

INTRODUCTION:

Exodus 17:1-7 1The Lord commands all the children of Israel to leave the Wilderness of Sin and journey to and pitch their tents in Rephidim. *"Rephidim"* means rests or i.e. resting places. However, no water is found there. 2The people began to quarrel and complain with Moses saying *"Give us water that we may drink."* Moses asks *"why quarrel with me, and why do you test the Lord and His patience?"* 3They murmured against Moses because they were thirsty, asking *"why bring us out of Egypt to kill our children and cattle with thirst."* 4Moses knew only one thing to do and that was to cry out unto the Lord for "this" people. He didn't even call them God's people, for he thought they were about to stone him. 5God instructs Moses to go ahead of the people and position himself like the leader he is, and take the elders of Israel, along with his rod; the same rod he had struck the (Nile) river with. Take it in his hand and go lead the people. 6Since there was no water in Rephidim, God tells Moses that he will meet him in Horeb. Horeb was not a long ways from Rephidim, and there the Lord would stand before him and upon the rock in Horeb. There he is to strike the rock, and water will come out of it so the people can drink. Moses did as the Lord commanded in the sight of the elders. 7The name of the place was called *"Massah"* (*testing*) and *"Meribah"* (*quarreling*), because of the quarreling of the children of Israel, and because of their testing of the Lord, saying, *"Is the Lord among us, or not?"*

LESSON: I. A GREAT BATTLE EXODUS 17:8-13

17:8 Then came Amalek, and fought with Israel in Rephidim. The Amalekites are descendants of Esau. So, Amalek was the grandson of Esau. So they have come and are fighting against Israel in Rephidim. It's like—trial- then miraculous intervention- then trial- and then miraculous intervention continuously.

17:9 And Moses said unto Joshua, Choose us out men, and go out, fight with Amalek: to morrow I will stand on the top of the hill with the rod of God in mine hand. Moses, Israel's leader tells the commander of the Israelite army, Joshua the game plan. He tells him to choose some men and go fight with Amalek. Tomorrow Moses will stand at the top of the hill with the rod of God (the power of God) in his hand.

17:10 So Joshua did as Moses had said to him, and fought with Amalek: and Moses, Aaron, and Hur went up to the top of the hill. So, the next day Joshua did as Moses said, and fought against Amalek. In the meantime Moses, the leader, and Aaron the priest and Hur, a member of the Tribe of Judah went up to the top of the hill.

17:11 And it came to pass, when Moses held up his hand, that Israel prevailed: and when he let down his hand, Amalek prevailed. Moses begins to hold up his hand (with the rod), and Israel prevailed. Whenever we lift up our hands to God, it means surrendering to God. If we do anything apart from God, its flesh, but when God is apart of the plan, there's victory. These men chosen to fight were not warriors. They had just left Egypt. That's why God took them the long way around. Therefore, this victory had to come

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from God. Therefore, Moses totally surrendered to the plan of God. He was dependent upon the power of God. He had just seen what happened when hitting the rock. However, this was a long battle and he began to get weary to where his hand went down, and Amalek prevailed.

17:12 But Moses hands were heavy; and they took a stone, and put it under him, and he sat thereon; and Aaron and Hur stayed up his hands, the one on the one side, and the other on the other side; and his hands were steady until the going down of the sun. Since Moses' hands felt heavy, and he got weary, Aaron and Hur took a stone and put it under him, and he sat on it. It's so good to have responsible, faithful, anointed, fruit-bearing people come along side to lift you up and encourage you. That's what Aaron and Hur did for Moses. They lifted up his hands; kept them steady—one on one side and the other on the other side. How perfect is that? This battle was all day long, till the going down of the sun! Moses, Aaron, and Hur fought in the Spirit.

17:13 And Joshua discomfited Amalek and his people with the edge of the sword. And Joshua fought in the physical!!! Yes, Joshua weakened and defeated Amalek and his people with the sharpness of the sword. There was no way Amalek could have won.

II. A DIVINE DECLARATION EXODUS 17:14-16

17:14 And the Lord said unto Moses, Write this for a memorial in a book, and rehearse it in the ears of Joshua: for I will utterly put out the remembrance of Amalek from under heaven. This was their first battle after coming out of Egypt, and this was something to remember, for God gave them this victory. God told Moses to write it down as a remembrance; a memorial in a book and rehearse it; recite it; read it aloud in the ears of Joshua, for God will utterly blot out the remembrance of Amalek from under heaven; from the very memory of men; the very name from this earth! WOW!

17:15 And Moses built an altar, and called the name of it Jehovahnissi:—Moses built an altar, calling the name "*Jehovah Nissi*" which means "*The LORD my Banner!*" For Moses knew who was responsible for the victory!

17:16 For he said, Because the Lord hath sworn that the Lord will have war with Amalek from generation to generation. And the Lord swore that He will be at war with Amalek from generation to generation.

SUMMARY:

8Amalek, the grandson of Esau came to fight against Israel in Rephidim. **9**Moses tells Joshua to choose some men, and go out and fight Amalek and on tomorrow Moses will stand on the top of the hill with the rod of God in his hand. **10**Joshua did as Moses said, and fought against Amalek, while Moses, Aaron, and Hur, went up to the top of the hill. **11**And when Moses held up his hand, Israel prevailed: and when he let down his hand, Amalek prevailed. **12**Since Moses' hands felt heavy and he got weary, Aaron and Hur took a stone, and put it under him, and he sat on it. They lifted up his hands; kept them steady—one on one side and the other on the other side. This battle was all day long, till the going down of the sun! Moses, Aaron, and Hur fought in the Spirit. **13**And Joshua fought in the physical!!! Yes, Joshua weakened and defeated Amalek and his people with the sharpness of the sword. **14**The Lord told Moses to write this for a memorial in a book, and rehearse it in the ears of Joshua, for God will utterly put out the remembrance of Amalek from under heaven. **15**Moses built an altar, calling the name "*Jehovah Nissi*" which means "*The LORD my Banner!*" **16**And the Lord swore that He will be at war with Amalek from generation to generation.

