

# Let the Journey Begin

## a study in the book of Exodus

### Victory Over the Amalekites - Exodus 17:8-16

#### Lesson 17

On our journey of faith, we not only experience trials involving the necessities of life, such as bread and water, but we also face battles when our enemies attack us. In this section of Exodus 17, we move from God's provision of water for His people, to God's defeat of their enemy. After the defeat of the Amalekites, Moses wrote in a book of their victory and built an altar to commemorate God's work on their behalf.

#### Read Exodus 17:8-16

1. Read through this week's verses using both your Observation Worksheet (the last page of this homework) and another Bible translation or paraphrase. After reading through these verses, what would you say to someone if they asked you what they are about?
2. Key words help us to better understand the verses. We have listed below key words. Mark each one in a distinctive way (either with a symbol, highlighting, or some form of boxing, circling, or underlining). Mark each of the key words each time they are used in the text. Remember to mark any personal pronouns that refer to *Moses* and *Joshua/Aaron/Hur*.  
  
Key Words: *LORD, Moses, Joshua/Aaron/Hur, Amalek, and Israel*
3. Joshua, Aaron, and Hur were not only servants of the LORD, but they were servants of Moses. Make a list of what they did.

## Read Exodus 17:8

1. Exodus 17:8 begins with the words, *Now Amalek came and fought with Israel in Rephidim*. Moses reminded the children of Israel of *Amalek's* method of attack in Deuteronomy 25:17,18.

Where did they attack from?

Who did they attack?

When did they attack?

How did they view God?

- a. Consider Satan, the enemy of our souls. In what way can the questions above apply to his tactics and methods?
  - b. What lesson from this can you apply to your own life?
2. This was Israel's first battle. They had much to learn. What have you learned about spiritual battles since you have become a believer?
  3. What is the intention of our enemy, the devil, according to 1 Peter 5:8?
    - a. Using your own words, describe his intentions.
    - b. What are some things that you need to watch out for in your own life?
  4. What does Ephesians 6:12 remind us about what/who we *wrestle* with?
    - a. According to Ephesians 6:11, what is our remedy?
      - 1.) Explain, as you would to a new believer, what it means to *put on the whole armor of God*.

## Read Exodus 17:9-13

1. In retaliation, Moses gave an order to Joshua. What was it?
  - a. Joshua had his role in the battle against Amalek. Moses had a different role. What did Moses say that he would do?
  
2. Exodus 17:10 begins with the words, *So Joshua did as Moses said to him.* Consider the words of Joshua 11:15 as you record them.
  - a. Joshua was Moses' second in command, in line to be the leader of God's people after Moses. What are some things we can learn from him about how he walked in his role and responsibilities?
  
  - b. What kind of courage did Joshua need to obey Moses?
  
3. *Moses, Aaron, and Hur went up to the top of the hill.* What happened when Moses:  
*held up his hand*  
*let down his hand*
  - a. We have seen how God often used the rod as a means to show His strength. Our strength comes from the Holy Spirit. Our strength often fluctuates according to our dependence on the Holy Spirit. What does Galatians 5:16,17 remind us about this?

1.) What are some ways we walk:

in the Spirit

in the flesh

4. Warring physically is exhausting. Yet, so is warring spiritually. *Moses' hands became heavy.* What is the exhortation and promise of Galatians 6:9?

a. What can be the result of *weariness*?

5. What was done to help Moses?

a. Scripture calls us to come alongside one another when another believer is *weary*. What do the following verses teach us about this?

Isaiah 35:3

Philippians 1:19

1 Thessalonians 5:25

Hebrews 12:12

1.) What are some practical ways we can obey these admonitions?

6. According to Exodus 17:13, what was the result of Aaron's and Hur's helping Moses?

### **Read Exodus 17:14**

1. The LORD said to Moses, *Write this for a memorial in the book and recount it in the hearing of Joshua.* What did the LORD say He would do?

2. God takes very seriously things done that harm His people. Record the words of the following verses that remind us that God did not forget what Amalek did.

Numbers 24:20

Deuteronomy 25:19

1 Samuel 15:2

- a. In what ways does this speak to you regarding those who have harmed you or others?

3. Bask in God's viewpoint of you as you write the words of Zechariah 2:8.

- a. What are your thoughts when you consider how valuable you are to the LORD, especially as it relates to those who have harmed you?

### **Read Exodus 15:15,16**

1. What did Moses call the altar that he built?

- a. What does God promise in Psalm 60:4?

2. One purpose of a *banner* is that it marks the place we can run to when we are disoriented or overwhelmed in battle. It is a place where we can regain our strength and purpose. Exodus 17:16 states that *the LORD will have war with Amalek from generation to generation*. In the same way, we will battle against our enemy all of our earthly lives. In what ways have you learned to value the LORD as your banner?

3. Altars were built as places of worship. They were also built as reminders. Why is it important to remember that *the LORD is our banner*?

## Review Exodus 17:8-16

1. In what way are the challenges we deal with like a battle?
2. What did you learn about the importance of coming alongside others?
3. In what ways are you challenged to have reminders in your life of what God has done for you?

*He will set up a banner for the nations,  
And will assemble the outcasts of Israel,  
And gather together the dispersed of Judah  
From the four corners of the earth.  
- Isaiah 11:12*

## Observation Worksheet

**Exodus 17:8-16** Now Amalek came and fought with Israel in Rephidim. <sup>9</sup> And Moses said to Joshua, "Choose us some men and go out, fight with Amalek. Tomorrow I will stand on the top of the hill with the rod of God in my hand." <sup>10</sup> So Joshua did as Moses said to him, and fought with Amalek. And Moses, Aaron, and Hur went up to the top of the hill. <sup>11</sup> And so it was, when Moses held up his hand, that Israel prevailed; and when he let down his hand, Amalek prevailed. <sup>12</sup> But Moses' hands became heavy; so 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 the other on the other side; and his hands were steady until the going down of the sun. <sup>13</sup> So Joshua defeated Amalek and his people with the edge of the sword. <sup>14</sup> Then the LORD said to Moses, "Write this for a memorial in the book and recount it in the hearing of Joshua, that I will utterly blot out the remembrance of Amalek from under heaven." <sup>15</sup> And Moses built an altar and called its name, The-LORD-Is-My-Banner; <sup>16</sup> for he said, "Because the LORD has sworn: the LORD will have war with Amalek from generation to generation."