

Surely the Lord was fighting for Israel (Joshua 10:1-43 & Revelation 19:11-16)

07-Jun-26

Joshua 10:1-43

The Sun Stands Still

10 Now Adoni-Zedek king of Jerusalem heard that Joshua had taken Ai and totally destroyed it, doing to Ai and its king as he had done to Jericho and its king, and that the people of Gibeon had made a treaty of peace with Israel and had become their allies. ² He and his people were very much alarmed at this, because Gibeon was an important city, like one of the royal cities; it was larger than Ai, and all its men were good fighters. ³ So Adoni-Zedek king of Jerusalem appealed to Hoham king of Hebron, Piram king of Jarmuth, Japhia king of Lachish and Debir king of Eglon. ⁴ “Come up and help me attack Gibeon,” he said, “because it has made peace with Joshua and the Israelites.”

⁵ Then the five kings of the Amorites—the kings of Jerusalem, Hebron, Jarmuth, Lachish and Eglon—joined forces. They moved up with all their troops and took up positions against Gibeon and attacked it.

⁶ The Gibeonites then sent word to Joshua in the camp at Gilgal: “Do not abandon your servants. Come up to us quickly and save us! Help us, because all the Amorite kings from the hill country have joined forces against us.”

⁷ So Joshua marched up from Gilgal with his entire army, including all the best fighting men. ⁸ The Lord said to Joshua, “Do not be afraid of them; I have given them into your hand. Not one of them will be able to withstand you.”

⁹ After an all-night march from Gilgal, Joshua took them by surprise. ¹⁰ The Lord threw them into confusion before Israel, so Joshua and the Israelites defeated them completely at Gibeon. Israel pursued them along the road going up to Beth Horon and cut them down all the way to Azekah and Makkedah. ¹¹ As they fled before Israel on the road down from Beth Horon to Azekah, the Lord hurled large hailstones down on them, and more of them died from the hail than were killed by the swords of the Israelites.

¹² On the day the Lord gave the Amorites over to Israel, Joshua said to the Lord in the presence of Israel:

“Sun, stand still over Gibeon,
and you, moon, over the Valley of Aijalon.”

¹³ So the sun stood still,

and the moon stopped,
till the nation avenged itself on its enemies,
as it is written in the Book of Jashar.

The sun stopped in the middle of the sky and delayed going down about a full day. ¹⁴ There has never been a day like it before or since, a day when the Lord listened to a human being. Surely the Lord was fighting for Israel! ¹⁵ Then Joshua returned with all Israel to the camp at Gilgal.

Five Amorite Kings Killed

¹⁶ Now the five kings had fled and hidden in the cave at Makkedah. ¹⁷ When Joshua was told that the five kings had been found hiding in the cave at Makkedah, ¹⁸ he said, “Roll large rocks up to the mouth of the cave, and post some men there to guard it. ¹⁹ But don’t stop; pursue your enemies! Attack them from the rear and don’t let them reach their cities, for the Lord your God has given them into your hand.”

²⁰ So Joshua and the Israelites defeated them completely, but a few survivors managed to reach their fortified cities. ²¹ The whole army then returned safely to Joshua in the camp at Makkedah, and no one uttered a word against the Israelites.

²² Joshua said, “Open the mouth of the cave and bring those five kings out to me.” ²³ So they brought the five kings out of the cave—the kings of Jerusalem, Hebron, Jarmuth, Lachish and Eglon. ²⁴ When they had brought these kings to Joshua, he summoned all the men of Israel and said to the army commanders who had come with him, “Come here and put your feet on the necks of these kings.” So they came forward and placed their feet on their necks.

²⁵ Joshua said to them, “Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged. Be strong and courageous. This is what the Lord will do to all the enemies you are going to fight.” ²⁶ Then Joshua put the kings to death and exposed their bodies on five poles, and they were left hanging on the poles until evening.

²⁷ At sunset Joshua gave the order and they took them down from the poles and threw them into the cave where they had been hiding. At the mouth of the cave they placed large rocks, which are there to this day.

Southern Cities Conquered

²⁸ That day Joshua took Makkedah. He put the city and its king to the sword and totally destroyed everyone in it. He left no survivors. And he did to the king of Makkedah as he had done to the king of Jericho.

²⁹ Then Joshua and all Israel with him moved on from Makedah to Libnah and attacked it. ³⁰ The Lord also gave that city and its king into Israel's hand. The city and everyone in it Joshua put to the sword. He left no survivors there. And he did to its king as he had done to the king of Jericho.

³¹ Then Joshua and all Israel with him moved on from Libnah to Lachish; he took up positions against it and attacked it. ³² The Lord gave Lachish into Israel's hands, and Joshua took it on the second day. The city and everyone in it he put to the sword, just as he had done to Libnah. ³³ Meanwhile, Horam king of Gezer had come up to help Lachish, but Joshua defeated him and his army—until no survivors were left.

³⁴ Then Joshua and all Israel with him moved on from Lachish to Eglon; they took up positions against it and attacked it. ³⁵ They captured it that same day and put it to the sword and totally destroyed everyone in it, just as they had done to Lachish.

³⁶ Then Joshua and all Israel with him went up from Eglon to Hebron and attacked it. ³⁷ They took the city and put it to the sword, together with its king, its villages and everyone in it. They left no survivors. Just as at Eglon, they totally destroyed it and everyone in it.

³⁸ Then Joshua and all Israel with him turned around and attacked Debir. ³⁹ They took the city, its king and its villages, and put them to the sword. Everyone in it they totally destroyed. They left no survivors. They did to Debir and its king as they had done to Libnah and its king and to Hebron.

⁴⁰ So Joshua subdued the whole region, including the hill country, the Negev, the western foothills and the mountain slopes, together with all their kings. He left no survivors. He totally destroyed all who breathed, just as the Lord, the God of Israel, had commanded. ⁴¹ Joshua subdued them from Kadesh Barnea to Gaza and from the whole region of Goshen to Gibeon. ⁴² All these kings and their lands Joshua conquered in one campaign, because the Lord, the God of Israel, fought for Israel.

⁴³ Then Joshua returned with all Israel to the camp at Gilgal.

Revelation 19:11-16

The Heavenly Warrior Defeats the Beast

¹¹ I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice he judges and wages war. ¹² His eyes are like blazing fire, and on his head are many crowns. He has a name

written on him that no one knows but he himself. ¹³ He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is the Word of God. ¹⁴ The armies of heaven were following him, riding on white horses and dressed in fine linen, white and clean. ¹⁵ Coming out of his mouth is a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. “He will rule them with an iron scepter.” He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty. ¹⁶ On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.

There are **Bibles** in front of you

And a sermon **outline**

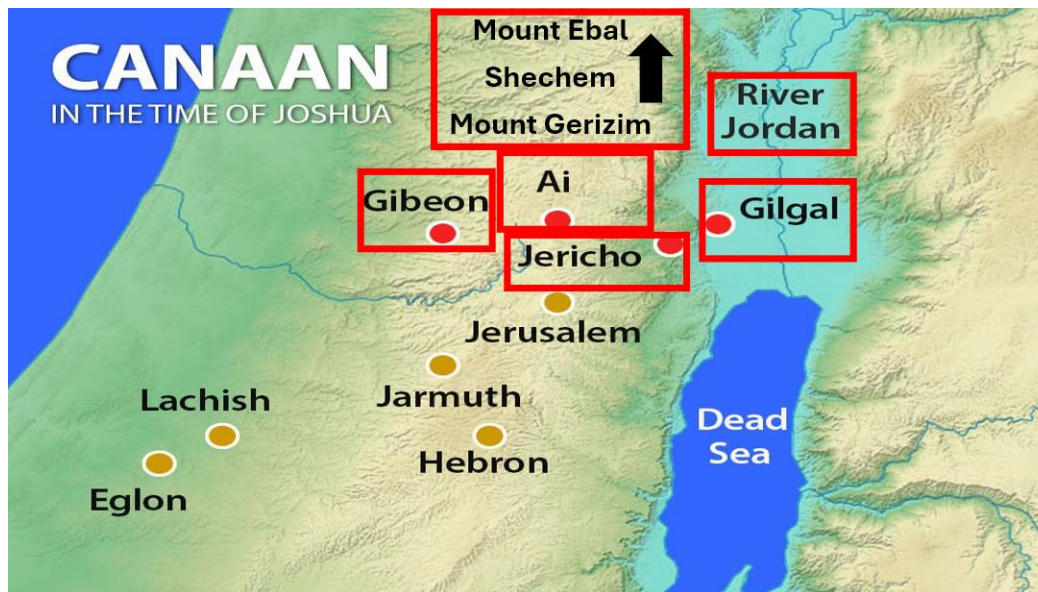
Please have your **Bibles opened** up at **Joshua chapter 10**

Let me pray first...

Recap/Context

Before we begin – let’s just recap where we got up to and get the context of today’s chapter

[Slide-Map]



So far, Joshua and the Israelites

[Click] made miraculous crossing of the River Jordan

[Click] they made camp at Gilgal – where they erected some stones as a memorial of how God helped them cross the River

[Click] then they conquered Jericho – by simply marching around the city for 7 days – and God brought the walls of Jericho down!

[Click] then they conquered Ai – but there was a slight hiccup when a guy name Achan stole some silver and gold from Jericho – which meant God wasn't with them in their first battle with Ai. But once Achan's sin was dealt with - Ai was conquered.

[Click] Joshua and the Israelites then went up north to Shechem – and at the Mountains of Gerizim and Ebal – God made the Israelites read from His Word – the blessings that the Israelites would receive if they were obedient to God – and the curses that would befall them if they were disobedient to God.

[Click] Then last week – the people of Gibeon – pretended to be from a faraway city and came to Joshua looking to make peace. Joshua didn't check with God if the Gibeonites were fair dinkum – and he gave an oath to make peace with them. Even when he found out that the Gibeonites had deceived him – Joshua kept his oath and the Gibeonites were made servants of the Israelites – working as woodcutters and water carriers.

One of the things that we've been struggling with so far in the book of Joshua is the fact that God has told the Israelites – to wipe out everyone in each city – and this chapter is no different.

So it's worth reminding ourselves that:

- God is sovereign over ALL things

- We should not underestimate how wicked/evil the people of Canaan are – they rejected the one true God – they worship false gods and idols – they practice temple prostitution – and witchcraft and sorcery – and they even practice child sacrifices.
- So God is using the less than perfect Israelites to pass His judgment on the wicked Canaanites
- We also need to realize if we start to question the Holy God Almighty – the Creator of the Heavens and the Earth – and suggest that He doesn't know what He's doing – we are on very dodgy ground indeed!
- If it wasn't for God's grace – and God just gave us what we deserve – then we would not be saved either. So praise God – He doesn't treat us as we deserve.

I pray that helps somewhat?

(pause)

[Slide-1st point]

My 1st point – this morning is – “**God fights for His people because God always keeps His promises**” – that's verses 1 to 10...

God fights for His people because God always keeps His promises (Joshua 10:1-10)

We pick up the story in chapter 10 vv1-2 – Adoni-Zedek the King of Jerusalem – he's heard what Joshua has done to Jericho and Ai – and that even the Gibeonites, who are from an important large city with good fighting men, have made a peace treaty with Joshua!

So King Adoni-Zedek of Jerusalem – vv3-4 – asks four other kings - King Hoham of Hebron, Piram of Jarmuth, Japhia of Lachish, and Debir of Eglon to join him in attacking Gibeon because they made peace with Joshua – and the four kings agree – and together with Adoni-Zedek, the five kings prepare to attack Gibeon v5.

Understandably the Gibeonites are terrified by this imminent attack – v6 – and send word to Joshua to come and help

Now this would have been a perfect opportunity for Joshua to get out of his oath and peace treaty with the Gibeonites – after all they had deceived Joshua. If Joshua doesn't help – the Gibeonites would be wiped out and that would serve them right for scamming Joshua.

But Joshua is true to his oath and peace treaty – so much so – v7 – he marches with his entire army including all his best fighting men

And then we have the promise from God – verse 8

The Lord said to Joshua, “Do not be afraid of them; I have given them into your hand. Not one of them will be able to withstand you.”

It would be so reassuring and comforting for Joshua and the Israelites to know that even though they will be facing the combined forces of five kings – victory is certain!

God's promise doesn't mean Joshua just sits back and relaxes – no! In v9 – Joshua marches **all night** to catch the enemy by surprise.

Then v10 – God kept His promise.

God threw the enemy into confusion – so that Joshua and the Israelites had a complete victory at Gibeon!

Application

For us it means

- We can have complete confidence that God keeps every promise He makes.
- In fact the Bible says – in **2 Corinthians 1:20** - *For no matter how many promises God has made, they are “Yes” in Christ.*
- Every promise of forgiveness, grace, strength and eternal life is guaranteed through Jesus.
- Jesus Himself promises in Matthew 28:20 *“Surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”* Isn’t that a great comfort?
- We often say that the Old Testament points us to Jesus, and we see that here as well. Joshua protected the Gibeonites even though they were sinners because they came to him and surrendered. In the same way, when we repent and surrender our lives to Jesus as Lord, He graciously receives and protects us, despite our sin.
- So that’s the **1st point** – this morning – **“God fights for His people because He always keeps His promises”**

[Slide-2nd Point]

The **2nd point** is – **“God fights for His people with His mighty power”** – that’s verses 11 to 15

God fights for His people with His mighty power (Joshua 10:11-15)

As we continue the story in Joshua 10

V11 – As the enemy fled from Joshua – we see that it’s not just the military power of Joshua and the Israelites on display – but **God’s power** – as **He miraculously hurled large hailstones down on the enemy.**

God is fighting for His people with His power.

And Joshua is so confident in God’s promise and power – that it gives him the boldness to pray for something quite remarkable in v12– in the presence of the Israelites – Joshua prays to the Lord:

“Sun, stand still over Gibeon, and you, moon, over the Valley of Aijalon”

And that’s exactly what happened – see end of v13 and v14

The sun stopped in the middle of the sky and delayed going down about a full day. There has never been a day like it before or since, a day when the Lord listened to a human being.

Some people wonder how the length of the day was extended. It could have been a slowing of the earth’s rotation; it could have been a tilting of the earth’s axis; it could have been a miracle of reflection of light; it could have simply been the presence of God manifested in light.

However it was done, the result was clear. The sun seemed to stay still in the sky, so that the Israelites were able to complete the victory – because as it says at the end of v15 - **Surely the Lord was fighting for Israel!**

God is in the miracle business!

Application

For us

Do we genuinely believe in the power of God?

Joshua clearly did! And so Joshua prayed boldly.

Why was Joshua's prayer answered?

Because Joshua was not asking for something selfish or sinful. He wanted more time so that:

- God would be glorified.
- God's commands would be obeyed.
- God's work would continue without hindrance.
- God's people would triumph over evil
- And God would be victorious – evil would be restrained – and God's kingdom purposes would advance.

Joshua's prayer was centred on God's glory – not personal comfort.

There's a real lesson here for us about prayer:

1st – God has given us prayer as the instrument to bring about His will and His purpose in our lives – not simply a way of getting our own will done!

2nd – It's worth us asking ourselves "why would God answer our prayer for His power to be revealed in our lives?" - "how will God be glorified if my prayer is answered?" – "would this help me serve Jesus more faithfully?"

3rd – This passage encourages us to pray boldly.

Sometimes we pray very small prayers because we have very small expectations of God.

And yet the Bible repeatedly reminds us that God is powerful beyond what we can ever imagine.

Now that does not mean God will always answer exactly the way we want. Nor does it mean we should expect miraculous signs whenever life becomes difficult.

But it does mean we can confidently ask God to supply strength, wisdom, endurance, opportunities, help, and power so that His purposes are accomplished in and through us.

To give a personal example of this – and I’ve prayed this way a few times – most recently last week...

I was under the pump – I had meetings with two families regarding funerals – I had to prepare for a funeral – several medical appointments – as well as my usual responsibilities of preparing a sermon, bible study, youth group, pastoral care and teaching scripture at school.

I soon realized that the workload was immense and the time to do it was short.

My prayer was simple *“Lord God, please help the time to go slowly and the work for You to be completed quickly and properly!”*

God graciously answered that prayer – not merely for my comfort and to make my life easier - but so that the work He had given me to do could be completed faithfully:

- the funeral cared for grieving people
- the sermons and Bible studies taught His Word
- the school Scripture classes pointed children to Jesus
- and pastoral care encouraged His people.

God delights to answer prayers that honour Him and advance His purposes!

There’s also a nice link to Jesus here too.

In his own way; Joshua had authority over the created order (stopping the sun) which points to Jesus, the one who has ALL authority over ALL creation. Jesus could **walk on water; calm a storm; heal the sick; forgive sins; raise the dead!**

Joshua had a shadow of this authority; Jesus had the reality of it!

[Slide-3rd Point]

The 3rd point is – “**When God fights for His people, no enemy can stand**” – that’s verses 16 to 43.

When God fights for His people, no enemy can stand (Joshua 10:16-43)

Look at vv16-18 – the **five kings** fled and hid in a cave at a place called Makkedah. Joshua locked them in the cave by rolling large rocks over the entrance to the cave with men posted to guard the cave– so that he could continue pursuing the enemy – and come back and deal with the five kings later. So in vv19-21 – Joshua and his army pursued the enemies and defeated them completely – to the point where it says in verse 21 “**no one uttered a word against the Israelites**”

Why?

Because the people of Canaan knew – beyond any doubt that – Israel’s God is unstoppable!

Application

By analogy and application, Jesus’ Church — just like Israel — should be feared in the sense that it should be a place where people know God will conquer them. They should have the idea “If I keep coming to this church, God is going to conquer me. I’ll have to submit my life to Him.” Too many churches present a

harmless sort of God who demands no surrender from His people. We must insist that people surrender their lives to God's Son and come to believe that He alone is Lord of their life – because He died for their sins to be forgiven and He is the only one who can give them eternal life in Heaven!

Later on in vv22-27 – the five kings are dealt with – they are put to death and their bodies hung on poles (v26) until sunset – when they are then put back in the cave they had been hiding (v27)

But look at the confidence Joshua has from the Lord's dealings with him.

In v24 – Joshua gets his men to put their feet on the neck of these five kings – as a sign/symbol that God has put their enemies under their feet. And that's what God will do to all His enemies.

Then in verse 25 Joshua encourages his men with the same words that God once encouraged Joshua – back in chapter 1. Joshua tells his men: ***Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged. Be strong and courageous. This is what the Lord will do to all the enemies you are going to fight.***

Application

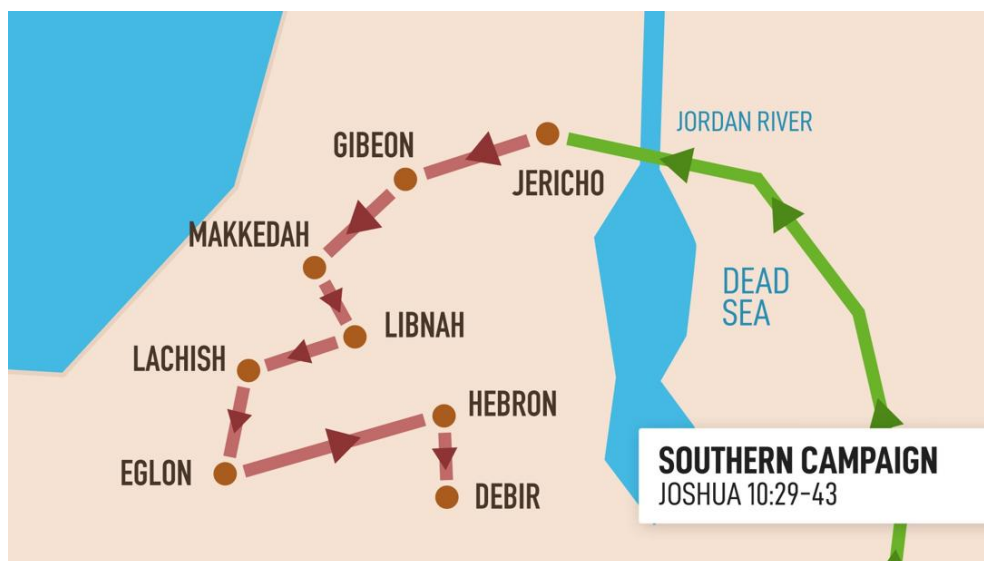
How often is it – that when we are encouraged by God – we can pass that same encouragement on to others! It's wonderful to be able to do that – isn't it?

Again – there is a nice link to Jesus here. Just like the five kings were placed in cave sealed with a rock and guards – Jesus, the King of Kings was placed in a tomb with a large stone over the entrance and guards. The five Kings did not survive, they could not escape death but the King of Kings, even though He was

killed, was raised to life after three days, when the stone was rolled away and the tomb was empty! Because God sent His Son Jesus - even the enemy of death cannot stand – and because of Jesus – we have victory over our enemy of death – and we have the promise of eternal life!

As the Apostle Paul reminds us in 1 Corinthians 15:25-27 – *The last enemy to be destroyed is death. For GOD has put everything under JESUS' feet.*

[Slide-Southern Campaign]



Then in verses 28 to 39.

Joshua moves south to conquer all the cities in the South of Canaan

You can see them on the map

Makkedah (v28)

Libnah (v29)

Lachish (vv31-32)

Eglon (vv34-35)

Hebron (vv36-37)

And finally Debir (vv38-39).

And throughout this campaign we have the repeated phrase
 “*He left no survivors*” and everything was “*totally destroyed*”

How is that possible?

Because – the end of verse 42 – *the Lord, the God of Israel, fought for Israel.*

Therefore no enemy can stand against God!

Application

Again, we have a couple of references to Jesus here...

Firstly, Victorious Joshua points to victorious Jesus. Joshua’s victory was not for him alone but for all his people; likewise Jesus’ victory over sin and death - was not for Him alone - but for all His people!

Secondly, even though Joshua's victories were real and significant, they were not the final victory. In a similar way, Jesus has won the decisive victory over sin, death, and Satan, yet we still await the day when every enemy is finally subdued – and that brings us to our NT passage from Revelation 19 – when **the ultimate Joshua – King Jesus returns!**

[Please turn to Revelation 19 – from verses 11 to 16]

CONCLUSION: The Ultimate Joshua – King Jesus Returns (Revelation 19:11–16)

Here in Revelation 19 – we move from **Joshua the Earthly Warrior** – to **Jesus the Heavenly Warrior**

The Apostle John is given a vision of the return of Jesus – when Jesus will finally and completely bring God’s judgment upon evil.

[Slide-Revelation 19]



V11 – John sees a rider on a white horse called **“Faithful and True,”** who comes to judge and wage war in righteousness.

V12 – this rider has eyes like blazing fire — symbolizing His perfect holiness and judgment. He wears many crowns because He is the true King over every king and ruler.

V13 – He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood – symbolizing His blood poured out when He took the punishment for sin and also symbolizing the blood of God’s judgment that He will carry out!

This rider is called the Word of God (John 1:1, 14)

Of course He is Jesus – the Word made flesh (John 1:14)

The first time Jesus came – He came in humility to save sinners.

The second time – Jesus will come in glory to judge evil and establish His kingdom forever.

V14 - describes the armies of heaven following Jesus, dressed in white — symbolizing purity and righteousness.

V15 – says that from Jesus’ mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike the nations. This is the powerful word of judgment against all who continue to reject God and rebel against His Son.

The opportunity for repentance will one day end.

God’s judgment will fall on all evil and unbelief.

And if there was any doubt about who this rider is, verse 16 says His name is written on His robe and on His thigh:

“KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS”

Application

We don’t know when Jesus will return!

What if it were this afternoon?

What if it were tomorrow?

If a person has never repented of their sins and trusted in Jesus Christ — if they do not believe that Jesus died on the cross for the punishment of sin and rose again to give eternal life — then when Jesus returns it will be too late.

The Bible says now is the day of salvation.

And this should also affect how we see the people around us.

I do not say this to frighten people unnecessarily — but because it is true.

If you saw someone standing in the middle of the road with a truck hurtling towards them, you would urgently warn them because you care about them.

In a far greater way, people around us are heading toward a coming judgment unless they turn to Jesus.

That is why we speak about Jesus.

That is why we pray for people.

That is why we share the gospel.

Because King Jesus is coming again.

And the wonderful news is that all who repent and trust in Him will not face condemnation, but will share in His victory forever.

I'm sure there's **someone you know** – that needs to hear about this coming judgment – before it's too late!

Write their name down – and tell them this week!

Let's pray.

Heavenly Father, thank You that You are mighty, faithful, and able to fight for Your people. Help us to trust You when we face battles, fears, and difficulties. Give us courage to obey You, faith to pray boldly, and confidence that Jesus has already won the greatest victory of all for us. Strengthen us to stand firm and walk faithfully each day with You. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Benediction

Go in peace knowing that the Lord fights for His people, and that Jesus Christ is the King of kings and Lord of lords. And surely He is with you always, to the very end of the age. Amen.