

HALLOWED BE THY NAME
#7 – “Yahweh-Nissi: The LORD Our Banner”
March 20, 2005 – Columbia Church

⁸The Amalekites came and attacked the Israelites at Rephidim. ⁹Moses 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.” ¹⁰So Joshua fought the Amalekites as Moses had ordered, and Moses, Aaron and Hur went to the top of the hill. ¹¹As long as Moses held up his hands, the Israelites were winning, but whenever he lowered his hands, the Amalekites were winning. ¹²When 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. ¹³So Joshua overcame the Amalekite army with the sword. ¹⁴Then 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.” ¹⁵Moses built an altar and called it The LORD is my Banner. ¹⁶He 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.” *Exodus 17:8-16 TNIV*

Introduction: Perhaps you remember that Abraham ascribed a name to God that he also gave to a place at the top of Mount Moriah, namely Yahweh-Jireh. In the story of God’s progressive revelation of His character, we now come to a place that Moses named “Yahweh-Nissi,” or “The LORD Our Banner.” This is the God-name which teaches us that God is our only victory, the one who ensures our ultimate triumph over death and ruin.

- I. What’s in the Name YAHWEH-Nissi?
 - A. YAHWEH-Nissi is a name ascribed to God by Moses and specifically given to a place of victory.
 - B. Nissi means “our banner of victory,” and refers to the triumph that is available to God’s people only through complete reliance upon Him.
 - C. YAHWEH-Nissi is the name used to speak of God after he gave the Hebrew people victory over the Amalekites, who had come to attack them.
 - D. YAHWEH-Nissi gave the Israelites an unlikely victory through the power of Moses’ rod, which was the symbol of God’s ultimate power.
- II. Our God is Our Banner of Victory!
 - A. YAHWEH-Nissi is in the business of giving the victory to His people when they are within His will.

¹When you go to war against your enemies and see horses and chariots and an army greater than yours, do not be afraid of them, because the LORD your God, who brought you up out of Egypt,

will be with you. ²When you are about to go into battle, the priest shall come forward and address the army. ³He shall say: “Hear, Israel: Today you are going into battle against your enemies. Do not be fainthearted or afraid; do not be terrified or give way to panic before them. ⁴For the LORD your God is the one who goes with you to fight for you against your enemies to give you victory.”

Deuteronomy 20:1-4

- B. YAHWEH-Nissi’s primary objective, though, is to give His people victory in great spiritual battles.

¹⁶So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature. ¹⁷For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever you want. ¹⁸But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. *Galatians 5:16-18*

¹⁰Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. ¹¹Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes. ¹²For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. *Ephesians 6:10-12*

- C. We can only hope to win these spiritual battles in the ultimate power of YAHWEH-Nissi, since God’s objective is to bring glory to Himself through us.

This is what the LORD says to you: “Do not be afraid or discouraged because of this vast army. For the battle is not yours, but God’s.” *2 Chronicles 20:15b*

- III. Jesus is the Ultimate Expression of YAHWEH-Nissi!
 - A. As Jesus entered Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, he was about to claim God’s greatest victory. (Luke 19:28-40, pp.743-744)
 - B. The people were not seeking victory for God, but for themselves, and they lifted their own palm banners. (Matthew 21:8, p.697)
 - C. Jesus wept at the self-centered misunderstanding of the people. (Luke 19:41, p.744)
 - D. When Jesus was lifted to die on the Cross, he showed us what God’s victory over sin and death was really about, becoming “our banner” over sin.
 - E. Jesus is lifted on the Cross as Moses’ staff was lifted in battle, so that we who look upon it and die to ourselves might know ultimate triumph over death.

Conclusion: YAHWEH-Nissi is our banner of victory. In the sacrifice of Jesus that paid for our sins, he has given us the ultimate triumph over death, and Satan has been defeated once and for all. Though we know the “endgame,” the battle rages on in this world, so we must rely upon God’s ultimate power.