

Unlocking The Mystery & Treasure Of Our Inheritance

#34 Ambushed By Amalek

Recall: Passage through the Red Sea introduced Israelites to the WILDERNESS

After crossing the Red Sea, the Israelites had been tested by God three times in order to develop and stretch their faith. Twice they needed water and once they had no food. Each time God, using Moses as His instrument, performed a miracle and supernaturally provided food and water for them. However, Israel failed these initial tests. Each time they mumbled, groaned, grumbled, and griped against God and Moses, Refusing To Operate On Faith in the living God. However, because Israel was an infant nation, new to the faith, God was very patient and longsuffering with His people.

He was testing them NOW to prepare them for Canaan where big wars, enemies and giants awaited them. Future victory would be theirs ONLY if they knew how to believe God and trust Him for the victory. It was necessary to fight several small wars in preparation for the big ones. The war with Amalek was a minor skirmish designed to "battle-toughen" Israel to take the land of Canaan when the time came.

Spiritual truth: Before we can kill spiritual giants, we must learn to kill spiritual pygmies.

Amalek's First Attack On Israel: Exodus 17:8-16

Ex. 17:8 THEN CAME AMALEK, and FOUGHT with Israel in REPHIDIM.

Background Info: 1. The Israelites have received the manna and living water from the rock.

2. Israel had just been released from years of bondage.

They were not familiar with war and weapons. They were no match for Amalek.

3. Rephidim = refreshments - The attack from the Amalekites came when Israel was in a Time Of Refreshment and enjoying the "living water" from the Rock.

4. It was a Surprise Attack and came when it was Least Expected.

Key Points Regarding Amalek

1. Type of the Flesh

2. Grandson of Esau [sold his firstborn birthright for a morsel of food - Gen. 25:34]

3. Picture of the "old man" and carnality - inherited sin nature from Adam

4. There was no mention of Amalek as long as Israel was in bondage. Why? He was boss!

5. Amalek means "warlike." They were not noble warriors - never fought a fair fight.

Associated with cruelty and cowardice- called a "people that lick up" Abused the helpless

Amalek's Strategy: [Plan of action designed to achieve a particular goal] Goal =

Prevent Israel from making progress to Canaan [Promised Land; Inheritance; Abundant Life]

Deut. 25:17-18 Remember what Amalek did to you on the way as you were coming out of Egypt,

¹⁸ how he met you on the way and attacked your rear ranks, all the stragglers at your rear, when you *were* tired and weary; and he did not fear God.

1. Amalek was the first nation to attack Israel about 2 months after deliverance from Egypt [bondage] as they began their journey.
2. They attacked the feeble and weak; those who are too weak to keep pace in the desert. Attacked the stragglers - ill and young
3. Subtle and cowardly
4. "He laid in wait for him in the way."
5. "He set upon the feeble, the faint and weary, first."
6. "The hindmost of the host became his prey."

I Samuel 15:2 Thus saith the LORD of hosts, I remember that which Amalek did to Israel, how he laid wait [ambushed] for him in the way, when he came up from Egypt.

7. Those who were furthest away from their leaders
8. Amalek feared not God. When other nations hesitated to harm God's chosen ones, his evil example induced them to join him in the battle. "Like a robber he waylaid Israel"; "like a swarm of locusts"; "like a leech eager for blood"; "like a fly looking for sores to feed on"; hurried over hundreds of miles to intercept Israel's march

Application In My Life With MY FLESH: My Flesh Compared To The Type: Gal. 5:19-21

Commands: Eph. 4:22, 25-29, 31 That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbor: for we are members one of another. ²⁶ Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath: ²⁷ Neither give place to the devil. ²⁸ Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labor, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth. ²⁹ Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers. Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamor, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice:

Key Points: 1. Our flesh is warlike.

2. Our flesh was not a problem before we were redeemed because IT WAS BOSS.
3. Our flesh lusts or wars against our spirit after we are born again.
4. Our flesh is a hindrance to a successful Christian walk and growth in Christ.

Note #1 After we are born again and filled with the Spirit (new nature), we begin, as new babes in Christ, to read our Bible, pray and start growing. The Word Of God and the power of The Holy Spirit work in us to transform us into the image of Jesus Christ.

II Pet. 1:4 Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be Partakers Of The Divine Nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

I John 3:9 No one born (begotten) of God [deliberately, knowingly, and [habitually] practices sin, for God's nature abides in him [His principle of life, the divine seed, remains permanently within him]; and he cannot practice sinning because he is born (begotten) of God.

Note #2 There is IMMEDIATE resistance from the FLESH. Attacks & war commence!

Gal. 5:17a For the flesh lusts [wars] against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh.

Note #3 Our spiritual struggle with the sin nature, inherited from Adam, is an ugly monster on the inside which despises the things of God and wants to sin by pleasing self.

Truth: Your flesh contests every attempt of the Spirit of God to lead you on into spiritual maturity. Standing across your pathway of spiritual growth is AMALEK! [Your flesh]

Note #4 When the Holy Spirit makes gains over sin in our lives, the sin nature puts up a fierce struggle to take that territory back. It often attacks us from the rear in a surprise attack.

Just when we think we have lust, temper, laziness, pride, or any other sin licked, it raises its ugly head in our lives, and we realize again we are in a struggle with sin until we die.

Note #5 As immature believers, we are no match for the vicious attacks of the flesh.

We are to have "no confidence in it," make "no provision" for it, "not to yield our members to its service."

Gal. 5:16-17 "But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desires of the flesh.

For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you please."

Remember: Amalek is a picture of the flesh seeking AT ALL COSTS to Bar The Onward Journey of God's redeemed people, through the wilderness and into the land of Promise.

a. It is NOT God's purpose for His people to remain at the place where the rock was smitten.

Deut. 1:6-8 The LORD our God spake unto us in Horeb, saying, You have dwelt long enough in this mount:... Turn, take your journey, and GO... Behold, I have set the land before you: go in and possess the land.

b. Amalek's Goal & Business: Prevent It!

ISRAEL'S COUNTERATTACK AGAINST AMALEK - Exodus 17:9-11

Ex. 17:9-10a And Moses said unto Joshua, Choose us out men, and go out, fight with Amalek: tomorrow I will stand on the top of the hill with the rod of God in mine hand.

So Joshua did as Moses had said to him, and fought with Amalek.

Note: For the first time, Israel had to physically fight physically the enemy. Previously, they were to "Stand fast and see the deliverance of the Lord." NOW they will see God's deliverance of the Lord by going to war against Amalek. God will fight through Israel and not just for them.

Key Point #1 Joshua Engaged The Enemy, but the outcome of the battle did not rest with him.

Note: The Christian is to take the offensive against the sin nature when it raises its ugly head. When the sin nature attacks, the Christian must counterattack and put it to death.

Rom. 8:13 For if you live according to [the dictates of] the flesh, you will surely die. But if through the power of the [Holy] Spirit you are [habitually] putting to death (making extinct, deadening) the [evil] deeds prompted by the body, you shall [really and genuinely] live forever.

Col. 3:5 So kill (deaden, deprive of power) the evil desire lurking in your members [those animal impulses and all that is earthly in you that is employed in sin]: sexual vice, impurity,

sensual appetites, unholy desires, and all greed *and* covetousness, for that is idolatry (the deifying of self and other created things instead of God).

I Peter 2:11 Beloved, I beg *you* as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul,

Ex. 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.

Key Point #2 Victory over Amalek is GOD GIVEN. It Cannot Be Won;

Only RECEIVED by the appropriation of FAITH. God will give us the victory!

Key Point #3 Countless Christians fight battles that are already lost. They try in their own strength to overcome the subtleties of sin. You are fighting a battle that is already lost.

Key Point #4 Victory over your flesh is not attained - It Is To Be RECEIVED!

Gal. 5:16b Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lusts of the flesh.

Warning: Satan loves to invert the truth. His words: "Try not to fulfill the lusts of the flesh. THEN you will walk in the Spirit." It seems the latter is a reward.

a. This will keep you occupied with yourself instead of Christ.

b. Thomas: "There is nothing quite so nauseating or pathetic as the flesh trying to be holy."

c. Satan will seek to persuade you that "walking in the Spirit" is the consequence of your pious endeavor not to fulfill the "lusts of the flesh."

d. Satan will seek to rob you of what he knows to be your only possibility of victory.

Key Point #5 When you try not to fulfill the lusts of the flesh, in order to walk in the Spirit, you are fighting a battle that is already lost.

Key Point #6 Walking in the Spirit is an attitude of total dependence upon Him - you will not fulfill the lusts of your flesh - you will enjoy through HIM the victory Christ has already won.

Truth: To walk in the Spirit is not a reward. It is the MEANS for victory.

No Christian will ever have any victory over the sin nature until he is committed to be obedient and to fight the sin nature Biblically. "We are not left to drink from the puddle of our own resources. We tap into God's immeasurable reservoir of wisdom and strength."

Remedy for faintness or weariness:

Isa. 40:29-31 He gives power to the faint; and to them that have no might He increases strength. Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fail; But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength. They shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk, and not faint."

Believers: It is time to put on our armor and use our spiritual weapons.

God's Provision to Fight Amalek: Ex. 17:9-12 The respective actions of Moses and Joshua reveal the provisions God has made for them and for us to combat the flesh.

1. Israel's success against Amalek was determined by the uplifted hands (symbolic of prayer) of Moses and the rod of God's power.

I Tim. 2:8 "I will therefore pray everywhere, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting."

2. Moses' hands grew heavy. When his arms dropped, Amalek prevailed in the valley.

3. Spiritual warfare: When we fail in prayer, the flesh prevails.

Luke 18:1 "Men ought always to pray and not to faint."

Ex. 17:12 they took a rock, 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.

Consider: Just as Moses rested on the rock, we are to rest on the Rock, Christ, in the battle with our sin nature.

Ps. 62:1-2 Truly my soul waits upon God: from him cometh my salvation.

² He only is my rock and my salvation; he is my defense; I shall not be greatly moved.

4. Moses was not left to himself in this life and death struggle. Aaron and Hur supported him. Moses could never have continued without this support.

God's Provision For The Believer To Fight The Flesh

1. We Have An Advocate Within And Above.

a. Aaron was the head of Israel's priesthood as a type of our great High Priest, Jesus Christ, who intercedes for us.

Heb. 7:25 Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.

b. Hur means "light" or "illumine" which is a type of the Holy Spirit who helps us with our infirmities.

Rom. 8:26 Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.

Ex. 17:13 So Joshua defeated [discomfited; overwhelmed = "to knock down and stand on"] Amalek and his people with the edge of the sword.

1. Joshua had a complete victory at that moment.

2. In our lives: a particular sin is "knocked down" - under control by the Holy Spirit.

3. If I do not stay under the control of the Holy Spirit, the flesh will raise its ugly head.

Sometimes the battle with our flesh is so strong it looks like we will lose the battle completely.

We seesaw between victory and defeat, but God gives us the victory as we trust Him.

Truth: There is no way we can eradicate or destroy the evil sin nature in us.

We must use the Sword of the Word against our flesh.

Heb. 4:12 For the word of God *is* living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

Ps. 119:11 Your word I have hidden in my heart, That I might not sin against You.

A Christian Who Does Not Operate On Scripture Is Doomed To Defeat.

God's Instructions After The Victory: Ex. 17:14-16

Ex. 17:14-16 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. And Moses built an altar, and called the name of it Jehovahnissi: ¹⁶ For he said, Because the LORD hath sworn that the LORD will have war with Amalek from generation to generation.

The New Testament shows us the Spirit of God in us is always at war against the flesh-- as long as we live in this world--and until our present bodies are redeemed.

Why? A. So we will have a deeper realization of the havoc sin has wrought in man.

B. Realize the total depravity of man without God

C. Seek a deeper dependence on God and humble ourselves before Him

D. Thankful for His marvelous grace that saves us from hell

E. We would appropriate His grace in our lives and learn that His strength can be made perfect in our weaknesses.

Consider: "If they had not known hunger or thirst, neither would they have eaten manna, nor would they have drunk the water from the rock." God creates and allows NEEDS in my life so I will turn from all resources that are outside of Christ and center me in Him alone.

"Not I, but Christ." ["Lord, bend that proud and stiffnecked, "I",

Help me to bow the neck and die. Beholding Him on Calvary, Who bowed His head for me."]

Many of us need a "bitter experience of our own inadequacy" to fully humble ourselves in absolute surrender and draw upon the limitless resources we have in Jesus Christ.

Much of God's preparation in our lives consists of setting up this struggle so we will see self [flesh; sin nature] for what it is and then attempt to get free from its evil power and influence. There is no hope of consistent abiding in the Lord Jesus as long as we are under the dominion of our flesh, in which "dwells no good thing." [Rom. 7:18]

"The day will come when in clearer light, you will thank God for your necessities, and be of the same mind as the apostle Paul, who said, 'Most gladly therefore I will rather glory in my infirmities, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me'; 'for when I am weak, then I am strong.' You will thank God your necessities were the platform for His providence to display its care upon, that the very wilderness was a blessing to you because He prepared a table for you in the midst of it, and might have left you to prepare one for yourself, if it had not been this desert place. As for the enemies which beset the children of Israel, they might almost be congratulated, for, fierce as they were, yet Israel could never have had victories if they had not known battles."

God promises He will one day blot out the remembrance of Amalek from under heaven.

Considering that Amalek is a type of the flesh, this is a great reminder of the future day when the sinful nature will be no more. Our full salvation purchased for us at the cross involves a new body. That which is mortal shall put on immortality. No more selfishness, no more sinfulness, no more Amalek! All traces of Amalek blotted out! What a day that will be.