

NAME ABOVE ALL NAMES

JEHOVAH NISSI THE LORD IS MY BANNER

INTRODUCTION

Exodus 17:8-16 & Ephesians 6:10-18a

In Exodus 17, the Israelites face a surprise attack from the Amalekites. As Joshua leads the army into battle, Moses climbs a hill overlooking the fight and raises his staff. As long as his hands are raised, Israel prevails. When they fall, the Amalekites gain ground. Eventually, Aaron and Hur support Moses' arms until the sun sets, securing the victory. Afterward, Moses builds an altar and names it Jehovah Nissi — “The Lord is my banner”.

This name is a declaration of allegiance and a reminder of divine presence. In the ancient world, a banner was more than decoration—it was a rallying point, a symbol of identity, victory, and protection. Moses was saying, “It wasn’t my hands, or Joshua’s sword, or Israel’s strength. It was God who fought for us.” Jehovah Nissi reminds us that our true victory is in the Lord who goes before us.

We see this echoed in Psalm 20:5, where David says, “May we shout for joy over your salvation, and in the name of our God set up our banners!”

Whatever battles we face—spiritual, emotional, or relational—our hope isn’t in our strength or strategy. It’s in Jehovah Nissi, the Lord our banner, who fights for us and never fails.

BREAK THE ICE

If you had to design your own personal flag or banner, what would be on it and why?

READ IT

Exodus 17:8-16 & Ephesians 6:10-18a

APPLY IT

In the battle against Amalek, victory didn't come by Moses' strength or Israel's effort, but by God's power displayed through dependence. Alec Motyer writes, "The Lord's banner is not something the people carry into battle; it is the Lord himself who overshadows and leads them". Paul echoes this in Ephesians 6:10, calling believers to "be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might". Our strength is not self-generated but God-supplied. We do not fight for victory, but from it, under the banner of Christ who has already triumphed.⁹

1. How does knowing God as Jehovah Nissi guard us against pride in our own strength or victories?

2. What are some subtle ways we might try to "carry our own banner" rather than rally under God's?

Though God brought the victory in Exodus 17, Israel wasn't passive. Joshua fought. Moses stood. Aaron and Hur upheld. Yet none could claim credit. Their actions mattered—but only as expressions of trust in God's power. This tension between divine provision and human responsibility runs throughout Scripture. As Dale Ralph Davis puts it, "Yahweh's power does not negate human involvement; it necessitates it". By naming the altar Jehovah Nissi, Moses publicly acknowledged where the credit belonged. To live under God's banner is to engage in obedience while giving Him the glory.¹⁰

3. How have you seen God work in and through your involvement in ministry?

⁹ Alec Motyer, *The Story of the Old Testament: Men with a Message*, 1975.

¹⁰ Dale Ralph Davis, *The Word Became Fresh: How to Preach from Old Testament Narrative Texts*, 2006.

4. How might God be calling you to step up in your involvement in His work in new or greater ways?

5. How has God asked you to demonstrate difficult perseverance in your walk with Him? How have you found support from other believers in those moments?

Paul's call to "put on the whole armor of God" (Eph. 6:11) validates the reality of spiritual battle. The Christian life isn't peacetime—it's war against unseen forces that seek to deceive, divide, and destroy. But God doesn't send us into that battle unequipped. He gives truth, righteousness, peace, faith, salvation, and His Word—all secured for us in Christ. As John Stott writes, "It is because the victory has been won that the fight goes on"¹¹. We don't wear armor to earn victory; we wear it because we follow the risen Christ, our Banner, who has already triumphed.

6. Which "piece of armor" is well equipped in your life and how do you see its effectiveness?

Which one is most neglected in your life and how might equipping it aid you in "being strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might"?

¹¹ John Stott, *The Message of Ephesians*, 1979.

7. In what area of your life do you most need to “stand firm” right now, trusting in the strength God provides?

8. Following the battle against the Amalekites, Moses built an altar to honor God as Jehovah Nissi. What is one tangible way you can honor God as Jehovah Nissi this week?