibeon was a great city, like one of the royal cities, and because it was greater than Ai, and all its men were warriors. 3 So Adoni-zedek king of Jerusalem sent to Hoham king of Hebron, to Piram king of Jarmuth, to Japhia king of Lachish, and to Debir king of Eglon, saying, 4 “Come up to me and help me, and let us strike Gibeon. For it has made peace with Joshua and with the people of Israel.” 5 Then the five kings of the Amorites, the king of Jerusalem, the king of Hebron, the king of Jarmuth, the king of Lachish, and the king of Eglon, gathered their forces and went up with all their armies and encamped against Gibeon and made war against it.

6 And the men of Gibeon sent to Joshua at the camp in Gilgal, saying, “Do not relax your hand from your servants. Come up to us quickly and save us and help us, for all the kings of the Amorites who dwell in the hill country are gathered against us.” 7 So Joshua went up from Gilgal, he and all the people of war with him, and all the mighty men of valor. 8 And the Lord said to Joshua, “Do not fear them, for I have given them into your hands. Not a man of them shall stand before you.” 9 So Joshua came upon them suddenly, having marched up all night from Gilgal. 10 And the Lord threw them into a panic before Israel, who struck them with a great blow at Gibeon and chased them by the way of the ascent of Beth-horon and struck them as far as Azekah and Makkedah. 11 And as they fled before Israel, while they were going down the ascent of Beth-horon, the Lord threw down large stones from heaven on them as far as Azekah, and they died. There were more who died because of the hailstones than the sons of Israel killed with the sword.

12 At that time Joshua spoke to the Lord in the day when the Lord gave the Amorites over to the sons of Israel, and he said in the sight of Israel,

“Sun, stand still at Gibeon, and moon, in the Valley of Aijalon.” 13 And the sun stood still, and the moon stopped, until the nation took vengeance on their enemies. Is this not written in the Book of Jashar? The sun stopped in the midst of heaven and did not hurry to set for about a whole day. 14 There has been no day like it before or since, when the Lord heeded the voice of a man, for the Lord fought for Israel.

15 So Joshua returned, and all Israel with him, to the camp at Gilgal.¹

16 These five kings fled and hid themselves in the cave at Makkedah. 17 And it was told to Joshua, “The five kings have been found, hidden in the cave at Makkedah.” 18 And Joshua said, “Roll large stones against the mouth of the cave and set men by it to guard them, 19 but do not stay there yourselves. Pursue your enemies; attack their rear guard. Do not let them enter their cities, for the Lord your God has given them into your hand.” 20 When Joshua and the sons of Israel had finished striking them with a great blow until they were wiped out, and when the remnant that remained of them had entered into the fortified cities, 21 then all the people returned

safe to Joshua in the camp at Makkedah. Not a man moved his tongue against any of the people of Israel.

22 Then Joshua said, “Open the mouth of the cave and bring those five kings out to me from the cave.” 23 And they did so, and brought those five kings out to him from the cave, the king of Jerusalem, the king of Hebron, the king of Jarmuth, the king of Lachish, and the king of Eglon. 24 And when they brought those kings out to Joshua, Joshua summoned all the men of Israel and said to the chiefs of the men of war who had gone with him, “Come near; put your feet on the necks of these kings.” Then they came near and put their feet on their necks. 25 And Joshua said to them, “Do not be afraid or dismayed; be strong and courageous. For thus the Lord will do to all your enemies against whom you fight.” 26 And afterward Joshua struck them and put them to death, and he hanged them on five trees. And they hung on the trees until evening. 27 But at the time of the going down of the sun, Joshua commanded, and they took them down from the trees and threw them into the cave where they had hidden themselves, and they set large stones against the mouth of the cave, which remain to this very day.

Introduction/Review:

Instead of asking God about whether they should make a treaty with a ragtag group of men who said they had come from a very far country, Joshua and Israel’s leaders went ahead and made a treaty promising not to attack their cities. Three days later, Israel discovered those men actually lived in the very next cities to be conquered. They could not be attacked, though, because Israel had promised to save them alive.

Story:

Five kings

Other kings in the area heard about Jericho and Ai and the Gibeonite peace treaty. They feared greatly because Gibeon was a great, royal city—greater than Ai—and all its men were warriors! The king of Jerusalem [locate these places on the first map below] sent for four other kings who ruled the cities of Hebron, Jarmuth, Lachish, and Eglon. These five kings agreed that they must do something to save their lives and said, “Let’s go up to fight against Gibeon because they have made peace with Israel.”

That’s exactly what they did: they gathered their forces, went up with all their armies, and encamped against Gibeon to make war against it.

Gibeonite plea

Joshua and his people had gone back to camp in Gilgal; so that’s where men from Gibeon ✓ran to alert Joshua. They said, “Come help us; all the kings of the Amorites who live in the mountains are gathered together against us.”

✓I think I would have hesitated to help, thinking, “The Gibeonites deceived us; now they are in trouble. Let them defend themselves. I may have promised not to attack them, but I didn’t promise to protect them from other attackers.” However, that reasoning would not have fulfilled my promise, for the Gibeonite covenant made these people subjects of Israel. Thus, they were entitled to Israel’s protection [Gill’s commentary].

Israelite march

The Lord said to Joshua, “Don’t be afraid. I will deliver them all into your hand. Not a man of them shall stand.” So Joshua and his army wasted no time in getting to Gibeon. They traveled uphill about nine miles all night. (Gilgal was in the low plains near Jericho, and Gibeon was situated at a higher elevation.) Israel surprised the enemy, and the Lord threw them into a panic so that they ran. Israel destroyed many men.

Hailstones

As the enemy armies sought to escape downhill away from Beth-Horon [locate these places] to Azekah, the Lord “threw down large stones from heaven on them.” Those large stones killed more men than the soldiers did. God was fighting this battle!

Still sun

Joshua said/prayed, to the Lord in front of the soldiers of Israel, “Sun, stand still in Gibeon and the moon in Aijalon [locate]. The sun stood still about a whole day so that Israel could continue to conquer in daylight. Never before or after was there such a day when the Lord listened to a man to lengthen one day into two.

Hidden kings

While Israel’s soldiers were chasing the enemy, those five enemy kings ran away and hid in a cave near Makkedah. Someone told Joshua, “The five kings have been found, hidden in the cave at Makkedah.”

“Roll large stones against the mouth of the cave and set men by it to guard them,” said Joshua, “but do not stay there yourselves. Pursue your enemies; attack their rear guard. Do not let them enter their cities, for the Lord your God has given them into your hand.”

When Joshua and Israel finished wiping out these enemies (a few, however, had escaped into fortified cities), then all the people returned safe to Joshua in the camp at Makkedah.

Joshua ordered, “Take the stones away from the cave and bring those five kings out to me.”

When these orders were followed and the five kings stood before Joshua, Joshua said to the chiefs of the army, “Come near; put your feet on the necks of these kings.”² The officers did as they were told. Joshua said that this action was ✓a sign for them to believe that God would continue to subdue all the nations of Canaan. He encouraged the men by saying, “Do not be afraid or dismayed; be strong and courageous. This is what the Lord will do to all your enemies against whom you fight.”

Joshua put the kings to death. Then he hung their bodies on five trees, where they remained until evening. When the sun was setting, Joshua commanded that the bodies be taken down from the trees and thrown into the same cave where they had hidden earlier. ✓Probably to keep wild beasts away, the men again set large stones against the mouth of the cave.

Conquest of Canaan had begun in earnest: a total of seven wicked kings (including kings of Jericho and Ai) and their city states had been destroyed by God and His people.

¹“That is, he thought to have returned, had determined upon it, and prepared for it, but was prevented by hearing that the five kings had hid themselves in a cave at Makkedah; which he ordered to be stopped up till the people had finished the pursuit of their enemies, when he destroyed Makkedah, and which led him on to the conquest of other places before he returned; or else this verse stands not in its proper place, or is superfluous, since the same is expressed (Joshua 10:43); after all the above mentioned was done; the Septuagint version leaves it out” (<https://www.biblestudytools.com/commentaries/gills-exposition-of-the-bible/joshua-10-15.html>).

² “. . . for the mortification of the kings; and as a token of their extreme subjection, and as a proper punishment for their crimes of idolatry, tyranny, and cruelty; and by way of terror to others of the kings of Canaan that should fight against them, and as a pledge and confirmation of the subjection of the rest, as well as to fulfill the promises and predictions of God (Deuteronomy 33:29)” (<https://www.biblestudytools.com/commentaries/gills-exposition-of-the-bible/joshua-10-24.html>).

Lessons from This Lesson:

- We see Jesus:

He is the victor over Satan. As the officers put their feet on the necks of the five kings, so Jesus conquered the devil, crushing his head (Genesis 3:15) as He was crucified.

Activities:

- Play dough: trees; a cave; hailstones; sword
- Snack: Cauliflower florets (round and hard, sort of like hailstones) served with a dip

- Using the scale on the first map below, have students calculate the approximate distance between the various sites given in the story. This will take three steps for each measurement since the scale shown on the map is in kilometers (km). (1) Measure the map points in inches. (2) Compare that measurement to the km on the map scale. (3) Use the conversion table here to calculate miles. For example, (1) from Gilgal to Gibeon on the map is 2 inches, (2) which is 15 km on the map's scale, and (3) 15 km on the conversion table converts to 9.3 miles (rounded to nearest tenth). [Answers: Gilgal to Gibeon (2 in., 15 km, 9.3 miles); Gibeon to Beth-Horon (1 in., 7 km, 4.4 miles); Beth-Horon to Ajalon Valley (1/2 in., 4 km, 2.5 miles); Ajalon Valley to Azekah (1.5 in., 12 km, 7.5 miles); Azekah to Makkedah (3/8 in., 3 km, 1.9 miles). Total miles on the long day: 25.6 miles if Joshua reached Makkedah on the first day.]

km to mile Conversion Table:

km to mi

3 = 1.86

4 = 2.49

5 = 3.11

7 = 4.35

12 = 7.46

15 = 9.32

<https://calculator-converter.com/kilometers-to-miles.htm> (modified)

- Play “Stand Still” game (on page 5) and sing a song to the tune of “Itsy Bitsy Spider” (on page 4) at <https://580.1b4.myftpupload.com/wp-content/uploads/curriculums/OT09-L25-EN.PDF?time=1590154418>.
- Review questions: (Game: Prepare 10 “hailstones” out of wadded paper. For each correct answer, a student may throw a “hailstone” within the limits set by the teacher.)
 - How many kings decided to fight against Gibeon? [Five.]
 - To whom did the men of Gibeon go for help? [To Joshua; Israel.]
 - What did God say about helping Gibeon? [“Do not fear, for I have given the enemy into your hands. Not a man of them shall stand before you.”]
 - When did the Israelites march to Gibeon? [All night.]
 - How did God fight for Israel as the enemy was running away? [He threw down large stones from heaven on them.]
 - What effect did these hailstones have on the enemy? [They killed more men than the soldiers did.]
 - What did Joshua say/pray to the Lord to get more time? [“Sun and moon, stand still.”]
 - Where did the five kings hide? [In a cave at Makkedah.]
 - After the battle had ended, what did Joshua do to the kings? [Brought them out of the cave; had officers put feet on their necks; put them to death; hung them on trees; threw them back in the cave.]
 - Why was Joshua’s long day like no other, before or after? [Because the sun stopped in the heaven and did not set for about a whole day; the Lord heeded the voice of a man.]

Memory Verse[s]:

- Joshua 1:6, 7: Be strong and courageous, for you shall cause this people to inherit the land that I swore to their fathers to give them. Only be strong and very courageous, being careful to do according to all the law that Moses my servant commanded you. Do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may have good success wherever you go.

Handwork:

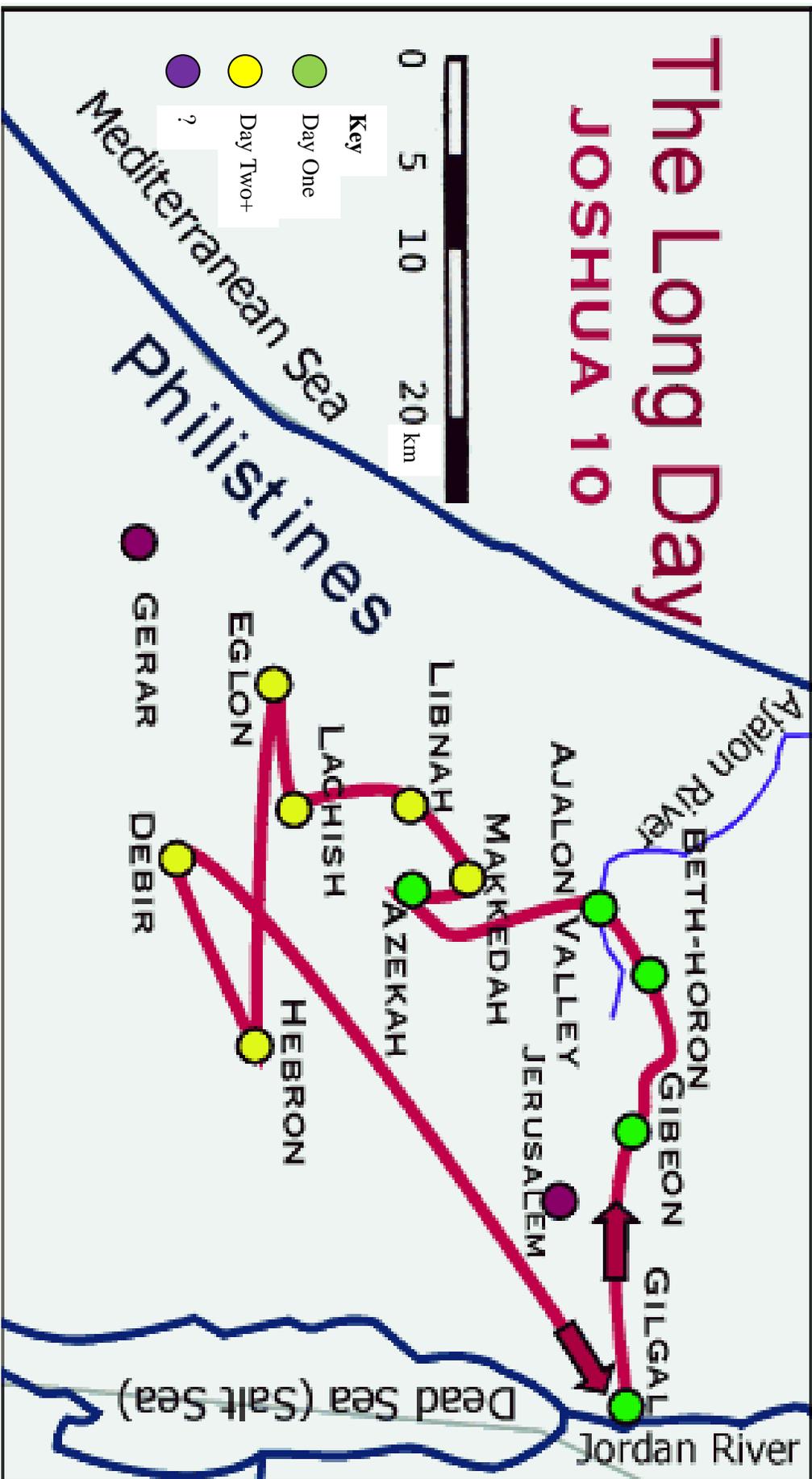
- Color the picture found below of hail falling. Cut small Styrofoam® balls in half and glue the flat side of the balls to the picture where hailstones are drawn.

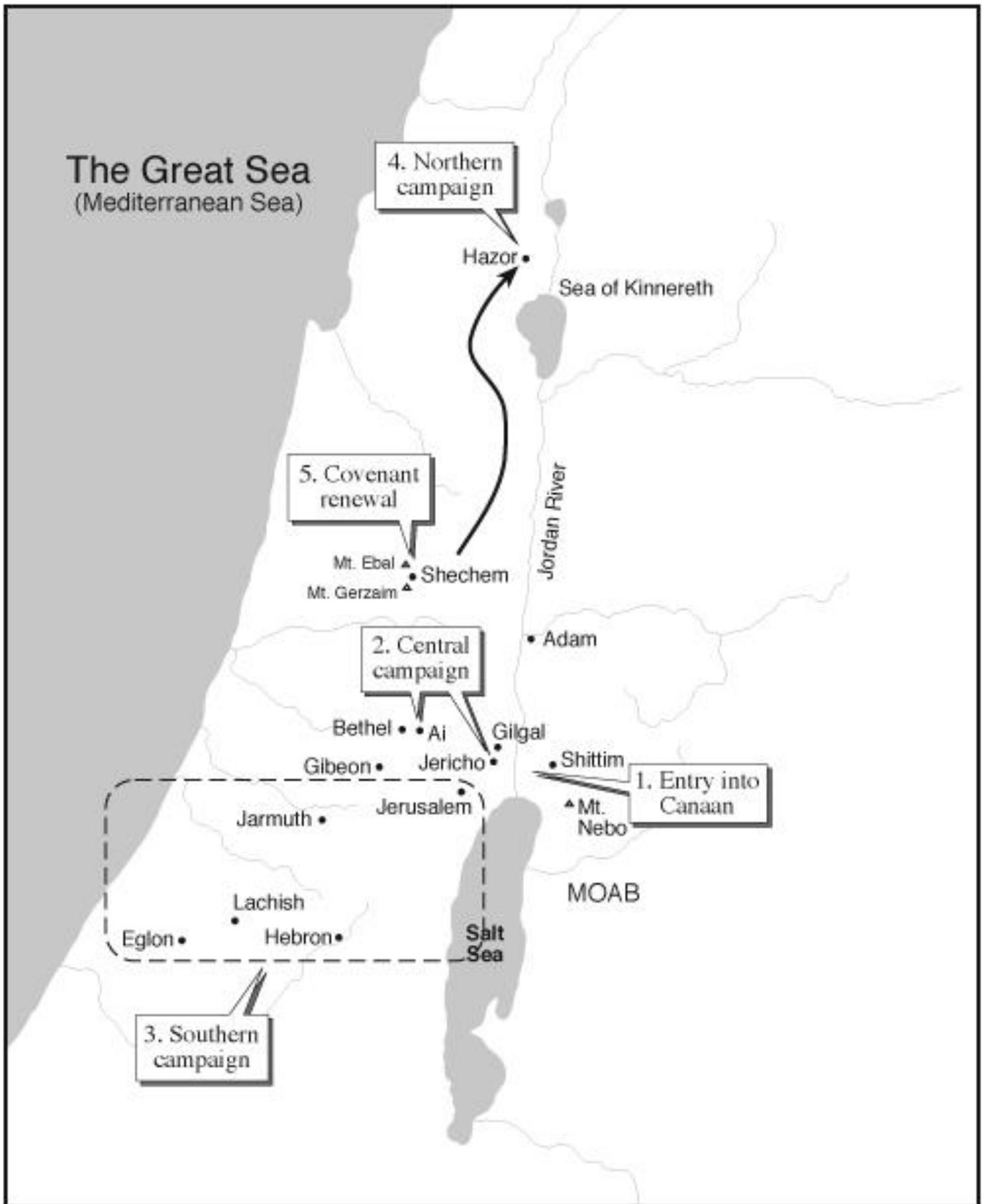
conquest
Amorites

THE SOUTHERN CAMPAIGN

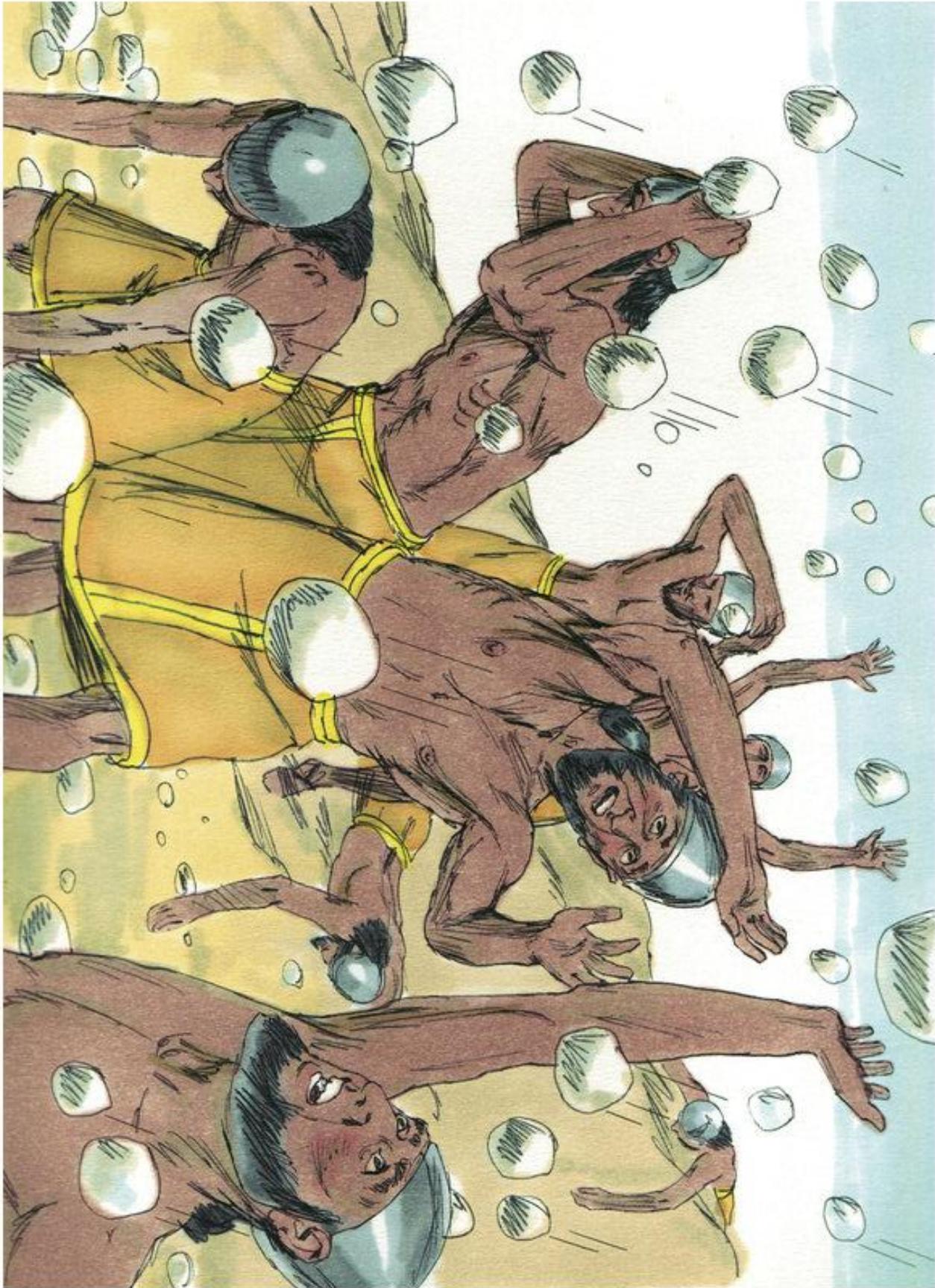
The Long Day

JOSHUA 10



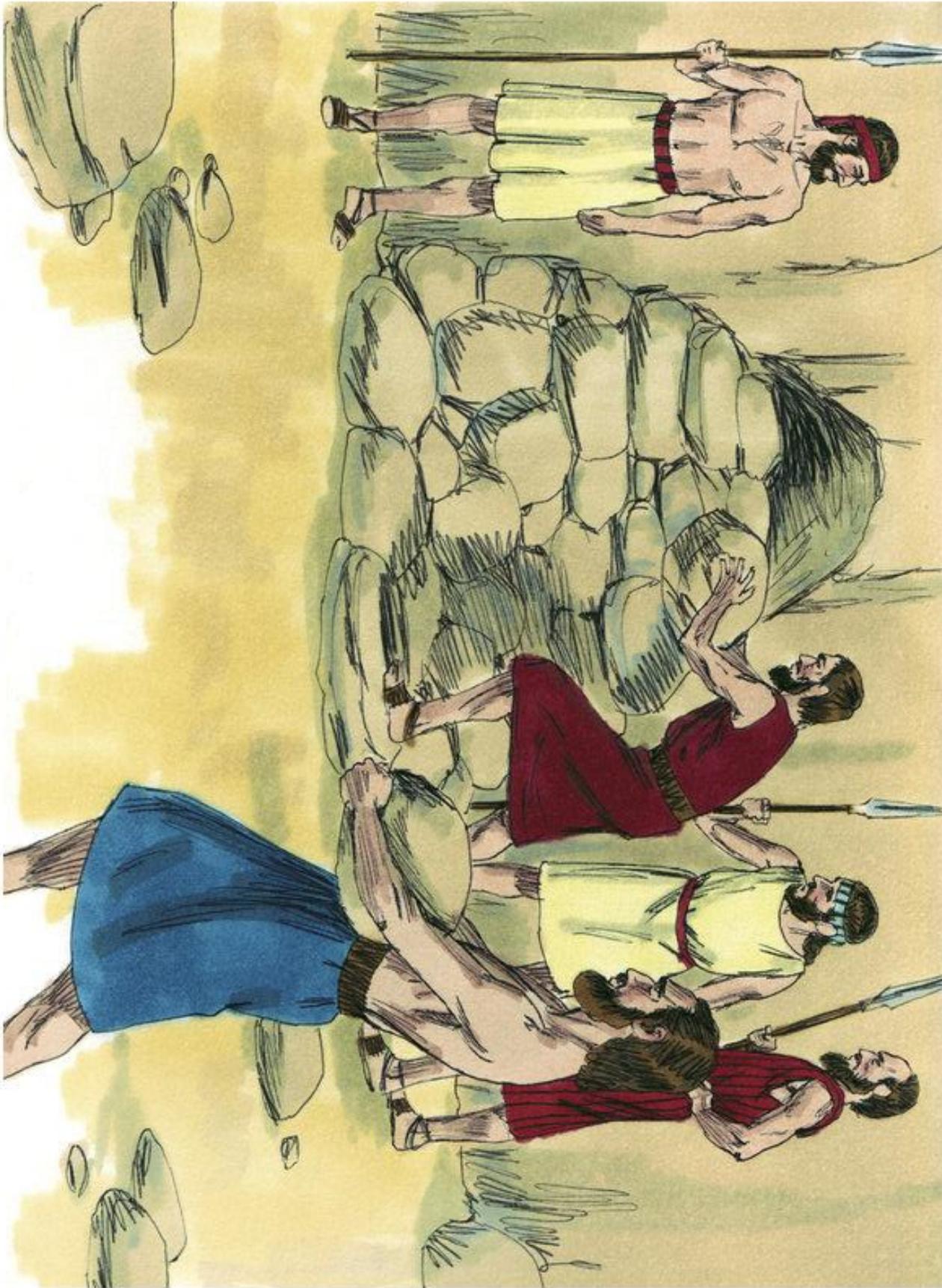














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