

Israel's Battle with Amalek

Exodus 17:8-16

Notice v.8 Then Amalek came and fought with Israel at Rephidim....

The **people of Israel** are at **Rephidim**... they are there temporarily. They are on their way to the Promised Land. It will take a long time to get there. A few months back they experienced a mighty deliverance from the bondage of Egypt. It's an incredible story how God sent Moses to tell Pharaoh to let MY PEOPLE GO. Pharaoh refused, and God intervened by sending 10 plagues, The Last Plague of DEATHPharaoh gives up. God sent an Angel of Death to kill the firstborn of every Egyptian home. Pharaoh's son died in this last plague of death. Pharaoh

The people of Israel leave Egypt.... Some have estimated close to 2 million people left....they came to the RED SEA..... behind them was Pharaoh changing his mind again. He came in full military force. God told Moses to move forward by lifting up his staff over the sea and divide it so that the people may cross on dry ground. They crossed over on DRY Ground....with the waters divided creating a wall of water on the right and on the left.... They Egyptians pursued them by attempting to do the same thing....God caused their chariot wheels to get clogged up....the Egyptians said, let's get out of here, the LORD is fighting for them against us. But the Lord told Moses to stretch out his hand over the sea again...caused the walls of water to fall upon the horses, and all the horsemen.....

What a victory! This became a CAUSE of Celebration...they sang and danced with great joy....praising God for what He had done to deliver them from Pharaoh.

On the banks of the Red Sea, they sang the Song of Moses, *"I will sing to the Lord, for he has triumphed gloriously; the horse and his rider he has thrown into the sea. The Lord is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation."*

This is a Picture of our Deliverance as well. The Lord Jesus came and delivered us from bondage to sin. The Blood of the Lamb was applied to the door post of our hearts, and in faith we came to trust in the powerful hand of God to deliver us.

The Lord is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation.

Time came for the people of Israel to move on from the Red Sea. Can't stay there all the time....it's time to move on. Time won't permit us to read all that happened, but we know the people began to grumble and complain because there was no water. They got hungry...no food was there..... We know God miraculously sent BREAD from heaven. Manna fell from the sky every day except for the Sabbath day. God gave them water from the ROCK at Mt Horeb. The Apostle Paul picks up on that Rock and says that Rock that followed them in the wilderness was Christ.

From the Lord Jesus....we have all that we need. He is our Bread of Life. He is our Water of Life... He is our SAVIOR, and He is our SUSTAINER. **He is our Life.**

The people of Israel had MUCH to learn about God their Deliverer; God their Protector. They had lessons to learn about TRUSTING God. All the hardships they encountered in their journey in the wilderness was for the purpose to teach them to trust God. We have the history of their wilderness experiences. It serves a purpose to teach us, and to warn us, and to cause us to fall upon Christ to help us.

Romans 15:4 For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.

What is WRITTEN down here in Exodus 17 is for OUR INSTRUCTION.... It's for our encouragement of the Scriptures so we might have hope.

Then Amalek came and fought with Israel..... the first lesson is this... KNOW YOUR ENEMY.

I. Know your enemy.

Amalek – (Esau – Eliphaz - Amalek)

Deut. 25:17-19

17 "Remember what Amalek did to you on the way as you came out of Egypt, **18** how he attacked you on the way when you were faint and weary, and cut off your tail, those who were lagging behind you, and he did not fear God. **19** Therefore when the LORD your God has given you rest from all your enemies around you, in the land that the LORD your God is giving you for an inheritance to possess, you shall blot out the memory of Amalek from under heaven; you shall not forget.

Amalek--- what did they want? They wanted Israel to be destroyed. Why? No reason. They had hatred for Israel. The Amalekites existed for the purpose to overthrow Israel. Even today, there are the enemies of Israel who seek only ONE THING -- the total annihilation of Israel. The WAR is seemingly perpetual. **V.16** "...**The LORD will have war with Amalek from generation to generation...**

There's no use trying to TALK it out. They don't want peace. They don't want to reason and negotiate. They want ONE thing... Israel gone. As an official from Iran has said..."*we want to see Israel wiped off the global, political map.*"¹

AMALEK – is the arch-enemy of Israel.

Does Amalek still exist today? You might say, The DNA of Amalek; the genetic seeds of Amalek has trickled down to our day. We are in a spiritual battle! It's a real battle.

¹ [Iran general says Tehran aims to wipe Israel off the 'global political map' | The Times of Israel](#)

We, as God's people, are in a constant battle.a constant never-ending battle; A powerful struggle with spiritual forces that seek to defeat us, to discourage us, and really to put us out of business.

If you are thinking...I try to avoid conflict. I don't want to think about being in a battle.

Here's the thing -- You stand up and say... I'm a Christian...I'm a follower of Jesus Christ...you are already in the battle whether you know it or not. The AMALEK we face is a three-fold enemy.

1. A Worldly Amalek. **This world** - the world around us is doing all it can to pull you away from the Lord Jesus. The world is attacks the Bible; attacks your faith; attacks your God-honoring traditions and values; The world has its' PULL on your heart. It's a spiritual battle.

2. A Devilish Amalek. **The Devil** - Satan is Enemy #1. He hates God. He hates God's People. He hates all that is good. He is a murderer. He is behind all that's evil in the world today. If you don't think the DEVIL is for real, then you are deceived. He is a deceiver. He is a liar. He is as the Bible tells us –

1Peter 5:8-9

8 Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. **9** Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world.

For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. (Ephesians 6:12)

3. The Fleshly Amalek. **The Flesh** - our fallen nature - the indwelling sin - Jesus took our sins to His cross. He took our punishment that we deserved. We are forgiven. Yet, we have remaining sin. When we speak of the flesh, we are not speaking of our body. We are talking about the sinful nature we were born with. Paul said it this way -

Romans 7:18 For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out.

The Flesh wars against the Spirit.

Galatians 5:17

17 For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do.

MORE Specifically.... What are the workings of the flesh?

Galatians 5:19-21

¹⁹ Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, ²⁰ idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, ²¹ envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

This is the ENEMY - our flesh... it's our Amalek. I warn you... Paul says,... it's not when you are guilty of allowing the works of the flesh to manifest itself, it's when this becomes your life... your everyday experience...your day by day practice....and there's no turning from it.... Paul says, I warn you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

Legacy/NASB - that **those who practice such things** will not inherit the kingdom of God.

Know your enemy –

II. Engage in the Battle

v.9 go out and fight -- we know who the enemy is.... So what do you do? You fight!

Joshua did as Moses told him, and fought with Amalek.

Notice v.13

Joshua overwhelmed Amalek and his people with the sword.

Joshua overwhelmed His Enemy..... with what? The Sword.

We can't help but think of the **ARMOR of God** spoken of by Paul in **Ephesians 6**. There's several pieces of the Armor of God, but one that's mentioned here in our text- the SWORD.

There's the belt of truth; the breastplate of righteousness; shoes to give readiness to present the gospel of peace; there's the shield of faith; the helmet of salvation; and we have the SWORD OF THE SPIRIT, WHICH IS THE WORD OF GOD.

DEFEATING the flesh - requires attacking with the WORD of GOD.

ARE we IN the Word of God? Are we following what Peter told us in 1Peter 2:11 ?

1Peter 2:11 Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to **abstain from** the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul.

When you sense IMPURE thoughts taking hold of your heart..... abstain from it....

When you sense SENSUAL thoughts; lustful thoughts taking hold of you.... go to God's Word... flee from it....as the Bible says.

When you sense jealousy rising up, fits of anger rising up, put it away Quickly.... Put the SWORD to it. KILL it. Don't entertain it for a second. Don't allow it to dwell in your thoughts.

When you sense a RIVALRY spirit rising up in you.... someone is becoming one of your RIVALS...do I need to give an example..... you're not getting the compliment as before... someone else is getting more attention.....King Saul is an example... He heard a song sung by the ladies....It was a number ONE Hit.... Saul slain his 1000's; but David slain his ten thousands (1Samuel 18:7) There's a new hero in town. And this time, it's not Saul. He's not number one in the polls.... He's not popular.....

When you get the feeling "dissension" is rising up, quickly attack it with all your might with the WORD of GOD. When you sense "division" popping up, Feed your mind with **1Cor. 1:10**

10 I appeal to you, brothers, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment

Titus 3:10-11

10 As for a person who stirs up division, after warning him once and then twice, have nothing more to do with him, **11** knowing that such a person is warped and sinful; he is self-condemned.

The WORKS of the FLESH - is OUT to destroy you..... destroy your witness to Christ; destroy your testimony; destroy your family; destroy your relationships; destroy the ministry.... The devil will have a jubilee when he sees Christians in the flesh; and not in the Spirit.

The LOVE of MONEY - that's the major issue. The Flesh loves what money can do to get what the FLESH WANTS.....

1Timothy 6:10-12

10 For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.

11 But as for you, O man of God, flee these things. Pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, gentleness. **12 Fight the good fight of the faith.** Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called and about which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.

Fight the Good Fight of the Faith..... Engage in the Battle.....so many who profess to know the Lord..... they have laid down the SWORD.... They have laid down the Word of God.... they have ignored it....

MOSES gave Joshua the command to fight..... "*Choose for us men, and go out and fight with Amalek....*" This was no time to be scared! It was Time to stand with God's Authority....Time to be strong and courageous.....

Joshua 1:8-9

⁸ This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success. ⁹ Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go."

Our enemy is sin. And sin is still in us. We must like Joshua take the sword and KILL SIN. Everywhere it pops up its head....take the SWORD of God's Word and chop it off.

John Owen was famous with this saying, "Be killing sin, or sin will be killing you."

Owen described the human heart like "thick woods". When the Holy Spirit comes into our lives there is an active work to CLEAR OUT THE WOODS. Clear out the brush of sin. The Spirit points out some sin over here, and then over there... a patch of brush is cleared out in this spot later on in another spot.... This work of Clearing out the woods, and thick brush will go on until we die.

Sometimes you think you've made good progress in clearing out brush, weeds, undergrowth....but wait until Spring gets here.... All that's looks cleared out...will come back with a VENGEANCE.

Sin keeps coming back....and we must TAKE the Sword and KILL SIN.... We must never surrender!

Never give up! You might feel victorious today.... But Sin will come back with a vengeance, get ready!

Moses tells us **v.16** "The Lord will have WAR with Amalek from generation to generation."

Not only are WE to fight our Amaleks.... Fight the spiritual battle against sin, the devil and the world, but the Lord HIMSELF will have WAR with Amalek.

We don't go alone into battle. The Lord told Joshua....

Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go."

So, we come to third part.... Trust in God.

III. Trust in God

v.9 ".....Tomorrow I will stand on the top of the hill with the staff of God in my hand."

v.10 - Joshua did as Moses told him....fought with Amalek

Moses, Aaron, and Hur went up to the top of the hill.

v.11 Whenever Moses held up his hand, Israel prevailed, and whenever he lowered his hand, Amalek prevailed.

v.12 Moses' hands grew weary, so they took a stone and put it under him, and he sat on it, while Aaron and Hur held up his hands, one on one side, and the other on the other side.

So his hands were steady until the going down of the sun.

v.13 Joshua overwhelmed Amalek and his people with the sword.

We don't see the word "prayer" mentioned in the text.

The uplifted hands are symbolic gestures of our dependence upon the Lord.

Moses held up His rod....it's called the STAFF of God. Moses surrenders His staff for the Lord's use.

It's now called the STAFF of God. It represents the Power and Authority of God.

As long as Moses kept His hands up HOLDING FORTH God's Authority..... Israel prevailed in battle.

When Moses hands got weary and he lowered the staff.... Amalek prevailed in battle.

To help keep Moses hands up....

Aaron (Moses' brother) and Hur... took a stone...had Moses sit on it. Aaron on one side / Hur on the other side.. help up Moses' hands.... Stayed UPLIFTED until the going down of the sun.

Aaron / Hur joined in partnership with Moses.... A UNITED effort to keep the staff of God raised up high....

We need praying partners to join with us..... if it all depends upon one person... they will be tired and weary....soon become discouraged....our Amaleks will prevail against us....

OUR TRUST is in God..... when we become WEAK in our prayer efforts; Weak in our Trusting God for Help; the flesh will prevail... sin will have prevailing power in our lives....

We need help from the Lord. We go into battle with God's strength. By ourself we are weak.

v.14 write this down.... As a memorial in a book.....recite it in the ears of Joshua...

utterly blot out the memory of Amalek from under heaven....

v.15 Moses builds an altar...

The Lord is my Banner" is the translation of the Hebrew *Yahweh-Nissi*.

Because hands were lifted up against the throne of the Lord, the Lord will be at war against the Amalekites from generation to generation.'

The LORD is my BANNER. I'm not going to wave my own banner. I'm going to stand and go into battle with the LORD as my Banner...He goes before me.... He goes into battle. The Battle is the Lord's....

This year... only God knows the battles we'll be facing...

Like Moses, we grow weary in our prayers.... Weary, and neglectful in our prayer and dependence upon God.

I pray there will be some Aarons and Hurs who will come alongside some dear brother who has grown weary and tired and needs some encouragement.

I pray there will be some Aarons and Hurs who will come alongside some sister who has become discouraged along the way.

1Thess. 5:11,14 Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.

encourage the fainthearted, help the weak,

....we need to lift up our hands with the **STAFF of God**... it represents the Spirit of God. The Holy Spirit must be recognized as the One giving us Direction, giving us Wisdom, giving us Guidance, Assuring us of God's Presence. The Bible speaks of us being filled with the Spirit; being led by the Spirit and WALKING by the Spirit.

Galatians 5:16 walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh

To walk by the Spirit, is to TRUST in God to help you; to strengthen you;

It's Trusting in God to defeat the Amaleks in your lives.

When you are walking by the Spirit, God will give victory in time of temptation.

1Cor. 10:13

No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.

Psalm 18:1-3

I love you, O LORD, my strength.

² The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer,
my God, my rock, in whom I take refuge,
my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.

³ I call upon the LORD, who is worthy to be praised,
and I am saved from my enemies.