

Wilderness Wandering With God

Part 6: Rally 'Round The Flag

Exodus 17:8-16

#1 - A Sudden Attack, Exodus 17:8

According to the Exodus text, all we know is that Israel fell under attack at Rephidim by the Amalekites.

Now, what's interesting is that the Amalekites are descendants from Esau, whereas the Israelites are descendants from Esau's twin brother, Jacob. In Genesis 25, Esau and Jacob struggled even while they were in their mother's womb. God told their mother, Rebekah, that their descendants would struggle against the each other.

Well, here we are, just a few generations from that time to this and we see that Israel's first actual attack comes from the Amalekites.

When we look to a corresponding record of this battle in Deuteronomy 25:17–19 we get a little bit more information about this sudden attack.

We must remember that just like the Amalekites suddenly attacked Israel from their weakest and most vulnerable position, you and I will fall under similar attack by our enemy, Satan. The Bible says in I Peter 5:8.

#2 - The Battle Plan, Exodus 17:9-10

Their battle plan was to form an army to go out and wage battle with the enemy while Moses goes up to a nearby hilltop and raises the staff of God over his head to indicate their total reliance upon God.

For us, God has given us spiritual armament to fight against our enemy. We find it in Ephesians chapter 6:

- The Belt of Truth
- The Breastplate of Righteousness
- The Sandals of Peace
- The Shield of Faith
- The Helmet Of Salvation
- The Sword of the Spirit/The Word of God

#3 - Fighting The Battle Together, Exodus 17:11-13

For Moses, even though he wielded the staff of God, he needed help.

God expects His children to rely on each other to win our battles. Together, Moses, Aaron and Hur, lifted up the staff of God and while that staff remained lifted above Moses head—while they were in total dependence upon God, the Jewish people prevailed on the battle field.

#4 - Giving God The Glory For Victory, Exodus 17:14-16

God instructed Moses to write down what God had done for them that day and to “recite it to Joshua.” Joshua would eventually become the leader of the Jewish people and it was vital that he be reminded of the victory God brought them that day.

We must never forget all that God has done for us!

Moses built an altar to God so that the Jewish people could worship God there. And Moses gave that altar a name—one of the names of God, Jehovah-nissi, which means “the Lord is my banner,” and was intended to mark his ascription of the entire honor of the victory to Jehovah.