

BE ROOTED, KNOW GOD BY HIS NAMES: YAHWEH NISSI

December 13, 2020

WORSHIP

Joy to the World, In
Jesus' Name, Whom
Shall I Fear (God of
Angel Armies)

WELCOME

What is the most memorable war movie you've seen? Who emerged victorious in that movie and what made them victorious? Your choice could be a real or fictional story.

WORD

EXODUS 17:15-16

¹⁵ And Moses built an altar and named it The Lord is My Banner; ¹⁶ and he said, "Because the Lord has sworn, the Lord will have war against Amalek from generation to generation."

Knowing God by His names allows us to know Him in personal ways and to become more deeply rooted in our spiritual life. His names reveal a lot about who He is! In the story from **Exodus 17:8-16**, we discover another name of God, **Yahweh Nissi**, "**The Lord is My Banner**".

"**Yahweh**" (LORD) means the Personal, Relational God, Supreme Moral Being; Promise Keeper. "**Nissi**" (My Banner) means a standard and rallying point.

During this pandemic, if you ever felt defeated, disillusioned, emotionally exhausted, afraid, lonely, overwhelmed, or wanting to quit, know that God is our personal source of strength and inspiration to press on and experience His victory in life's battles.

There are 3 important truths we need to learn and understand in this story:

1. OUR ENEMIES

In **Exodus 17:8**, it tells us of "Amalek" who used to refer to an individual who descended from Esau, and here Amalek refers to a people group, his descendants. They were Israel's first official enemy on the way to the Promised Land. They were described as ruthless and merciless in **Deuteronomy 25:17-18** because they intentionally attacked those who were seemingly lost or weak and they were totally opposed to God's people.

In the Bible, three enemies of God's people are pointed out: **The World** is that aspect of the world, society, or environment which tends to lure us away from God and his ways. **1 John 2:16** specifically mentions the **lust of the flesh** (fleshly or sensual desires that we want to fulfill in excess or in ways that are displeasing to God); the **lust of the eyes** (desire for things and finding satisfaction in them rather than finding our satisfaction in God); the **boastful pride of life** (living independently of God because we think we know better how to run our lives). Jesus also warned us in **John 16:33** that in the world we will have tribulations, troubles, and problems.

The Flesh refers to our sinful nature—our tendency to give in to temptation or things that God doesn't want us to do (**Galatians 5:17**). There is no middle or neutral ground. When we live in the flesh, we are against the Spirit of God.

The Devil explicitly is an "**adversary**"—the accuser of the brethren (**1 Peter 5:8**). He is also a supernatural enemy. We are not able to do battle with him in our own strength (**Ephesians 6:12**). We are not each other's enemy. The devil is our enemy! His strategy is to drive a wedge between husbands and wives, parents and children, and believers in Jesus so that he can take the glory away from God.

2. OUR RESPONSE

What should our response be to our enemies? In **Exodus 17:9-10**, we are not just to surrender to the enemy. We have a part to play in this battle and we need to assume responsibility for that. The way that we wage war in this battle in our lives is supernatural. It is done through the power of God. The staff was a piece of wood, but Moses referred to it as "**the staff of God**". In a few chapters back (**Exodus 4:1-2**), Moses had a conversation with God in the desert. God asked him what was in his hand—a staff. It had no magical powers, but it was a reminder or picture of how **a supernatural, all-powerful God can do amazing things through ordinary people with ordinary resources**. It was a reminder to Moses back then as it was a reminder to him during the battle with Amalek that he was supposed to trust in God and eventually God will win the battle for His glory. **Exodus 17:11** clearly shows that Moses saw it is a supernatural battle. We need to trust the LORD that ultimately He will be victorious! Moses help up his hands while on top of that hill. It could be that he's praying and pleading (ex. **Psalm 28:2**) or worshipping God (ex. **Psalm 63:4**). In **Exodus 17:12-13**, "**his hands were steady until the sun set**" reminds us that we need to live lives that are dependent on God all the way until the sun sets in our lives. We should be dependent in our prayer, worship, and daily walk with

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God. **“Aaron and Hur supported his hands”** also show how we can support one another. There are many “one another” verses in the Bible to show how we can do this (e.g. **Galatians 6:2, 1 Thessalonians 5:11, James 5:16, and John 13:34**). In general, we are meant to respond to our enemies in prayer, worship, and in **supporting one another**.

The Bible, however, talks about specific responses to each of the enemy:

Our Response: The World (1 John 2:15) - Do not worship nor crave the things of the world. Love God alone. The best expression of our love for God is through our life by keeping his commands (**John 14:15**).

Our Response : The Flesh (Ephesians 5:18) - We must practice the Spirit-filled life—the greatest secret of the Christian life. We need to always depend on God to experience His victorious power in our lives.

Our Response : The Devil (James 4:7-8a) - **“Submit”** or come under the authority of God. **“Resist”** the devil in the power of the Holy Spirit. **“Come close to God”** ; spend time in His Word. Let Him speak to you as you speak to Him.

3. GOD'S PROMISES

In the final part of the story, God told Moses to write His promise (**Exodus 17:14**). The enemies will not have the final say. God will have the final victory. In **1 Chronicles 4:42-43**, the sons of Simeon destroyed the remnants of the Amalekites and took over their land. When God makes a promise, He will fulfill it — even the promise to wipe out and be victorious ultimately over the enemies of our lives.

Moses built an altar and named it **“The LORD is My Banner” (Exodus 17:15)**. He did not raise a flag because the only thing we are to lift up and raise is the name of our LORD — Yahweh Nissi. God doesn't change. He is the same God who will fight our battles from generation to generation (**v.16**).

There are specific promises God made about our enemies.

God's Promise: The World (John 16:33) - Through the death and resurrection of Jesus, we can have peace. We who trusted Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior are sure to live in a place where these troubles and enemies no longer exist.

God's Promise: The Flesh (Galatians 5:16) - We don't need to be prisoners of our fleshly desires. God promises that we will not carry out the desires of the flesh if we live a Spirit-filled life.

God's Promise: The Devil (Revelation 20:10) - Someday, God will deal a final blow to the ultimate enemy of our lives and he will be in the lake of fire and brimstone forever.

1 Corinthians 15:26, 50-55 tell of the last enemy—death. Believing Jesus as our Lord and Savior assures us that this world is not our home and when we experience the final victory over death we will be with Jesus forever. Surrender your life to Jesus now!

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

(Leaders: Please choose questions that are appropriate to the level of spiritual maturity of your members)

1. Self-Check.

How does knowing that the LORD is your Banner help you face your challenges?

2. Setting It Right

How will you respond to the difficulties you face today? What promises of God will you hold on to?

3. Living It Out

What will you do to encourage others facing trials to trust in the LORD as their Banner?

WEEKLY PRAYER POINTS

I. Thanksgiving

Worship God for who He is, what He has done, and what He will do in our lives

II. Country and the World

Upright and moral governance of Public Servants
A God-centered Philippines
Repentance and Salvation

III. Church

That CCF Members would honor and love God and make disciples
Elders, Pastors, Leaders, and Families
Ministries and Churches worldwide

IV. CCF Facilities

Worship and Training Center
Prayer Mountain

V. Personal Concerns

Deeper intimate relationship with God
Righteous living
Salvation of family and friends

WORKS

PRAY CARE SHARE IN ACTION

Pray that people will come to know God as Yahweh Nissi, their Banner. Share to people that God can make us victorious over every enemy we face in our lives through Jesus Christ alone. Give friends, family, co-workers and neighbors the greatest Gift this Christmas by sharing Jesus to them!