

At Joshua 10:12-14 we read: "Then Joshua spoke to the LORD in the day when the LORD delivered up the Amorites before the children of Israel, and he said in the sight of Israel: 'Sun, stand still over Gibeon; and moon, in the Valley of Aijalon.' So the sun stood still, and the moon stopped, till the people had revenge upon their enemies. Is this not written in the Book of Jasher? So the sun stood still in the midst of heaven, and did not hasten to go down for about a whole day. And there has been no day like that, before it or after it, that the LORD heeded the voice of a man; for the LORD fought for Israel."

The miracles done by our Lord Jesus all occurred within a very small locality. The miracles wrought through Moses at the time of the exodus covered a bit more territory. This miracle which God did by the word of Joshua the son of Nun involved the entire Earth, and at least that portion of the vast heavens in which the sun and moon exist.

On account of their confidence in what they call science and the godless concept of "laws of nature," many of our unbelieving contemporaries would call this inspired account **ridiculous**. Let us who know the Lord not despise science – that is, knowledge. Rather, let us remember that the fear of the LORD is its very beginning (Proverbs 1:7, 9:10). Let us therefore regard scientific endeavor as something to be practised in the presence of God along with everything else we do. And let us not imagine that there is an entity independent of God called "nature." What exists is the CREATION! The entire cosmos is God's handiwork – that inescapable, general revelation of His glory, power, and majesty. (Psalm 8, Romans 1:19-21).

The apostles' contemporaries mocked the very idea of resurrection. To some of them Paul said, "Why should it be thought incredible by you that God raises the dead?" (Acts 26:8). Knowing that nothing in accord with His righteous and holy will is impossible for God, knowing that nothing in His creation is able to limit or thwart His purposes, why should we consider incredible the mighty miracle described in Joshua chapter 10?

The God Who created the earth, sun, moon and all the heavens also controls them perpetually and with absolute sovereignty. In fact, what the world calls the laws of nature are better seen as so many manifestations of the infallible faithfulness of God. The coming and going of the seasons, our perpetual experience of gravity, and the processes of photosynthesis and gestation are not "automatic," but (*we might say reverently*) "God-o-matic." And God is well able to temporarily alter His ordinary way of upholding and directing all things.

As we begin consider the great flood in this new sermon series, various temptations to inwardly cry, "ridiculous!" come to mind. How was the ark constructed? How did Noah get all those animals into it? Would even forty days of rain produce enough water to cover the highest mountains on earth? Not only is Scripture able to answer these questions, but...

"...our God is in heaven; He does whatever He pleases." (Psalm 115:3)