

The Lord Our God

“ . . . that thou mayest know that there is none like unto the LORD our God.”
(Exodus 8:10)

LESSON #3: JEHOVAH-NISSI

Read the story of Israel’s first battle as a nation in Exodus 17:8-16. Of course, Israel was learning just what Jehovah meant to them as the name of God. The “I AM” was everything they needed. He was their Redeemer and Deliverer in Exodus 7 through 15. He provided them with food in the desert in Exodus 16. In Exodus 17:1-7, He gave them water. As the Lord led them through the wilderness, He was showing Israel that He was all they need. And it wasn’t long before they needed Somebody to fight for them! “*Amalek*” in verse 8 means the terrible Amalekites, a warlike nation descended from Esau, Jacob’s brother. They mounted an unprovoked attack on the Israelites in the desert soon after they left Egypt. As we see from the account, the warriors of Israel were led by Joshua, the servant of Moses, but the battle was won by the Lord! While Joshua fought the Amalekites, Moses stood on a hill holding up “*the rod of God*” (Look back at Exodus 4:1-5, 17; 7:8-25; 8:5, 16-17; 9:22-23; 10:12-13; 14:15-16).

“And it came to pass, when Moses held up his hand, that Israel prevailed: and when he let down his hand, Amalek prevailed.” (Exodus 17:11)

Then Aaron and Hur helped Moses by holding up his hands. By the end of the day, the Amalekites were beaten, and the Lord promised to destroy Amalek “*utterly*” some day for their crime. There,

“Moses built an altar, and called the name of it Jehovah-nissi: For he said, Because the LORD hath sworn that the LORD will have war with Amalek from generation to generation.” (vs. 15-16)

“Jehovah-nissi” means “The Lord, My Banner.”

The Hebrew word for “banner” in verse 15 is translated “banner,” “ensign,” or “standard” in battle scenes depicted in the Psalms and in the Prophets.

“Thou hast given a banner to them that fear thee, that it may be displayed because of the truth.” (Psalms 60:4)

“And in that day there shall be a root of Jesse, which shall stand for an ensign of the people; to it shall the Gentiles seek: and his rest shall be glorious.” (Isaiah 11:10)

The word speaks of a battle-flag, the rallying point of God’s people. The altar called

“Jehovah-nissi” has our God saying, “I AM your flag, the focus of your victory!” The Lord not only gives us victory, He *is* our Victory.

“Christians Are In A War, and We Have An Enemy!”

The New Testament teaches that, just as Israel had fights to fight, land to conquer, and enemies to defeat, believers in Christ are at war. See Luke 10:17-19).

Our enemy is the Devil, and he leads an army of “*devils*” (See Luke 11:14-22). They are intent on defeating our efforts to rescue people from Satan’s grip and on destroying our lives in the process.

Every Christian Is In This Fight!

I Timothy 6:12 says, “*Fight the good fight of faith.*” In II Timothy 4:7, Paul wrote, “*I have fought a good fight . . .*” Ephesians 6:12 says to us,

“For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.”

Things happen in our lives because the enemy is attacking or resisting us.

No Christian Is, In Himself, Adequate to Fight In This War!

Speaking to would-be disciples, Jesus told this parable of the King Going to War (Read Luke 14:31-33).

Absolute surrender to our Commander is necessary for every soldier in this war, but even dedication is not enough to defeat our terrible foe. Can we go against a greater army with the resources at our disposal? That fact is that we can, but not with our fleshly weapons alone.

God Has Provided Us With Supernatural Weapons!

See what II Corinthians 10:3-5 says.

“For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ . . .” (2 Corinthians 10:3-5)

Now look at Ephesians 6:11-20. We must war with spiritual weapons and wear spiritual armor to fight in this war.

The Key to Victory Is Submission to God!

See this in James 4:7

“Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.”

Find this principle again in I Peter 5:6-11.

Our Victory Is In the Lord Himself, Who Is Our Victory!

Look at Ephesians 6:10. This passage about preparation for warfare (vs. 10-20) begins with the admonition, *“Be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.”* It is in Him that we have strength and might for the victory. Actually, it is the Lord Himself Who has already won the victory by His death and resurrection. It is victory over death, sin, the devil, and the evil world-system. (See the promise of I John 4:3-4.)

It Is Faith In Him That Brings Us Victory.

So it was with Amalek. The upraised hands of Moses symbolized his faith in Jehovah. Our faith in Christ will give us the victory every time.

“For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.” (1 John 5:4)

“Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.” (Ephesians 6:16)

Jehovah-nissi means that God is our banner, our victory over the enemy. Trust in Him.