

August 14, 2022

## The LORD Is My Banner! Exodus 17:1-16

Vol. 12 Num. 33

### Using This Study

#### ❶ EXAMINE His Word

What does God SAY? Open your time with prayer. The words God uses to communicate matters, so go back and pay close attention to the details that are emphasized or repeated in the passage.

#### ❷ EXPLORE His Word

What does God MEAN? Asking questions of the text helps surface how the details relate to the message God wants to communicate.

#### ❸ EMBRACE His Word

Why does it MATTER to me? Embrace God by responding to what you discover in His word in faith and obedience.



*Aaron and Hur support the hands of Moses during the battle with Amalek. (Exodus 17:11-12)*

Our study this week is Exodus 17. It has been approximately three months (*Exodus 16:1*), since the Israelites left Egypt and are continuing their journey through the desert. Once again, they find themselves without water and as before (*Exodus 15:22-24*), they complain to Moses. But this time they threaten to kill him. Moses cries out for God's help and God responds by providing water from a rock at Rephidim.

Sometime later, the Amalekites, descendants of Esau (*Genesis 36:12*), and a bitter enemy of the Israelites from the Esau-Jacob rivalry, attack the Israelites at Rephidim. Through the military leadership of Joshua and the intercessory prayers of Moses, the Amalekites are defeated. God then instructs Moses to record the event in a book as a testimony for future generations.

*During times of uncertainty, is your spiritual journey filled with anxiety or with assurance? When things seem out of your control always remember, you aren't...but God is!*



*Moses strikes the Rock of Rephidim to get water for the Israelites. (Exodus 17:5-6)*

## Exodus 17 - ESV

### Water from the Rock

**17** All the congregation of the people of Israel moved on from the wilderness of Sin by stages, according to the commandment of the LORD, and camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. <sup>2</sup>Therefore the people quarreled with Moses and said, “Give us water to drink.”

And Moses said to them, “Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?”<sup>3</sup> But the people thirsted there for water, and the people grumbled against Moses and said, “Why did you bring us up out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and our livestock with thirst?”

<sup>4</sup>So Moses cried to the LORD, “What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me.”

<sup>5</sup>And the LORD said to Moses, “Pass on before the people, taking with you some of the elders of Israel, and take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. <sup>6</sup>Behold, I will stand before you there on the rock at Horeb, and you shall strike the rock, and water shall come out of it, and the people will drink.” And Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. <sup>7</sup>And he called the name of the place Massah and Meribah, because of the quarreling of the people of Israel, and because they tested the LORD by saying, “Is the LORD among us or not?”

### Israel Defeats Amalek

<sup>8</sup>Then Amalek came and fought with Israel at Rephidim. <sup>9</sup>So Moses said to Joshua, “Choose for us men, and go out and fight with Amalek. Tomorrow I will stand on the top of the hill with the staff of God in my hand.” <sup>10</sup>So Joshua did as Moses told him, and fought with Amalek, while Moses, Aaron, and Hur went up to the top of the hill.

<sup>11</sup>Whenever Moses held up his hand, Israel prevailed, and whenever he lowered his hand, Amalek prevailed. <sup>12</sup>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. <sup>13</sup>And Joshua overwhelmed Amalek and his people with the sword.

<sup>14</sup>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.” <sup>15</sup>And Moses built an altar and called the name of it, The LORD Is My Banner, <sup>16</sup>saying, “A hand upon the throne of the LORD! The LORD will have war with Amalek from generation to generation.”

**🕒 EXAMINE His Word (Observation)** (For personal preparation)

**What does God SAY? Prayerfully note significant details from this passage.**

Make 10 of your own observations from this passage. Avoid jumping to make interpretive decisions or drawing applications. Save those for the sections that follow. At this point just observe this passage and what it says. Look for things that are emphasized, repeated, and what stands out to you. Look at the verbs, what actions are in the text? Who is involved in the text? There is no right or wrong answer, just list 10 things you see in the text.

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**🕒 EXPLORE His Word (Interpretation)** (For Community Group discussion)

**What does God MEAN?**

1. Put yourself in the sandals of an Israelite...several days in the desert without water. Do you think you could endure without complaining?

2. Two words are used to describe the Israelites attitude towards Moses and God (Vs 1-7). What are these two words? Look them up in a dictionary.
  
3. Why do you think the Israelites continue to be quarrelsome with Moses and God?
  
4. God miraculously provided water for the Israelites. Do you think they were truly grateful or do you think they felt entitled?
  
5. Why does God continue to tolerate the Israelites complaining?
  
6. Israel's next crisis came from an attack by the Amalekites (Vs 8–13). Specifically, what part did Moses, Aaron, Hur, Joshua and the men of Israel play in the victory?
  
7. What stands out to you about the Israelites battle with the Amalekites?
  
8. What do you think the phrase, "***The LORD Is My Banner***" (Vs 15) means?

③ **EMBRACE His Word (Application)** (For Community Group discussion)

**Why does this MATTER to me?**

9. When things don't go according to your expectations, what do you say to God and to those you think are to blame? Why?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
10. When have you been convicted of your sins of bitterness, complaining and unbelief?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
11. What does complaining about circumstances reveal about the true nature of a person's heart?  
How can this be dealt with?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
12. Reflect on how God has met your needs in times of emergencies. How might you keep such deliverances as a reminder of His faithfulness?

Summarize your thoughts on the passage

Write about what God wants you to **KNOW**, to **FEEL**, and to **DO**...

## **Sermon Outline and Notes**