

A supplement to the article

[*The Book of Jasher?*](#)

The topic of the Book of Jasher holds some interesting concepts for Bible enthusiasts. In the previous study it was shown that when we lift the church cover off of the Book of Jasher the pages come up empty. Like several other pseudo books associated with literary Biblical attempts the reality is that there never was a so called Book of Jasher written during ancient Old Testament days. No Book of Jasher showed up until 1625 AD. But there is another controversy within the topic of Jasher that is also intriguing to examine. It pertains to the comment in Joshua 10:13 about the Sun standing still for a day while Joshua defeated the Amorites in battle.

Joshua 10

12: Then spake Joshua to Yahweh in the day when Yahweh 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.

13: 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.

We shall herein consider an alternative interpretation about the day that Joshua defeated the Amorites. The truth searcher is free to decide upon its correctness or not. Establishment churches and publishing houses most always give a long held theological viewpoint as being the only true and correct one. However there are two ways to look at the statement in Joshua 10:13. First, the atypical astronomical miraculous perception; and second, the military account perception viewed from how Yahweh routinely fought for Israel. For some reason we never hear of number two, but only number one. We all know about number one. Here's the number two interpretation:

Five Amorite kings had come up against the city of Gibeon which was on friendly terms with Israel. Gibeon feared it would be destroyed so it sent a dire message to Joshua to help them. Joshua agreed and embarked on an all night emergency travel march with his army at a swift pace and presumably no sleep.

10:9 "Joshua therefore came unto them suddenly, and went up from Gilgal all night."

Gilgal to Gibeon is about a twenty mile hike up and over a mountain.

As morning began to arrive and the Sun appeared we can imagine the state of Joshua's army after an all night leg tiring bivouac. Now here comes the Sun getting hotter as the day progresses and the men's arms and backs already spent from carrying equipment for many hours. The middle east Sun is blazing hot. If you've done roof work on a hot sunny day, or baled hay in the blistering heat, or even competed in a team sport against a formidable foe with heat choking the breath, we can empathize with Joshua's men that are now asked to enter into hand to hand combat with five armies at once! Worse is that this was all taking place at high noon since we read in verse 13 that the Sun "stood still" in the midst of heaven. (we'll get to "stood still" in a moment) Did Joshua ask Yahweh for *even more* sunlight? No way. Joshua, as would be expected from a concerned general, asked FOR LESS LIGHT and to have the Sun stopped from putting down its enfeebling heat upon the troops. "Some way God, please take this heat away" (paraphrased in context of the event). And this is precisely what happened. Yahweh sent a mega huge icy hailstorm that darkened the entire area, and would have cooled it down immensely giving Joshua's troops time to be refreshed. The proof from Scripture:

The track record in the Bible as to how Yahweh dealt with battle situations for Israel's favor against enemies was by His use of nature in the form of terrific thunder/lightning storms.

2Samuel 22

7: In my distress I called upon Yahweh, and cried to my God: and He did hear my voice out of His temple, and my cry did enter into His ears.

12: And He made darkness pavilions round about him, dark waters, and thick clouds of the skies.

13: Through the brightness (lightning) before him were coals of fire kindled.

14: Yahweh thundered from heaven, and the most High uttered his voice.

15: And He sent out arrows, and scattered them; lightning, and discomfited them.

Psalm 18

11: He made darkness His secret place; His pavilion round about him were dark waters and thick clouds of the skies.

12: At the brightness that was before Him His thick clouds passed, hail stones and coals of fire.

13: Yahweh also thundered in the heavens, and the Highest gave his voice; hail stones and coals of fire.

14: Yea, He sent out His arrows, and scattered them; and He shot out lightnings, and discomfited them.

Zephaniah 1

14: The great day of Yahweh is near, it is near, and hasteth greatly, even the voice of the day of Yahweh: the mighty man shall cry there bitterly.

15: That day is a day of wrath, a day of trouble and distress, a day of wasteness and desolation, a day of darkness and gloominess, a day of clouds and thick darkness,

Nahum 1

3: Yahweh is slow to anger, and great in power, and will not at all acquit the wicked: Yahweh hath His way in the whirlwind and in the storm, and the clouds are the dust of His feet.

8: But with an overrunning flood He will make an utter end of the place thereof, and darkness shall pursue His enemies.

This witness from many places in the Bible *is consistent* with what happened in Joshua 10 and the battle situation at hand:

Joshua 10

10: And Yahweh discomfited them before Israel, and slew them with a great slaughter at Gibeon, and chased them along the way that goeth up to Bethhoron, and smote them to Azekah, and unto Makkedah.

11: And it came to pass, as they fled from before Israel, and were in the going down to Bethhoron, that Yahweh cast down great stones from heaven upon them unto Azekah, and they died: they were more which died with hailstones than they whom the children of Israel slew with the sword.

While Joshua's men gathered their strength and vigor in the cool dark shade of the ice storm, Yahweh was obliterating the Amorites from another direction. This made it possible for Joshua to prepare for the "mop up job" of avenging Israel whereupon Joshua commanded his men:

10:19 And stay ye not, but pursue after your enemies, and smite the hindmost of them; suffer them not to enter into their cities: for Yahweh your God hath delivered them into your hand.

This is the true story from the Word of God. This is what happened. Dark happened, not extra light. And the Sun did not change its normal course during the time, rather it was hidden behind darkness all day long.

What have we with the two controversial verses upon which an entire false doctrine has been built?: *(no comment on the name Jasher here, as it was adj. "the jasher one" as explained > [here](#))*

Joshua 10:12 Then spake Joshua to Yahweh in the day when Yahweh 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.

13: 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.

The words “stand still” in verse 12 is the Hebrew word *daw-mam* at Strong’s #H1826. Although it can mean *stop*, the primary meaning is to be “dumb or silent” as the root word clearly shows at #1820. But if the primary meaning is applied, how can the Sun become “dumb and silent”? In English this may seem puzzling. The Hebrew language (as is Greek) is very poetic in its sentence syntax. English (as German) is sharp, short, staccato and not as flowery as is Hebrew. The celestial bodies such as the Sun, stars, or constellations were said to sing and speak forth a message.

Psalms 19

1: The heavens declare the glory of God; and the expanse sheweth His handywork.

2: Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night sheweth knowledge.

3: There is no speech nor language, where their voice is not heard.

Job 38

7: When the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy?

(As related to stars, “sons of God” refer to constellations, as we see with this term and Arcturus the constellation, Job 38:32)

The Sun’s shining was something that Joshua commanded to “be stilled and silent” in verse 10:12. That is, he didn’t need the splendor of the Sun shouting its heat rays at that particular time. Joshua ordered it to “be dumb/silent”: *daw-mam*.

Could the Hebrew text here be interpreted as Joshua praying that the Sun stopped moving? Yes it could be that too. But it would not be the primary meaning of the Hebrew words involved. We note the same lacking interpretation of the phrase: the Sun “hasted not to *go down*” in verse 13 where two choices of interpretation may be applied. “Go down” here is the Hebrew word *BO* at Strong’s #H935. The definition tells us that *BO* can mean either “go or come”, also either “to come against”, or to “go down”. Story context would decide which applies.

Verse 13 therefore states that the Sun either did not *go down* at its regular time or that the Sun did not *come against* Joshua and his army that day and that it was somehow darkened to stop its “voice”. It all becomes a matter of interpretation and perception. If we chose to use only the two verses 12 & 13 and read the phrase “the Book of Jasher” into them, then our conclusion will be that the Sun did not set for a whole day and it was an astronomical miracle. If we take the entire account and other Bible references together with the Hebrew primary definitions, then we conclude that Joshua’s men were battle fatigued, needed refreshed, plus a mega dark hail storm arrived on time to enable

Joshua's victory. Both versions are possible. Personally I view the military account perception to be the correct and much more plausible interpretation as opposed to the astronomical miracle version as being what happened. The reader is welcome to make his own decision and I'm ok with that. The miracle is that Yahweh fought for Israel.

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