

Joshua: A Type of Christ

Matthew 17:17

By Tom Stephens

A profound picture of the partnership between Jesus Christ and His Church is exemplified in the story of Israel and the Gibeonites. It's found in Joshua 10:22-27. Joshua is an Old Testament picture or type of Christ and Israel pictures the Church. Joshua's name, which is actually the Hebrew equivalent to the name, Jesus, had been changed earlier in his life to paint this picture. It had formerly been Hoshea.

After Joshua and the army of Israel defeated the five Canaanite armies in defense of the Gibeonites, the kings of these armies fled to hide in a cave.

Upon discovering them, Joshua ordered the kings to be brought to him and made them lie down on the ground. He was about to enact a very familiar custom, which was to place his foot on their necks or heads to display his conquest. Sometimes the defeated armies would be paraded before the conquering King or General observing him as he "displayed" his conquest. This is what Colossians 2:15 is referring to when it says of Christ, "When He had disarmed the rulers and authorities, He made a public display of them, having triumphed over them through Him."

But Joshua is about to do something different and prophetic here. Rather than place his foot on the necks of these kings, as was the custom, Joshua summoned some of his soldiers and had *them* do it. There is no more literal picture of Christ than this prophetic picture. When Jesus defeated Satan and his principalities and powers, the rulers of the darkness of this world, He, too, called His army to Him and said, "**You put your feet on the necks of these enemies.**"

When **Ephesians 2:6** says He "raised us up with Him," Christ is saying, "It's not only MY victory, it's YOURS!"

He is also saying, "What I have done, you must enforce. I have put them under My feet legally at the cross – under my authority – but you (the Church) must exercise that authority in individual situations, causing the literal fulfillment of it."

Romans 16:20 says, "And the God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet." And Luke 10:19 tells us:

"Behold, I have given *you* authority to tread upon serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and **nothing shall by any means hurt you.**"

There is a beautiful allegory in the above lesson. If you can understand what Joshua was commanding his soldiers, then you can understand that we, the Church, is empowered to defeat the true enemy of our soul. So, to further explain, I go to a pertinent scripture: "And the 70 returned again with joy, saying, Lord, even the devils are subject unto us through thy name.

And He said unto them, "I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven. Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you. Notwithstanding in this rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you; but rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven."