

. . . and then came Amalek

Exodus 17:8-16

Just about when everything was back to normal, if things could ever be normal again, when the guard on watch signalled, 'Enemy Approaching.' Amalek had been in the hills waiting an opportunity to attack. So in our Christian life there is an enemy lurking waiting to prey on us at our weakest. Satan has his agents everywhere. This one is common to all of the Lord's people. We need to find out more about this Amalek and what to do to overcome him, otherwise we will suffer a life of misery and defeat. But, praise the Lord, there is an answer!

First, Who was Amalek?

He was:

The grand son of Esau Gen. 36:12a
 An clan chieftain. Genesis 36:16.
 First among his peoples. He was first son, of first son, of first son, of Jacob.
 He became a very populous nation, rich in territory and livestock Judges 7:12.
 He began in Sier-Edom and spread out northwards into Negev as far as the Nile and Jordan's banks. Genesis 36:9, Numbers 13:29.
 The enemy of the Israel and Israel's God, and opposed and harassed them on their migratory journey. Exodus 17:16.

The Amalakites were very cruel and opportunist. They picked off their enemy at their weakest point. See Deut 25:17&18. History suggests that they had immense herds which they drove before them as a ram into the ranks of their enemy to confuse them then rode up to rout them. Some have identified them with the Hyksos, the Asiatic people who invaded Egypt, when weak and vulnerable after the death of Pharaoh at the Red Sea¹.

Who is Our Amalek?

Grandfather Esau was a man of the earth, a hunter, a man of action who preferred his food to his birthright Genesis 25:34. He hated Jacob.

Jacob was the opposite. Although a cunning cheat, he had an appetite for God. He communed with, obeyed and trusted God. And God blessed him. "I have loved Jacob and I have hated Esau." Malachi 1:2, Romans 9:13.

These two men represent our two natures, that of the flesh with its sensual appetites; and that of the spirit and our heart for God. These two natures war against one-another. The flesh would put to death the spirit. But God has crucified the flesh. Romans 8:6-15

A Great Liberating Promise

The Lord has sworn that He, the Lord, will have war against Amalek from generation to generation. Amalek is bad news, but: 'The Lord has sworn. . . ' This is God's avowed statement. Therefore it is an article of our faith as found in the Scriptures. 'He will have war against Amalek;' Israel's Amalek and also our Amalek. It is the Lord's battle, not ours, He who is the Captain of the Host of the Lord. We are but His foot-soldiers. The duty of the soldier is to take and obey orders.

'From Generation to Generation.' It is ongoing. While we are in the body there will be no let up. There will be war upon war, in different guises, as Satan tries to usurp the sovereignty of God in the world and in your life through what Paul calls 'the flesh'. However our battle will be won victory upon victory as we gain by the experience and learn the art of walking in the Spirit.

Our Victory over our Amalek is won as much on the hilltop with Moses as in the valley with Joshua.

Joshua is the Hebrew for Jesus. Jesus is Joshua in our valley and prevails over

Amalek by His death upon the cross Galatians 5:24. We must not minimise the importance of the contest in the valley. Soldiering is a skill requiring training in method, wisdom, discipline and endurance. It is blood, sweat and tears. It is painful and exhausting work and we must not flinch. Moses whose name means 'drawing out', initially drawn out of the water, but also the one who drew his people out to become a people of God.

He carried his staff, the symbol of his authority of office. Moses stood as a prophet between the people and God as His servant and their leader. He raised his hands as in ministry before God. The task is wearying and constant. He may have failed were it not for the reinforcement of Aaron and Hur². Unlike the leadership of Joshua, Moses' role demanded the personal support of others. Joshua's degree of success was directly proportionate to Moses' constancy in intercession. Why God has chosen to work like this is a mystery to us, but it is what He has decreed shall be so. Prayer is the power house of your battle. Those in the prayer group often cannot see what good effect their work is having.

Write this in a book. These elements of spiritual battle are ageless, whether in our personal battle against the flesh, or the Church's long-age battle to take the gospel to the ends of the earth. There is the battle in the field and warfare in intercession. God wanted the lesson recorded and then recited. This study is part of that recitation

Bible quotations in this study are from the NASB. 1. Ages in Chaos, Velikovsky, p66. 2. In this chapter Joshua and Hur appear without introduction. This is because our record was written afterwards from Moses' diary when these men were well known to everyone.

for your benefit.

I will utterly blot out the memory of

Amalek from under heaven. This means the consciousness of Amalek as a force with which to be reckoned. Throughout the history of Israel in the land Amalek was there, at first strong and vigorous, inflicting defeat and being defeated.

Amalek was overcome largely under Saul and David, but even in Esther's time in Babylon, the arch-enemy of the Israelis was one evil man, Haman, an Agagite, of an Amalakite clan Esther 8:3.

Be encouraged. Your battle, although fierce, at times, it is winnable because the Lord your God has declared His intention. It is a progressive victory. While we are in this world Amalek is there to one degree or another, but should be lessening in our experience, for:

Each victory will help you, Some other to win.

Then one day, in the glory land, Amalek will be gone, remembered no more.

The Lord is my Banner. Moses' altar was for worship, thanksgiving and praise.

Animal sacrifice had not then been instituted. This was a thanksgiving memorial. He named it Jehovah Nisi, or 'The Lord my Banner'. This name is recognised as one of the ten "Jehovah-names" of the Old Testament. The banner is the army's standard, the rallying point in battle. While the banner stands the conflict is not lost. Note that it is an altar of praise to Jesus and derives this name from Him. In the day that He comes He will stand as the rallying point for His people. Isaiah 11:10.

Welcome **Glen Park Gospel Church**
 Lower Road, Eltham North
 Sundays 10.30 am

These notes may be reproduced in part or in full when distributed without cost, with the words 'Used by Permission, Glen Park Gospel Church.' included.