

KEEPING THE PROMISE

Joshua 10: 1- 43

When Adonizedec the king of Jerusalem had heard how Joshua had taken Ai, and completely destroyed it, as he had destroyed the city of Jericho, and when he heard that the people of Gibeon had made peace with Israel, he was greatly afraid. Gibeon was a great city, one of the royal cities, and its men were mighty. Adonizedec the king of Jerusalem sent word to Hoham king of Hebron, to Piram king of Jarmuth, to Japhia king of Lachish, and to Deber king of Eglon, saying, "Come with me and help me fight the Gibeonites, for they have made peace with Israel."

Then these five kings banded together, took their armies and went to fight Gibeon. When the Gibeonite people saw them they sent word to Joshua saying, "Hurry, come quickly to help your servants, for all the kings of the Amorites have come to destroy us."

Joshua immediately gathered his people of war and went to help the people of Gibeon, for Israel had made a promise to Gibeon that they would always be their friends and not their enemies. Israel had made a treaty that they would come to the defense of Gibeon if they were ever in danger.

The Lord said to Joshua, "Don't be afraid of the them, for I have delivered them into your hand. Not a man of them will be able to stand before you."

Joshua and his army came on the armies of the five kings suddenly, and the Lord troubled the Amorites, so that Israel destroyed them all. As the armies of the five kings were running away from the Israelites, the Lord sent great hailstones down upon them, so that they died. More were killed by the hailstones than were killed with the sword.

Then Joshua spoke to the Lord in the day that the Amorites lost their great battle. He said, "Sun stand thou still upon Gibeon: and thou Moon, in the valley of Ajalone." That day the sun did not go down and the moon did not come up, until Israel had finished defeating her enemies. There was no other day like it before or after that day, when the Lord kept the sun from going down for a whole day.

Now some people say, that such a thing could not really have happened, but with God all things are possible. He made the sun and the moon, and he is well able to change their regular courses for his own purpose.

When the battle was over, Joshua and his men returned to their camp at Gilgal, but the five kings of the Amorites had hid themselves in a cave. When Joshua knew this, he had those five kings brought out and put to death for their wicked rebellion against the Lord.

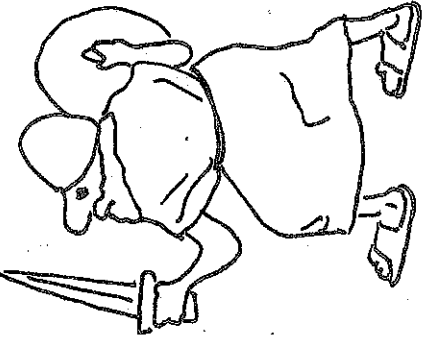
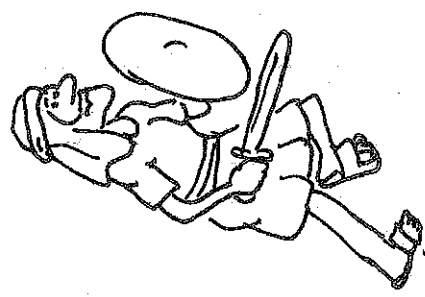
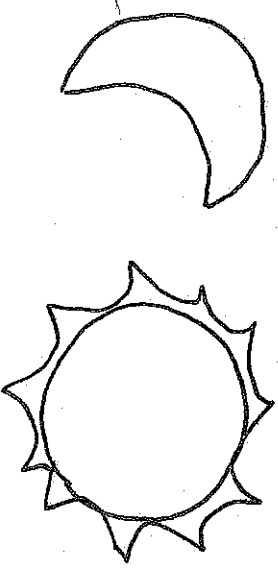
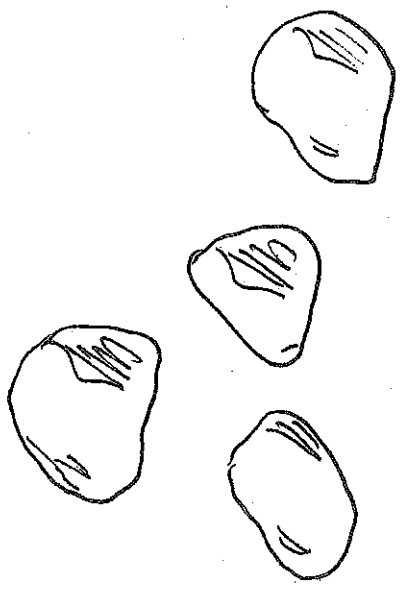
After this Joshua continued to do battle in the land of Canaan. He took many more cities, because the Lord was with him and gave him the victory, just as he had promised.

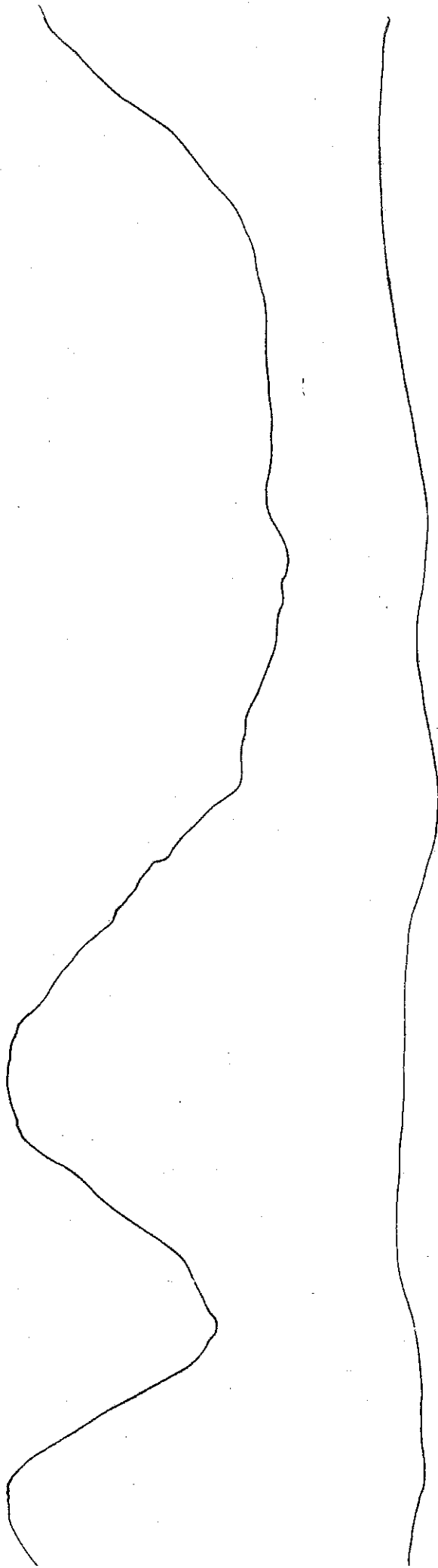
Israel had to go to battle for the people of Gibeon, because they had a promise to keep. God gave Israel the victory over a very great army because they were obedient to him. God will always give us the courage to stand against our enemies, no matter how many or how great. The battle is always his, and no one can stand against him and win, for he is the great Creator and Lord over all. He can make the hail fall from heaven on his enemies and he can make the sun stand still in the sky. He is the only one who deserves our worship.

LEARN: O sing unto the Lord a new song; for he hath done marvelous things: his right hand, and his holy arm, hath gotten him the victory.
Psalm 98:1

1. Color all the parts of this picture and the scene.

2. Cut the parts out a paste in the appropriate valley.





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