

Jehovah-Nissi The Lord Is My Banner

The Names of God, Part 4
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Last week we learned that Jehovah-Jireh is the God who sees ahead and makes provision for those who, in faith, will obey His instruction. When we put God first in our lives and earnestly desire to do His will He will provide for our physical necessities.

This week we will learn about Jehovah-Nissi who gives us victory over the schemes of the enemy. As we rally round God as an army gathers round its standard, God leads us to victory.

3.) Jehovah-Nissi, “The Lord my banner”

Exodus 17:15 (KJV) And Moses built an altar, and called the name of it Jehovah-nissi:

Exodus 17:15 Moses built an altar and called it The LORD is my Banner.

יְהוָה נִסִּי yehôvâh nisîy Jehovah-nissi = “Jehovah is my banner” the title given by Moses to the altar which he erected on the hill on the top of which he stood with uplifted hands while Israel prevailed over their enemies the Amalekites

As we read the context of Exodus 17:15 we will discover six important elements for victory over our enemy, the work of our flesh. Facing the enemy head on in the power of the Holy Spirit, the Word of God, the importance of continued prayer, the support of friends and persistence to the end.

Exodus 17:8-15 The Amalekites came and attacked the Israelites at Rephidim. ⁹Moses said to Joshua, “Choose some of our men and go out to fight the Amalekites. Tomorrow I will stand on top of the hill with the staff of God in my hands.”¹⁰So Joshua fought the Amalekites as Moses had ordered, and Moses, Aaron and Hur went to the top of the hill. ¹¹As long as Moses held up his hands, the Israelites were winning, but whenever he lowered his hands, the Amalekites were winning. ¹²When Moses’ hands grew tired, they took a stone and put it under him and he sat on it. Aaron and Hur held his hands up—one on one side, one on the other—so that his hands remained steady till sunset. ¹³So Joshua overcame the Amalekite army with the sword.¹⁴Then the LORD said to Moses, “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.”¹⁵Moses built an altar and called it The LORD is my Banner.

A.) The Amalekites: Amalek is the grandson of Esau (Gen. 36:12). The Amalekites were a nomadic tribe in the desert south of Canaan having control of the borders between Palestine and Egypt (1 Sam. 15:7; 27:8). The Amalekites were persistent in unprovoked harassment of God’s people (num. 14:45; Jud. 6:33; 1 Sam. 14:38, 15:7; 27:8) until their total annihilation by King David (1 Sam. 30). The destruction of Amalek is typical of the destruction of all God’s enemies. As God’s people we are ALL in the wilderness of this world and subject to the enemy of our soul. We ALL contend with the world, the flesh and the devil.

1 Peter 5:8 Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.

Ephes. 4:27 and do not give the devil a foothold.

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B.) Joshua and his sword: is an illustration of the person of the Holy Spirit and the Word of the Lord. Up to this point Israel has not had to fight their our battles. God miraculously delivered them from the cruel bondages of Egypt and has led them through the Red Sea. Now they will experience God working through them as they themselves join the battle.

Ephes. 6:17 Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

Hebrews 4:12 For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.

C.) The Staff: served as a banner, symbolized the authority of the Lord. The Israelites were fighting under the direction of the Lord, Jehovah-Nissi, who was their banner.

2 Chron. 32:8 With him is only the arm of flesh, but with us is the LORD our God to help us and to fight our battles." And the people gained confidence from what Hezekiah the king of Judah said.

Zech. 4:6 So he said to me, "This is the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel: 'Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit,' says the LORD Almighty.

D.) Uplifted Hands: above the head symbolized Moses total surrender, his dependence on the Lord and his commitment to prayer as an intercessor. We do not read where Joshua's hands became weary in the heavy fighting, but only Moses hands became heavy in prayer. The more spiritual the service is, the more apt we are to fail." What ever successes we may have reflect what God is doing through us, not what we have accomplished on our own.

2 Corinthians 10:3-4 For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. ⁴The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds.

Romans 8:26 In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express.

Romans 8:34 (KJV) Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.

E.) Aaron and Hur: without the help friends the battle would have been lost! We should never be ashamed to confess our need and ask for help. And we should always be quick to assist those in need of our help.

2 Cor. 1:11 as you help us by your prayers. Then many will give thanks on our behalf for the gracious favor granted us in answer to the prayers of many.

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their work: ¹⁰If one falls down, his friend can help him up. But pity the man who falls and has no one to help him up! ¹¹Also, if two lie down together, they will keep warm. But how can one keep warm alone? ¹²Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.

F.) Jesus: is our salvation, Jehovah-Nissi. He is our Joshua, the captain of our salvation, who fights our battles, and our Moses, who ever lives, making intercession for us, that our faith will not fail.

Isaiah 11:10-12 In that day the Root of Jesse will stand as a banner for the peoples; the nations will rally to him, and his place of rest will be glorious. ¹¹In that day the Lord will reach out his hand a second time to reclaim the remnant that is

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left of his people from Assyria, from Lower Egypt, from Upper Egypt, from Cush, from Elam, from Babylonia, from Hamath and from the islands of the sea. ¹²He will raise a banner for the nations and gather the exiles of Israel; he will assemble the scattered people of Judah from the four quarters of the earth.

Psalm 60:4 (NLT) But you have raised a banner for those who honor you—a rallying point in the face of attack.

1 John 3:8 He who does what is sinful is of the devil, because the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work.

1 John 2:13-14 I write to you, fathers, because you have known him who is from the beginning. I write to you, young men, because you have overcome the evil one. I write to you, dear children, because you have known the Father. ¹⁴I write to you, fathers, because you have known him who is from the beginning. I write to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God lives in you, and you have overcome the evil one.

1 John 5:4-5 for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith. ⁵Who is it that overcomes the world? Only he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.

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."

Romans 8:37 No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.

Psalm 20:5 We will shout for joy when you are victorious and will lift up our banners in the name of our God. May the LORD grant all your requests.

The Lord is my banner—under no other standard will I serve or fight—no other leader will I acknowledge—no other lord shall have dominion over me. The Lord is my banner—under this banner I engage Amalek—he, and he alone, gave me the victory—through him, and him alone, do I look to discount my other enemies. Be the enemies material or spiritual, external or internal, to him only do I trust to sustain me against them. Pulpit Commentary, Vol. 1, Exodus pg.75

"Jehovah-nissi, the Lord my banner," is the grateful acknowledgment of the One to whom the glory of our victories is due. Our hope is in no other!

Next week we will look at **Jehovah-Shalom** "The Lord is peace."