

Jehovah-Nissi

Who Will Carry the Banner?


Emmanuel Evangelical Congregational Church ✕



Exodus 17:8-16

The Amalekites came and attacked the Israelites at Rephidim. Moses 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."

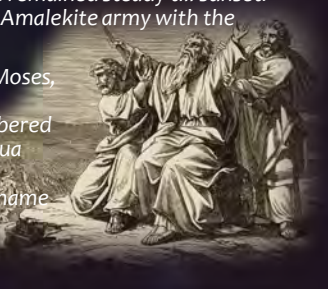
So Joshua fought the Amalekites as Moses had ordered, and Moses, Aaron and Hur went to the top of the hill. As long as Moses held up his hands, the Israelites were winning, but whenever he lowered his hands, the Amalekites were winning.



Exodus 17:8-16

When 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. So Joshua overcame the Amalekite army with the sword.


Then 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."



Exodus 17:8-16

Moses then built an altar and called it, 'Jehovah Nissi' (The Lord is my Banner). He 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."



Consider the background...

Exodus 13:17-22


When Pharaoh let the people go, God did not lead them on the road through the Philistine country, though that was shorter. For God said, "If they face war, they might change their minds and return to Egypt." So God led the people around by the desert road toward the Red Sea.



Consider the background...

Exodus 14:26-30


Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at daybreak the sea went back to its place. The Egyptians were fleeing toward it, and the Lord swept them into the sea. The water flowed back and covered the chariots and horsemen—the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed the Israelites into the sea. Not one of them survived.



Consider the background...

Exodus story...


- God delivered His people from bondage...
- PERSONALLY led them...
- Brought the TO and THROUGH many challenges that He might reveal Himself
- Protected them from their enemies
- Provided water in the wilderness
- Fed them with "bread from heaven"
- Provided "meat"



Now... Exodus 17:8

"Then Amalek came and fought against Israel at Rephidim."

Just as the Red Sea victory was orchestrated of God... So too this battle!

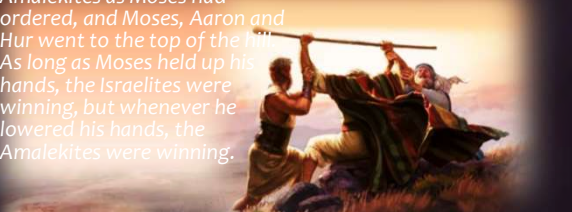


Now... Exodus 17:8

"Then Amalek came and fought against Israel at Rephidim."

So Joshua fought the Amalekites as Moses had ordered, and Moses, Aaron and Hur went to the top of the hill. As long as Moses held up his hands, the Israelites were winning, but whenever he lowered his hands, the Amalekites were winning.


So Joshua overcame the Amalekite army with the sword! (v13)



Exodus 17:8-16

Moses then built an altar...
... and called it,

'Jehovah Nissi'
(The Lord is my Banner)



The Lord is my Banner

JEHOVAH
The Lord is my Banner



"The LORD is my Flag!"

THE 54th REGIMENT!
AFRICAN DESCENT
BOUNTY \$500!

THE GOVERNMENT MONITOR


The 54th Massachusetts at Fort Wagner

PORTER 7/18/01 BY THE CIVIL WAR MONITOR

On July 18, 1863, Union troops commanded by Brigadier General Quincy Gillmore launched an attack on Fort Wagner, the Confederate bastion that protected Morris Island, located south of Charleston Harbor—part of the larger Federal attempt to capture the city of Charleston. While the assault failed, the men of the 54th Massachusetts Infantry, the African-American regiment commanded by Colonel Robert Gould Shaw that led the Union advance, were retrospectively praised for their valor—a significant step on the path toward the acceptance of black troops among northern soldiers and civilians. Below are images and illustrations that help tell the story of the patriotic engagement.

<https://www.civilwarmonitor.com/2010/08/25/the-54th-massachusetts-at-fort-wagner>






Robert Gould Shaw
Colonel, 54th Massachusetts


Tired, hungry and proud, the black soldiers of the 54th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry stood in the light of the setting sun and awaited the call to battle on the evening of July 18, 1863. The air was filled with the rumble of big guns, and the very ground on Morris Island, South Carolina, trembled beneath their feet. The regiment's baptism of fire had come only two days before, but the memories of that sharp skirmish had already begun to fade in the shadow of the awesome task that now lay before them.

The path that had brought these determined men to the embattled sands of South Carolina had been a long one, born of idealism and fraught with difficulty. That they had succeeded in the face of bigotry and doubt was due in great measure to the colonel who led them: slight and fair-haired, Robert Gould Shaw appeared even younger than his 25 years. But despite his initial trepidations, the Harvard-educated son of abolitionist parents had assumed the weighty responsibilities of command, and never wavered in his fervent resolve to show friend and foe alike that black soldiers were the fighting equals of their white counterparts.

<https://www.battlefields.org/learn/articles/fort-wagner-and-54th-massachusetts-volunteer-infantry>



Robert Gould Shaw
Colonel, 54th Massachusetts



John Andrew
Governor, Massachusetts

The Fifty-fourth Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry was a personal project of Governor John Andrew of Massachusetts, who offered Shaw, then a captain, the command of the "colored regiment" in early 1863. Recruitment for the regiment, one of the first all-black units recruited in a Northern state during the war, was led by Frederick Douglass and numerous prominent black leaders. Douglass even enrolled his own sons Lewis and Charles. Recruits came from New York, Buffalo, Cincinnati, Boston, and many other areas of the North.

<https://billofrightsinstitute.org/essays/robert-gould-shaw-and-the-fifty-fourth-massachusetts-regiment>

Who will lift the flag & carry on?



"Glory" (1989) - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UJzJwEXwEA>

Regimental flags were critical in Civil War battles...



- They are both visible & tangible manifestation of the beliefs and spirit of a group of people. (Declaration of purpose!)
- Display of ensigns or standards declared allegiance.
- In battle, helped tell the two armies apart.
- Provided visual communication amidst the noise & smoke on the field.
- They marked the position of the regiment.

<https://www.thoughtco.com/contributors/importance-in-the-civil-war-1773716>



E.g. – American flag...

- 13 original stars in a circle: all the colonies were equal
- Red stripes: valor, the sacrifices, & the blood shed for freedom
- White: purity & commitment to our ideals
- Blue: Justice & perseverance

Regimental flags were critical in Civil War battles...

- Having flags positioned front-center of the line of battle provided the inspiration, alignment, and direction of movement to press forward. As the flag moved, so did the men.
- Being a color bearer was considered a mark of great distinction and it required a soldier of extraordinary bravery. The job was to carry the flag where the regimental officers directed, while unarmed and under fire.
- Color bearers had to face the enemy and never break and run in retreat, or the entire regiment might follow.
- Soldiers who carried the colors were automatic targets and far more likely to die than a regular infantryman because the enemy eagerly shot at them not only to see the flag fall, but to demoralize the enemy and create confusion and chaos in the ranks.

<https://www.thoughtco.com/flags-importance-in-the-civil-war-1773716>

The Battle of Fort McHenry, through Francis Scott Key's Eyes



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iVryYnzmdl>

Isaiah 11:10

“In that day, the Root of Jesse will stand as a **banner** for the peoples; the nations will rally to him, and his resting place will be glorious.”

Ensign!

Focal point!

Visible & tangible manifestation of the kingdom in which we dwell...



Colossians 1:13

“... He has delivered us from the kingdom of darkness and established us into the kingdom of His beloved Son.”



Colossians 2:15

“And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.”



Psalms 60:4 (NIV)

“But for those who fear you, you have raised a banner to be unfurled against the bow.”

Amplified:

“You have set up a banner for those who fear You [with awe-inspired reverence and submissive wonder—a banner to shield them from attack], A banner that may be displayed because of the truth.”

After their incredible victory experienced on the battlefield, Moses built an altar to the Lord and called it...

The Lord is my Banner



“The LORD is my Flag!”

Psalm 20

Prayer for Victory over Enemies.

For the music director. A Psalm of David.

20 May the LORD answer you on a day of trouble!
 May the name of the God of Jacob protect you!
 2 May He send you help from the sanctuary,
 And support you from Zion!
 3 May He remember all your meal offerings,
 And accept your burnt offering! *Selah*
 4 May He grant you your heart's desire
 And fulfill your whole plan!
 5 We will sing for joy over your victory,
 And in the name of our God we will set up our banners.
 May the LORD fulfill all your desires.
 6 Now I know that the LORD saves His anointed;
 He will answer him from His holy heaven
 With the saving strength of His right hand.
 7 Some praise their chariots and some their horses,
 But we will praise the name of the LORD, our God.
 8 They have bowed down and fallen,
 But we have risen and stood upright.
 9 Save, LORD;
 May the King answer us on the day we call.

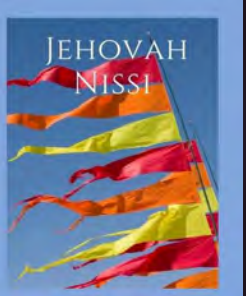
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 But we have risen and stood upright.
 9 Save, LORD;
 May the King answer us on the day we call.

v5 –
 “We will sing for joy over your victory, And in the name of our God we will set up our banners. May the LORD fulfill all your petitions.”



So...

What does this all mean for us today?

Let's focus on 2 thoughts...

(1) At times, you may find yourself facing an “unexpected attack!”

Health...
 Finances...
 Marriage...
 Relationship(s)...

... in a “wilderness” with an enemy and a battle to confront!

(1) At times, you may find yourself facing an “unexpected attack!”


Rejoice!

God has designed this moment to show Himself mighty on your behalf!

And (2)...

You!
 He is still inviting His people to be His “vessels of honor!”

And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?”
 Then I said,
 “Here I am! Send me.”
 -Isaiah 6:8



And (2)... **You!**
 He is still inviting His people to be
 His “vessels of honor!”

Moses said...rd the voice of the
 “I will stand on top of the hill with
 the staff of God in my hands.”
 Then I said,
Will YOU am!
“bear His flag?”

Psalm 20:5

“We will sing for joy over your
 victory, And in the name of our God
 we will set up our banners. May the
 LORD fulfill all your petitions.”

Psalm 60:4 (NIV)


“But for those who fear you,
 you have raised a banner to be
 unfurled against the bow.”

Amplified:
 “You have set up a banner for those who fear You
 [with awe-inspired reverence and submissive
 wonder—a banner to shield them from attack],
 A banner that may be displayed because of the truth.”

Here’s the thing: God’s purposes stand firm.
 He has appointed you and anointed you to join
 Him in making His love known to the world.
 When you become confused, fix your focus on
 God as your banner and come back to center
 yourself in Him.

The author of Hebrews put it this way: “Fix
 your eyes on Jesus!” (Hebrews 12:2). As we keep
 our eyes fixed on our banner—Jesus Christ—we
 are able to follow Him and His purposes.

4 Powerful Reasons to Proclaim ‘God Is My Banner!’ Today
 Becky Hartling
<https://www.crosswalk.com/faith/bible-study/powerful-reasons-to-proclaim-god-is-my-banner-today.html>



But thanks be to God, who
 gives us the victory through
 our Lord Jesus Christ.

1 CORINTHIANS 15:57