

Jehovah Nissi

LORD Our Banner

DAY ONE

Much has happened to the children of Israel since we left them in our study of Jehovah Jireh. Isaac was just a boy at that time. Several generations have passed since that day on Mount Moriah. Through the promise given to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob have come 12 tribes and millions of people.

Sadly, the children of Israel were in captivity for many years, but God heard their cries and raised up a deliverer, Moses. After 10 plagues, Pharaoh finally consented and sent them away. God led them to the Red Sea and miraculously took them across on dry land. God defeated the Egyptians one final time by burying their entire army in the Red Sea.

Exodus 13:21 tells us, "The LORD went before them by day in a pillar of cloud...and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light." Despite the amazing goodness of God, the Israelites grumbled and complained because they were hungry. God lovingly provided quail and manna for them. You would think at this point after seeing God's mighty hand of deliverance and his faithful leadership and provision, they would only have words of praise, but that is not the case. The proper response to a need should be prayer to Jehovah Jireh, the Lord who will provide. Sadly, they are only thinking of themselves. They did not take even a few moments to remember the blessings, protection and provision of God up to this point. When we live without a thankful heart, we will only see the need, not the source.

Let's read Exodus 17 to see the events as they unfolded.

Exodus 17

The whole Israelite community set out from the Desert of Sin, traveling from place to place as the LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. 2 So they quarreled with Moses and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses replied, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you put the LORD to the test?" 3 But the people were thirsty for water there, and they grumbled against Moses. They said, "Why did you bring us up out of Egypt to make us and our children and livestock die of thirst?" 4 Then Moses cried out to the LORD, "What am I to do with these people? They are almost ready to stone me." 5 The LORD answered Moses, "Go out in front of the people. Take with you some of the elders of Israel and take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. 6 I will stand there before you by the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it for the people to drink." So Moses did this in the sight of the elders of Israel. 7 And he called the place Massah and Meribah because the Israelites quarreled and because they tested the LORD saying, "Is the LORD among us or not?" 8 The Amalekites came

and attacked the Israelites at Rephidim. 9 Moses said to Joshua, "Choose some of our men and go out to fight the Amalekites. Tomorrow I will stand on top of the hill with the staff of God in my hands." 10 So Joshua fought the Amalekites as Moses had ordered, and Moses, Aaron and Hur went to the top of the hill. 11 As long as Moses held up his hands, the Israelites were winning, but whenever he lowered his hands, the Amalekites were winning. 12 When Moses' hands grew tired, they took a stone and put it under him and he sat on it. Aaron and Hur held his hands up—one on one side, one on the other—so that his hands remained steady till sunset. 13 So Joshua overcame the Amalekite army with the sword. 14 Then the LORD said to Moses, "Write this on a scroll as something to be remembered and make sure that Joshua hears it, because I will completely blot out the name of Amalek from under heaven." 15 Moses built an altar and called it The LORD is my Banner. 16 He said, "Because hands were lifted up against the throne of the LORD, the LORD will be at war against the Amalekites from generation to generation."

Where is the nation of Israel camped? _____

What is the problem? _____

What is the response of God's people to this need? _____

Who were they blaming with their words? _____

In their hearts who were they really blaming for this problem? _____

In Exodus 17:4, what does Moses do with this very real need?

How did the LORD miraculously provide for his people?

Moses called this place Massah and Meribah. Massah means temptation, testing, proving, because they tested the LORD. Meribah means strife and contention, because they grumbled against the LORD. Don't miss the fact that LORD is in all caps. This is the name Jehovah-The Self-Existent One. He is "I AM." He never changes, and his promises never fail. Notice how Moses worded their question in Exodus 17:7, "Is the LORD among us or not?" Through all this complaining, what are the children of Israel really saying? _____

Read Genesis 17:7-8. Underline some of the details that would have been of great comfort if the Israelites had focused on God's promises to them. What details of God's covenant with Abraham's descendants had they forgotten? What do we know about the promises of God? _____

Genesis 17:7-8

I will establish my covenant as an everlasting covenant between me and you and your descendants after you for the generations to come, to be your God and the God of your descendants after you. The whole land of Canaan, where you now reside as a foreigner, I will give as an everlasting possession to you and your descendants after you; and I will be their God."

DAY TWO

As a follower of Christ, what promises has God made to us that will enable us to walk by faith even in times of trouble? Review these promises, and rewrite them in your own words.

Philippians 4:6-7 *Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*

Philippians 4:19 *And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus.*

Romans 8:28 *And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.*

Matthew 6:31-35 *So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.*

James 4:7 *Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.*

Now that we are familiar with the events going on at this time, let's study Exodus 17:8-16.

We read about a battle here. God had destroyed the Egyptians in the Red Sea, but this is a battle in which they are called to engage. This was a battle between Israel and _____.

Who are these people? Let's take a few minutes to look at these people and see why the sovereign God of the universe is vowing to utterly blot them out.

The Amalekites were the descendants of Amalek, the grandson of Esau. Esau was Jacob's twin brother. Do those names sound familiar? Abraham's son was Isaac. Isaac had twin boys, Esau and Jacob. Esau was the firstborn and should have received the promise, but God knew this would not happen. While pregnant with the twins the LORD told Rebekah that two nations were in her womb and that the older would serve the younger. As a young man, without a thought to the value, Esau sold his birthright for a simple bowl of stew. The birthright was no little thing, it held the position of leader of the family and all that entailed when their father died. Hebrews 12:16 TPT says, "Be careful that no one among you lives in immorality, becoming careless about God's blessings, like Esau who traded away his rights as the firstborn for a simple meal."

Let's review by reading the story in Genesis.

Genesis 25:19-34

19 And these are the generations of Isaac, Abraham's son: Abraham begat Isaac: 20 And

Isaac was forty years old when he took Rebekah to wife, the daughter of Bethuel the Syrian of Padanaram, the sister to Laban the Syrian. 21 And Isaac intreated the LORD for his wife, because she was barren: and the LORD was intreated of him, and Rebekah his wife conceived. 22 And the children struggled together within her; and she said, If it be so, why am I thus? And she went to enquire of the LORD. 23 And the LORD said unto her, Two nations are in thy womb, and two manner of people shall be separated from thy bowels; and the one people shall be stronger than the other people; and the elder shall serve the younger. 24 And when her days to be delivered were fulfilled, behold, there were twins in her womb. 25 And the first came out red, all over like an hairy garment; and they called his name Esau. 26 And after that came his brother out, and his hand took hold on Esau's heel; and his name was called Jacob: and Isaac was threescore years old when she bare them. 27 And the boys grew: and Esau was a cunning hunter, a man of the field; and Jacob was a plain man, dwelling in tents. 28 And Isaac loved Esau, because he did eat of his venison: but Rebekah loved Jacob. 29 And Jacob sod pottage: and Esau came from the field, and he was faint: 30 And Esau said to Jacob, Feed me, I pray thee, with that same red pottage; for I am faint: therefore was his name called Edom. 31 And Jacob said, Sell me this day thy birthright. 32 And Esau said, Behold, I am at the point to die: and what profit shall this birthright do to me? 33 And Jacob said, Swear to me this day; and he swore unto him: and he sold his birthright unto Jacob. 34 Then Jacob gave Esau bread and pottage of lentiles; and he did eat and drink, and rose up, and went his way: thus Esau despised his birthright.

Based on this Biblical account, what do we learn about Esau and his respect for the things of God?

What was of greatest importance to Esau?

Things between these brothers worsened and Jacob went so far as to deceive his father when it was time for Isaac to bestow the blessing. Esau was furious and began plotting to kill Jacob as soon as their father died. (Oh yes, this family had issues!) Jacob fled for his life, and went to live for many years with his Uncle Laban in Paddan Aram. There he met and married Rachel (this is an amazing love story, but we do not have time for that right now). Time passed, and God blessed both men with large families and abundant herds. They finally came back together and reconciled after many years. But it was never what it could have been.

There are always ripples from the bad decisions we make. We cannot go back and change the past; we must simply do the next right thing. Hostility, jealousy, greed, lack of self-control are all problems families deal with today. Do some of these things sound familiar? Would you say your family has suffered from the ripples of previous generations and their bad choices?

If your answer is yes, let's consider the fact that the only person we control is ourselves. What can we do in order to be an influence for good to the coming generations?

Hang with me my friend, we are building a foundation for our understanding of Jehovah-Nissi.

DAY THREE

Genesis 36:12 says, "Esau's son Eliphaz also had a concubine named Timna, who bore him Amalek." To understand the relationship between the Israelites (Jacob's ancestors) and Amalekites (Esau's ancestors), Deuteronomy 25:17-19, explains by saying, "Remember what the Amalekites did to you along the way when you came out of Egypt. 18 When you were weary and worn out, they met you on your journey and attacked all who were lagging behind; they had no fear of God. 19 When the LORD your

God gives you rest from all the enemies around you in the land he is giving you to possess as an inheritance, you shall blot out the name of Amalek from under heaven. Do not forget!"

Deuteronomy 25:18 says the Amalekites had, "no fear of God." What does it mean to have no fear of God? _____

As followers of Christ, who is our greatest enemy? Who is constantly searching for a way to defeat and destroy us? Who watches carefully for a moment when we are tired or weary in order to attack us? _____

Now that we have a greater understanding of the Amalekites' character, let's return to Exodus 17. What are the Amalekites doing in verses 8-16? _____

Moses calls his right-hand man, Joshua and gives him instructions. What did he tell Joshua to do? _____

What did Moses say he would be doing? _____

This was no ordinary staff. This was the staff used to perform many of God's amazing signs, including:

- God showing Moses he was able to do whatever he said he would do - Exodus 4:17
- The ten plagues brought against the Egyptians - Exodus 7-11
- Moses raising this staff over the Red Sea to divide the waters for the Israelites to pass safely through on dry ground. Then when the Egyptians pursued, Moses raised this staff and the waters returned and drowned the entire Egyptian army - Exodus 14

Now, Moses will hold up the staff while the battle rages. Read Exodus 17:10-11, what do you believe holding up the staff represented? _____

Notice the beautiful picture painted in Exodus 17:12-13 of how we are to support one another. Everyone becomes weary. Who helped Moses when he became weary? _____

There are spiritual battles going on every day. We cannot always see the spiritual battles around us. What can we do to be a help to others when we find out they are in a spiritual battle? How are you helping others be victorious in their walk of faith? _____

When you sit in a church service, does it ever occur to you that the people sitting around you might be fighting spiritual battles in their life? It is important that we personally hear from God to help with our trials, but how might we support other believers as they fight spiritual battles around us? _____

DAY FOUR

God instructed Moses to write about this battle with the Amalekites on a scroll, including his promise to one day utterly blot out the memory of Amalek. Why do you suppose God instructed Moses to write this down? _____

- What do we know about the promises of God? _____

- What do we see Moses doing in Exodus 17:15? _____
- What did Moses call this place? (This is the name Jehovah-Nissi.) _____
- Jehovah means, I AM, the Self-Existent One who never changes, is always faithful and is to be obeyed. Nissi means, banner or standard lifted as a rallying point. What do you believe Moses is saying by naming the altar this? _____

DAY FIVE

- What has been your greatest take-away from this study? _____

- Has your walk of faith been changed by knowing that our God gives victory against our enemy when we are focused on Him—when we realize that our battles are won or lost by our reliance on Him? If so, in what way? _____

- What was the attitude in the heart of the children of Israel to the God who had so lovingly cared for them just prior to their battle with the Amalekites? _____
- Do you see yourself having this kind of attitude toward God from time to time? What can be done to make sure this is not our attitude? _____

Our battles are not against flesh and blood the Bible says.

Read Ephesians 6:10-18.

Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. 11 Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. 12 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. 13 Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. 14 Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; 15 And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; 16 Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. 17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: 18 Praying always** with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto** with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;*

- What are we to do in order to be victorious as Believers today? Be specific in your answer.

