



## JEHOVAH-NISSI

### Read Exodus 17:1-16

1. Exodus 17 begins with Israel camped at Rephidim and again quarreling with Moses and murmuring against God because of a lack of water. Here God told Moses to strike the rock and water gushed from it to provide water (Exodus 17:1-7).
  - As we lower our guard and grumble against God's provision, etc. we invite the demonic into our situation. (Rephidim means to "make a bed, seeking comfort")
2. Then the Amalekites attacked Israel at Rephidim, and Moses told Joshua to lead the battle against them. As Moses' hands were held high with the staff of God, Israel was winning. When he became tired and his hands lowered they began to lose. Aaron and Hur then came alongside to hold up Moses' arms and Israel won the battle. Moses built an altar and called it The LORD is my Banner (Jehovah Nissi) as an ensign (sign, altar) showing His absolute victory!
  - Exodus 17:15-16 *Moses built an altar and called it The LORD is my Banner. He said, "For hands were lifted up to the throne of the LORD (more accurately, a hand against the Throne of Jehovah). The LORD will be at war against the Amalekites from generation to generation."*

### Israel's Enemy, the Amalekites

1. The Amalakites were descendants of Esau, the son of Isaac and Rebekah and the twin to Jacob (Genesis 25:21-28; 36:12). In Romans 9:13 Paul quoted Obadiah by saying about Esau, "Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated."
  - Esau was a true godless person. (Hebrews 12:16)
  - He had no appreciation for God's values and was profane in his outlook on life (Philippians 3:18-19)
  - He "despised his birthright" (Genesis 25:34) by valuing food for his stomach more

highly than his birthright in God

2. The Amalekites were a persistent enemy of Israel, a constant “thorn to their flesh.” The prophet Balaam prophesied that Amalek was the “first among the nations” (Numbers 24:20), they were the first nation to fight Israel after they were freed from Egypt.
  - God’s austere judgment against Amalek in Exodus 17:14 *Write this on a scroll as something to be remembered and make sure that Joshua hears it, because I will completely blot out the memory of Amalek from under heaven.*
3. Centuries later Samuel was sent by Jehovah and commissioned King Saul to completely destroy the Amalekites (1 Samuel 15:3). By failing to destroy them Saul brought about his own rejection by God and his death at the hand of an Amalekite (1 Samuel 15:2-3; 26-28). The command was finally carried out by Hezekiah who killed all the remaining Amalekites as a nation (1 Chronicles 4:43).
4. The evil spirit within the Amalekites resurfaced almost a thousand years later when Haman the Agagite and a descendant of King Agag whom Saul spared, almost brought about the total annihilation of the Jewish people in Persia. (Esther 9:23-25)

### **Israel’s Victory**

1. A banner in ancient times was not necessarily a flag. Many times, it was a pole with a shining ornament on top which glittered in the sun. The staff in Moses’ hand represented the Presence of God, an ensign (sign) in the battle. With God’s Presence, the battle is won, no matter what the odds!
  - Leviticus 26:7-8 *You will pursue your enemies, and they will fall by the sword before you. Five of you will chase a hundred, and a hundred of you will chase ten thousand, and your enemies will fall by the sword before you.*
  - A note about Moses’ rod: this was the shepherd staff when Moses lived in Midian for 40 years. This was the same staff with which he confronted Pharaoh and parted the Sea. Now the staff represented victory for Israel.
2. There is a striking contrast between their experience at the Red Sea and the experience at Rephidim. At the Red Sea they were terrified as the army of Egypt came upon them. They were commanded not to do anything but to stand still and see the salvation of Jehovah (Exodus 14:13). However, the battle at Rephidim was fought and won by the people as they kept their eyes on the Banner, the miraculous staff of God held high by Moses, Aaron and Hur on the mountain.
  - The first battle at the Red Sea represented salvation by God’s work alone. (Ephesians 2:10)
  - The second battle at Rephidim represented the normal Christian life and the battle we must wage in the power of God. (Ephesians 6:10-18)

## Our Victory Through Jesus Christ

1. Amalek represents the spiritual forces of this world who have lifted up their standard against Jehovah and against His Anointed One. Ephesians 6:12-13 states, *For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.*
  - Rulers: “Arche,” implying that which is first, at the beginning, possibly territorial.
  - Authorities: “Exousia,” the power which receives authority from delegation. This seems to be a second layer of territorial rulership.
  - Powers: “Kosmokrator,” a world ruler of darkness. This layer implies the delegation dealing with issues of philosophies darkening the minds of people.
  - Spiritual forces of evil “Poneria,” depraved, unclean spiritual forces of evil that induce sinfulness and lawlessness in individuals.
2. Amalek also represents the flesh standing in absolute contrast and opposition to the Holy Spirit in the believer.
  - Galatians 5:17 *For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. They are in conflict with each other,...*
  - Romans 7:21-25 *So I find this law at work: When I want to do good, evil is right there with me. For in my inner being I delight in God's law; but I see another law at work in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within my members. What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? Thanks be to God-through Jesus Christ our Lord!*
3. When Israel rebelled and grumbled against God, He sent venomous snakes to harm them. When the people repented and cried out to Moses, God told him to lift up a brass serpent on a pole (the same word for banner), anyone who looked upon it would be healed (Numbers 21:4-9). In this same way, the cross of Christ is our banner of God’s mighty power in salvation!
  - John 3:14-15 *Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the desert, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life.*
4. Because He has conquered before us, He is the Banner of our warfare, our Victory!
  - John 16:33 *“I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”*

