

Overwhelming

When have you seen (or been part of) something in which one side was completely overwhelmed by the other side?

Read Joshua 10:1—27.

1. What would you do if you were threatened to an extreme extent?
 - A. Run.
 - B. Fight back.
 - C. Get others to help me fight back.
 - D. Strategize to fight a side battle rather than the strongest power.
 - E. It depends on whether that power had been successful previously.
 - F. I'd turn to prayer.
 - G. I would offer myself as a slave for the rest of my life.
 - H. I'd be paralyzed and not know what to do.
 - I. Other.

2. Should the Israelites have rescued the Gibeonites?
 - A. The Gibeonites had deceived the Israelites, so their treaty was flimsy.
 - B. A treaty is a treaty; honor it to the death.
 - C. The Gibeonites had no other hope.
 - D. The Gibeonites were new followers of Yahweh; this tested their faith.
 - E. Only after their bread turned moldy (see Joshua 9:5, 12, 14).
 - F. This provoked battles that would have ensued later.
 - G. God told them to go rescue them.
 - H. Joshua didn't want to lose face.
 - I. Other.

3. Why did God give Joshua the assurance of victory in advance?
 - A. God was always telling Joshua to have courage (1:6, 9, 18; 10:25).
 - B. After the hiccup at Ai, Joshua need to be sure he was on track.
 - C. Joshua wasn't sure if God wanted the Israelites to go.
 - D. Joshua wasn't sure if the Israelites could beat the five-king coalition.
 - E. To remind Joshua that God was the key to victory.
 - F. To rev up the army.
 - G. To let the Israelite army know God was present and active.
 - H. Other.

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4. Why were the Israelites able to defeat the five-king coalition?
 - A. God had to make good on his promise.
 - B. God empowered them to fight.
 - C. God threw the 5-king coalition into a panic and retreat.
 - D. The Israelites did their part, relying on God to do his part.
 - E. The five kings were actually quite weak.
 - F. The hailstorm “act of God” did them in.
 - G. They got lucky.
 - H. There was no longer “sin in the camp” like after Jericho (7:10-13).
 - I. Other.

5. What’s the meaning of “the sun standing still over Gibeon”?
 - A. It’s poetry.
 - B. The sun stopped for more daylight to complete the victory.
 - C. Sometimes it takes longer than you expect to achieve your goals.
 - D. Controlling the sun from the earth is unprecedented.
 - E. God gave a human a request from the literal heavens.
 - F. God has power over earth and sky.
 - G. The sun was considering doing its own “big bang.”
 - H. There’s no end to God’s power.
 - I. Other.

6. What’s the crazy stuff about with the five kings and the cave?
 - A. Caves are usually good places to hide.
 - B. The kings had deserted their armies.
 - C. Joshua wanted to defeat the kings *and* their soldiers.
 - D. Feet on necks = common victory protocol (Ps. 8:6; 110:1; 1 Kgs 5:3).
 - E. That what males do to manage testosterone surges.
 - F. It shows domination, which empowers victorious soldiers.
 - G. Overkill, yet also within the limits of propriety at that time (Dt. 21:23).
 - H. Other.

7. Who would come to your aid, no matter what? Whom would you aid, no matter what?

8. What’s an example of something so unusual that it hasn’t happened at any other time in your life??