



The Names of God V: YHWH Nissi, or YHWH my banner. An Exposition of Exodus 17:8-16n May 19, 2019

The flag of the United States. It's very sight screams the word, "Freedom, liberty and justice for all." A flag or banner means something because it stands for something. To an American citizen, this flag is part of our identity here on earth.

Whatever is the earthly citizenship of a Christian we all belong not to a republic, but the kingdom that is from heaven. Our banner is the name of God, YHWH. This message is about God's name, YHWH Nissi. The Hebrew word Nissi means MY banner, flag, badge, signal, ensign. It's real personal. Our God is our flag or badge of authority, He is our identity, in this case, as individuals.

Clint Eastwood was the, "Man with no name," God has many names.



In the old spaghetti westerns, Clint Eastwood was the man with no name. God's the opposite, He has several names. To know someone, one must know their name or names. First name, middle, last, even mother's maiden, nicknames, and if you know them well, special names between you. That is our goal with God

He takes names seriously and uses them to tell us who He is. From the previous 5 messages on God's names, we know that YHWH is God's own name that preaches the cross and says, that, He is.

Hi name Elohim, meaning "God," is His title that says He is One yet Plural, the Trinity. YHWH Jireh is the God who sees to what one needs when doing His will. YHWH Ropheka is God who heals from sin, bitterness, and protects those who obey Him from diseases brought on by sin. Then comes *YHWH Nissi*, meaning, "My banner" and *YHWH Tsabaoth*, or "YHWH of armies". These two names say that He's the God of people who are in a fight.

· Hebrew Names of God ·

יהוה נסי

YAHWEH NISSI - THE LORD OUR BANNER

This message about YHWH Nissi means my fight is under His flag. You may be in a battle for dignity, sobriety, sanity, survival, or for your spirituality, but you can win because you fly His flag. To quote Dr. Tony Evans, "*You've either been in or are in or are headed toward a battle. Because life brings conflicts, things that you run into that seek to defeat you, destroy you, discourage you, depress you, that want to ruin you. You need to be able to fight and fight for victory. Both of these names, Nissi and Tsabaoth come off that...in a scenario when God's people were in a battle.*"

YHWH Nissi, means God my flag, ensign, banner, or badge. Shepherdsville KY, officer Rocco Besednjak checked out suspended plates. The motorist had several warrants and ran over the officer. Rocco, though injured wasn't on his own. Because his badge identified him as an officer, backup came and the suspect, Taira Litsey was sentenced to 40 years.

Because I have YHWH's identity, I can get through this battle and win *if* I identify with God as His child, in His service. He has the backup so we can win our battles. His formula is simple but hard for us to practice because it's not always what we want. When we really want our freedom He will fight for us, with us, and we will see that He fights

only to win. God freed Israel from slavery, and the follower of Jesus from sin, But we as God's people must **fight to stay free**, and we'll face the hatred of our enemy, Satan, and the spiritual strategy for victory we can get from Exodus 17:8-16. **Fight under God's banner and win.**

1. The Fight Against the Enemies Amalek and Satan (Exodus 17).

8 Then Amalek came and fought with Israel at Rephidim. 9 So Moses said to Joshua, "Choose for us men, and go out and fight with Amalek. Verse 16...The LORD will have war with Amalek from generation to generation."

Amalek was Israel's physical enemy, Satan *our* spiritual enemy. Amalek's cruelty against the weak and sick was disgusting to God, **"Amalek...attacked you...when you were faint and weary, those who were lagging."**



(Deuteronomy 25:17-18). **"I will punish the Amalekites for what they did to Israel when they waylaid them as they came up from Egypt."** (1 Samuel 15:2-3).



Who Were the Amalekites? They hated Israel with Hitler hate. Jewish history says that they're from incest and adultery. Esau, Abraham's grandson had a wife named Adah (Genesis 36:2)/ Basemath (Genesis 26:35). Her two names, mean perfume and jewelry, suggesting she was

a prostitute. Esau and Adah/Basemath had a son, *Eliphaz*.

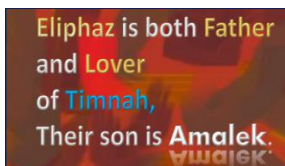
Eliphaz' *daughter* Timnah, was also his mistress/concubine. He already had a wife and 5 kids from that wife. Timnah wasn't from his marriage. He had a child-- Amalek from a twisted affair with his biological daughter, Timnah who was born from an adulterous affair. The Bible lists 2 fathers for Timnah. One was Seir the Horite, her father in name, which means, "caveman" (Genesis 36:20-22)

and her lover, Eliphaz (1 Chronicles 1:36), her biological dad. Eliphaz was Amalek's biological father as well as his grandpa! Jewish history explained it (*Jewish Women's Archive Encyclopedia, entry: Timnah*): Seir raised Timnah as a daughter though she was born of Eliphaz' adultery with Seir's wife. When Timnah grew up, her biological father became her lover and father of her son, Amalek!

In traditional Jewish history, Timnah resented being a concubine and the shame of being her father's mistress. She ran to Jacob, named Israel, away from her bizarre family and asked if he'd take her in. Jacob/Israel didn't take her in. Jewish tradition says in bitterness against her rejection, *she taught her son/ brother to hate every descendant of Jacob/Israel*. Since Amalek, nations and religions who hated Israel because they were Israel. Greeks, Rome, Arabs, Europeans, Russians, Spaniards, the Catholic church, Germans, the UN, Palestinians, Iranians, and many other Muslims hated and persecuted and killed Jews. Arab author Brigitte Gabriel quotes an Arab proverb toward Israel, "Arabs are taught hatred of Israel with mother's milk" (*Because They Hate, MacMillan, 2006, p.173*).

The Christian has an enemy worse than Amalek. Peter says, **"Your adversary, the devil...seeking...to devour"** (1Peter 5:8). Jesus said he comes to, **"steal, kill, and destroy"** (John 10:10).

Our war is spiritual, **"For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood,"** (Ephesians 6:12). **"For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh,"** (2 Corinthians 10:4). As Amalek ambushed children, the elderly, sick, and those who lagged behind, so Satan is



trying to eliminate any Christian in weakness.

2. There is a strategy that allows us to fight our battles.

Tomorrow I will stand on the top of the hill with the staff of God in my hand.” 10 So Joshua did as Moses told him, and fought with Amalek, while Moses, Aaron, and Hur went up to the top of the hill. 11 Whenever Moses held up his hand, Israel prevailed, and whenever he lowered his hand, Amalek prevailed. 12 But Moses' hands grew weary, so they took a stone and put it under him, and he sat on it, while Aaron and Hur held up his hands, one on one side, and the other on the other side. So his hands were steady until the going down of the sun. 13 And Joshua overwhelmed Amalek and his people with the sword. 14 Then the LORD said to Moses, “Write this as a memorial in a book and recite it in the ears of Joshua, that I will utterly blot out the memory of Amalek from under heaven.” 15 And Moses built an altar and called the name of it, The LORD Is My Banner, 16 saying, “A hand upon the throne of the Lord!

The LORD Is My Banner, It is a pole, flag, or marked standard, to identify an army and a point to rally around. It's meaning in metaphor would mean that in this text, *YHWH Himself is the identity and rally point for Israel*. People today use the term, “identity politics.” They want you to believe that God's design for your body is a lie and if you are a man and want to be a woman you can “identify” as a woman and shazzam! You're not a man anymore! For a follower of Jesus, we identify with Him, His cross, and resurrection. That is true identity. For Israel to win their first battle, Moses had to hold up in the air a blessed wood, the staff that opened the Red Sea and brought water from the rock. When he could no longer hold it up, Israel lost its victory. When He was weary, His friends had to help. Then He had to rest on a rock. Holding up the wood is a picture of the cross and the rock could be Mount Calvary and/or the tomb from which Jesus walked away from death.

“And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself” (John 12:32). The Christian lifts up the cross of Jesus Christ, who suffered and died for all sinners, His great love, the great price He paid for our helpless sinful condition.

The Cross and Fellowship is Necessary for Victory



When Moses could no longer hold up his wooden staff, Israel lost its victory. When the believer ceases to hold up the work of the cross, spiritual strength wanes and victory turns to defeat. It was impossible for Moses to do it alone. So for the Christian. It was a strange situation-- the soldiers on the field had to fight hand to hand, Joshua had to lead the army, and then Moses had to hold up the wood. God did that so we never forget that victory comes from not our strength like the soldiers, nor our intelligence like the general, but from holding up God's blessed piece of wood. When He was weary, His friends had to help. There was prophecy on that hill. Aaron His brother was the priesthood. Jesus is the great

High Priest and believers are a “Royal priesthood. Hur was of Judah, the Messiah's tribe.

For the believer, Hebrews 10:25, **“not neglecting to meet together as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another,”** urges to keep meeting together. We need each other and Jesus of Judah but our great High Priest. NOBODY CAN FIGHT ALONE.

Then He had to rest on a rock! 1 Corinthians 10:4 says **“the rock was Christ,”** Jesus said about the confession that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, **“Upon this rock I will build my church”** (Matthew 16:18), Jesus’ words are the rock foundation that withstands the storms of life **“Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock.”** (Matthew 7:24-25).

14 Then the LORD said to Moses, “Write this as a memorial in a book...a hand upon the throne of the LORD.” God also told Moses to write it down *for memory*. We too are called to remember! The Lord’s supper does that. I hope we get the analogy. To fight our battles we must look to what Jesus did on the cross, accept help from the church and from the Lord. We’ve got to rest on the rock, Jesus our Lord, the confession that He’s God’s son, and the solid rock of Him, confessing Him, and living by His words. And keep it in memory. It’s a prescription for the battles we’ll fight till we die or the Lord returns. But it gives a final secret. God wants your hand on His throne. Who could ever go up to a king’s throne and touch it! Not His greatest adviser, nor a general, but only his son or daughter.

One of God’s names appears, *Jehovah Nissi*, or, “The Lord, my banner. The battle flag is a flag of identity. Remember that Joshua fought the ground battle but Moses fought the battle up on the hill. Too often we focus on the valley and the struggles we have to take on in our lives. But what happens on the ground is determined by what happens on the hill where he wood is lifted up. Sometimes you feel like you’re winning and sometimes like you’re losing, but the banner is what guarantees victory. It’s the flag that wins.