

Becoming God's People: Going in God's Strength

Exodus 17:8-16





3 weeks after crossing the Red Sea

- **Song of Praise & Deliverance**

(Exodus 15:1-1)

- **Wilderness of Shur** - bitter waters of Marah

(Exodus 15:22-27)

- **Wilderness of Sin** – morning manna and evening quail

(Exodus 16)

- **Rephidim** – Massah (testing) & Meribah (quarreling)

(Exodus 17:1-7)

Exodus 17:8-16

- ❖ The Amalekites attack
(v. 8)
- ❖ Joshua fights
(vv. 9-10)
- ❖ Moses prays
(vv.11-13)
- ❖ The Lord is our Banner
(vv.14-16)

The Amalekites Attack



Then Amalek came and fought with Israel at Rephidim.

Exodus 17:8

Perpetual opposition to God's order

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.

Galatians 5:17

Remember what Amalek did to you on the way as you came out of Egypt, 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.

Deuteronomy 25:17-18

“The baggage, no doubt, was the object of their avarice; but finding the women, children, aged and infirm persons, behind with the baggage, they smote them & took away their spoils”

Adam Clarke

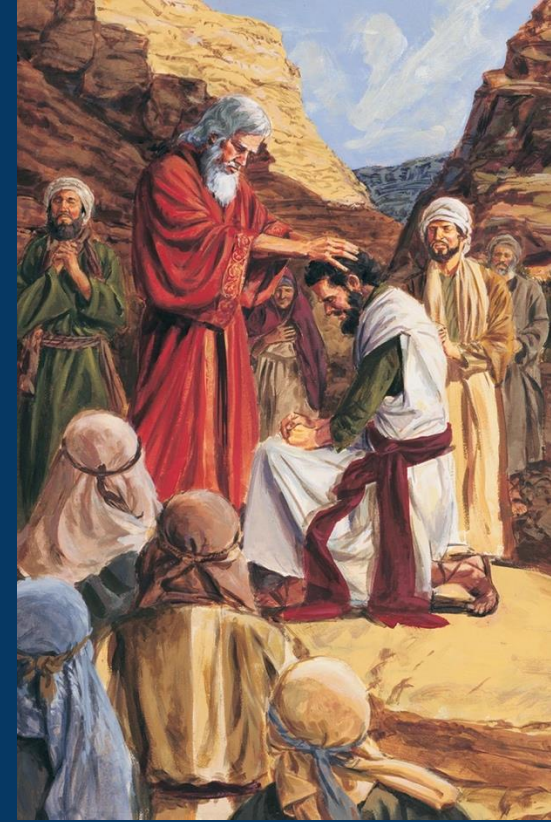
The Amalekites Attack

- ❖ We may experience unexpected, persistent challenges
 - even from those we know
- ❖ Depend on and trust in God when we respond
 - even when resolution takes time

Joshua Fights

So Moses said to Joshua, “Choose for us men, and go out and fight with Amalek. Tomorrow I will stand on the top of the hill with the staff of God in my hand.” So Joshua did as Moses told him, and fought with Amalek

Exodus 17:9-10a



❖ As Moses mentored Joshua, we should nurture and raise the next generation in our community

I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice he judges and wages war. His eyes are like blazing fire, and on his head are many crowns. He has a name written on him that no one knows but he himself. He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is the Word of God... On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written: King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

Revelation 19: 11-13,16

❖ Our Risen Jesus is our leader, defender, protector and king

Moses Prays

Moses, Aaron, and Hur went up to the top of the hill. Whenever Moses held up his hand, Israel prevailed, and whenever he lowered his hand, Amalek prevailed. But 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. And Joshua overwhelmed Amalek and his people with the sword.

Exodus 17:10b-13

Intercession is the hardest work in the world
– the giving of one's self, time, strength, energy, and attention to the needs of others in a way that no one but God sees, no one but God will do anything about, and no one but God will ever reward you for.

Elizabeth Elliott



Moses Prays

- ❖ We need to become *together* a committedly praying community, supporting one another in fervent prayer that God fulfils His purposes for us

The Lord is our Banner and Strength

And Moses built an altar and called the name of it,
The Lord Is My Banner

Exodus 17:15



Trust in God and keep your powder dry

Oliver Cromwell

The horse is made ready for the battle,
but the victory belongs to the Lord

Proverbs 21:31





God is our banner because we live to celebrate and honour His faithfulness to us, shown in myriad ways, from the rising sun to the risen Christ

When Moses built the altar and called it “The LORD is my banner”, he was creating a place of remembrance, a celebration of victory, an expression of thanks. He was making a declaration, one that any follower of Jesus can share in today: The LORD is my banner and we are the LORD’s. It is a declaration not just of who God is and what He has done, but of who we are as His people.

Barnabas Piper

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Barnabas Piper

The Lord is our Banner and Strength

- ❖ Build altars of our lives surrendered to God, declaring that the Lord is our Banner and we are the Lord's

- ❖ **Amalekites** – when we meet unexpected challenges, depend on the Lord to see us through, even when it takes time
- ❖ **Joshua** – always trust in our Risen King Jesus to defend and lead us, and raise the next generation with Jesus as their model
- ❖ **Moses** – do not depend on human strength but pray fervently together for God's strength and victory, to His glory
- ❖ **The Lord is our Banner** - build altars of our lives honouring God and declaring through our lives that the Lord is Our Banner and we are the Lord's

Great and Mighty Father,

We pray that as we become your people at SJSM, you may fill us with the knowledge of your will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so that we will walk in a manner worthy of the Lord Jesus, fully pleasing in him:

Bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; being strengthened with all power, according to your glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy.

Thank you for delivering us from the domain of darkness and transferring us to the Kingdom of your beloved Son in whom we have redemption and the forgiveness of sins.

We declare that you are our banner and we go forward in your strength, praising you in Jesus' mighty name, Amen.