

God our Banner

Ex 17:8-16

Intro:

- The Battles of our Age
 - Many physical, moral, ethical, financial, and personal
 - Are we aware of the REAL BATTLE?
 - We might “win” and think it is over, but is this truth?
- Battles are often not what we see...
 - Moses has taken the people out of Egypt
 - Victory at the Red Sea; Victory over hunger/thirst (16)
 - But now, a new enemy appears...

I. Danger in the Desert

- Amalek!
 - Descended from Esau (Ge 36:12,16)
 - Chose a spot they thought had no water (see 1-7)
 - Not a declared, pitched battle – no warning!
 - Dt 25:17-19 – harassed and ambushed
- The true battle...
 - Not seen or looking for our strong points...
 - Focused on the past (Esau), attacking the stragglers
 - Looking for weak and unaware victims

II. Danger in the Camp

- Israel had made a habit of complaining
 - 6 rebellions in 2 months! 14:9-12 (graves); 15:22-27 (Marah); 16:1-22 (Pots of meat); 16:20 (Manna abuse); 16:26-28 (Sabbath); 17:1-6 (Rephidim)
 - Where was the greater danger?
 - The “desert” will always bring out our “enemies”
 - God has an answer – Yeshua! (Joshua)
- First mention of this warrior leader
 - Pick out men, go out and fight, I will be on the hill..???!!
 - Such faith... Rod of Moses/Rod of God – the Cross!!! (9)

Some verses:

Isa 49:22 Thus says the Lord GOD, "Behold, I will lift up My hand to the nations And set up My standard to the peoples; And they will bring your sons in their bosom, And your daughters will be carried on their shoulders.

Ps 60:4 You have given a banner to those who fear You, That it may be displayed because of the truth. Selah.

Jn 12:32 "And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to Myself."

III. Victory and Rememberance

- At the Red Sea: “stand and see”, this time: FIGHT!
- We know this story – 3 men on a hill...
 - Brings victory in the valley – overwhelmed! (13)
 - Note: so little by way of tactics or description
 - The Battle belonged to God, so did the victory!
- Book of remembrance/Altar - *Jehovahnissi*
 - We must never allow the Amalek’s to succeed
 - Saul fails here also - 1Sam 15:3ff “to obey is better...”
 - David finishes the job 1Sam 30-2Sam 1:1

Connections:

- What? No victory march for Joshua? NO!

Ps 20:5 We will sing for joy over your victory, And in the name of our God we will set up our banners. May the LORD fulfill all your petitions.

- God will raise Himself above us... the Cross!
- The Lord will have war... are we fighting?
- The battle is His, the enemy is His...
- What desert are you in today? What enemy?
- *JEHOVAHNISSI...*