

Camping with God – Pt. 5

Exodus 17 The Battle with Amalek

Lesson for Israel: **Trusting and Praying for God's Protection**

⁸Then Amalek came and fought against Israel at Rephidim. ⁹So Moses said to Joshua, "Choose men for us and go out, fight against Amalek. Tomorrow I will station myself on the top of the hill with the staff of God in my hand." ¹⁰Joshua did as Moses told him, and fought against Amalek; and Moses, Aaron, and Hur went up to the top of the hill. ¹¹So it came about when Moses held his hand up, that Israel prevailed, and when he let his hand down, Amalek prevailed. ¹²But Moses' hands were heavy. Then they took a stone and put it under him, and he sat on it; and Aaron and Hur supported his hands, one on one side and one on the other. Thus his hands were steady until the sun set.

¹³So Joshua overwhelmed Amalek and his people with the edge of the sword. ¹⁴then the Lord said to Moses, "Write this in a book as a memorial and recite it to Joshua, that I will utterly blot out the memory of Amalek from under heaven." ¹⁵Moses built an altar and named it The Lord is My Banner; ¹⁶and he said, "The Lord has sworn; the Lord will have war against Amalek from generation to generation."

(Exodus 17:8-16)

While they were still at Rephidim, where Moses struck the rock and God provided water, they were attacked by Amalek. Amalek was the leader of the Amalekites, a descendent of Esau.

Moses wrote as he recalled this event (some forty years later),

"Remember what Amalek did to you along the way when you came out from Egypt, how he met you along the way and attacked among you all the stragglers at your rear when you were faint and weary; and he did not fear God." (Deut. 25:17-18)

I. Beginnings

Who was Amalek?

Amalek was the grandson of Esau through a concubine.

His name means 'warlike'; he became the head of a warlike tribe, the Amalekites.

Amalek is a type of the on-going battle all of us face today as followers of Jesus Christ between the flesh and the Spirit – the old and new natures.

In Genesis 25 it is recorded that Rachael, the wife of Isaac, was experiencing an unusual pregnancy – a war in the womb.

Gen. 25:21-26

“What is this battle going on inside of me?”

Twins inside were two nations :23

(Edomites and Israelites --Types of the flesh and the spirit)

Gen. 25:27-34

The boys grew up – Esau a hunter and a man’s man.

Jacob – a peaceful man

Heb. – ‘*tam*’ – perfect, upright, undefiled

Contrast: Esau was a hunter

Jacob was a shepherd

Field vs. Fold

Killer instinct vs. protective instinct

Esau minded earthly things.

Cunning hunter/Crude man

Esau sold his birthright for a bowl of stew.

Crude – “give me some of that ‘red, red’ –stuff”

Then he burped and left.

Difference is that Jacob wanted the birthright

Esau despised it – could not repent.

Reason: **Hungry** – “What good will a birthright be to me if I die of hunger?”

Esau was mastered by his appetites

Esau is described as immoral and godless

Profane – lit, “turn his back to the temple”

“See to it that no one comes short of the grace of god; that no root of bitterness springing up causes trouble, and by it many be defiled; that there be no immoral or godless person like Esau, who sold his own birthright for a single meal. For you know that even afterwards when he desired to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no place for repentance, though he sought for it with tears.”

(Heb. 12:15-17)

Typology of the Flesh and Spirit

Esau was a manly man with plenty of hair on his chest.
Jacob wasn't – but God saw that he had a heart for God

Churches often put Esau's in charge – successful men who want to run the church like a business instead of having hearts dependent on God

Man – Movement – Monument

Gal. 5:16-18 - Inner warfare

Deeds of the Flesh :19-21

Fruit of the Spirit :22-23

In Christ there is victory over the flesh/old nature

“Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.” (Gal. 5:24)

“...knowing this, that our old self was crucified with Him, in order that our body of sin might be done away with.” (Rom. 6:6)

There is a battle all believers fight

“Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its lusts...” (Rom. 6:12)

II. Battleground

Malachi 1:1-4 Perpetual war with Edom

Tomorrow I will station myself on the top of the hill with the staff of God in my hand.” ¹⁰Joshua did as Moses told him, and fought against Amalek; and Moses, Aaron, and Hur went up to the top of the hill.

¹¹So it came about when Moses held his hand up, that Israel prevailed, and when he let his hand down, Amalek prevailed.

Joshua led the battle but the victory was the Lord's
as Moses lifted his hands holding up the staff of the Lord

Moses' staff –

The rod of Moses' represented Moses' abilities and giftedness

“Moses, I don't need nor want your abilities. Throw it down”

[Found a serpent in it]

God doesn't want us to do anything for Him,
 – He wants to do something through us.

Ex. 4:1-4

After that it was always known as the rod of the Lord

As Moses held God's rod up there was victory.

There is never a victory in the flesh

If we walk by the Spirit we will not fulfill the lust of the flesh.

The Battle is won

¹²But Moses' hands were heavy. Then they took a stone and put it under him, and he sat on it; and Aaron and Hur supported his hands, one on one side and one on the other. Thus his hands were steady until the sun set.¹³So Joshua overwhelmed Amalek and his people with the edge of the sword.

Joshua – salvation

Joshua fights while Moses intercedes

Joshua doesn't succeed without the prayers of Moses.

Joshua and the fighting men – first battle they took part in.

1 Samuel 15:1-2 King Saul – a greatly gifted man.

Instructions: Go now and smite Amalek; completely destroy Him.

:3-7

Feud still going on between Amalek – bandit nation an Israel

--500 years as a nation, leaving a trail of blood and tears

- “Utterly destroy Amalek!”

:8-9 -- Incomplete obedience --Amalek is marked for destruction by God

Jesus warned His disciples:

“Keep watching and praying that you may not enter into temptation; the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.” (Matt. 26:41).

Samuel rebukes Saul

:10-14

Saul's confession – “I did obey, my way.”

:20-21

Samuel's Rebuke - :22-23

Saul was a carnal man who tried to give to God what God hates.
 If the devil can't get you to do bad in the flesh, he'll try to get you to do good in the flesh. "Sacrifice to God!"

Samuel executes Agag - :33

Why is there deadness in some churches – flesh prevails
 Talented people giving God what he hates
 "Flesh on parade"

III. Ongoing Battle

Perpetual War continues:

Death of Saul

2 Sam. 1:3-10 Saul spared Amalek. But Amalek didn't spare Saul.

Don't offer to God that which God hates: neither good nor bad in our flesh.

"Our efficiency without His sufficiency is a deficiency"

Adrian Rogers

Our victory in this life comes as He lives His life through us.

Afterwards Moses made an altar. Ex. 17:

¹⁵Moses built an altar and named it The Lord is My Banner; ¹⁶and he said, "The Lord has sworn; the Lord will have war against Amalek from generation to generation."

Altar – "Yhwh Nicci" symbolized God's saving power

Joshua – "God is salvation" Hebrew name for Jesus

Perpetual Battle against the flesh – ***From generation to generation...***

Lesson for Israel: **Trusting and Praying for God's Protection**

The strength for our conquering and our victory is drawn continually from Christ. The Bible does not teach that sin is completely eradicated from the Christian in this life, but it does teach that sin shall no longer

reign over you. The strength and power of sin have been broken. The Christian now has resources available to live above and beyond this world. The Bible teaches that whosoever is born of god does not practice sin. It is like the little girl who said that when the devil came knocking with a temptation she just sent Jesus to the door.

Billy Graham