



Moses Held Up His Hand

EXODUS 17:8-16

First Time Under Attack

- ▶ This is the first time that they were attacked apart from their **slavery**
- ▶ There were no attacks before because they were already enslaved, already beaten.
- ▶ That's who we were as well (Eph. 2:1-3), enslaved by our sins and the world
- ▶ Only after we are **free** will the devil have the need to attack us from the outside.



The Devil As Our Enemy



- ▶ Once we are delivered by God, God's **enemy** has also become our enemy (1 Peter 5:8)
- ▶ And the devil manipulates the **world** (1 John 5:19) and the **flesh** (Gal. 4:23) to attack us
- ▶ Thankfully Our God has already **won** (1 John 4:4)
- ▶ **Amalek** is a picture of the **flesh**, as the descendent of Esau (Gen. 36:12, 16), and also the name "Amalek" refers to spiritual blindness

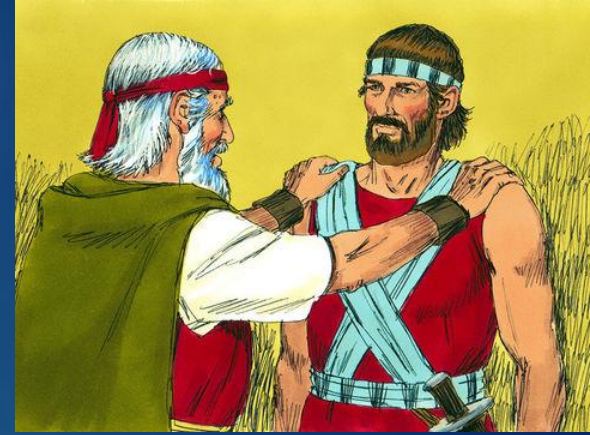
Characteristics of Amalek (flesh)

- ▶ Note: They attacked God's people as they were **journeying** to promise land
- ▶ Also they decided to attack from the **back** (Deut. 25:17-19) when God's people were not expecting them
- ▶ And they **never ceased** attacking God's people (i.e. all the way to Haman, Est. 3:1, 1 Sam. 15:8)
- ▶ We can also see these characteristics in the flesh



1. Choose For Us Men

- ▶ So how should we fight against the flesh?
- ▶ They knew their enemies, they knew who should lead, and they knew which men to choose—all these require **experience** and **knowledge**
- ▶ As we seek to draw closer to God, we will **fail** and we will learn. We need to be thankful for God's **mercy** and just keep **learning**
- ▶ It is good to know our weaknesses and to learn effective ways to cut them out of our lives (Col. 3:5; 1 Peter 3:18)



2. Lift Up His Hand



- ▶ Interestingly, Moses prayed on top of a hill (to see)
- ▶ (1 Tim. 2:8) Paul wants us to **lift up** our hands to praise God. (see Lam. 3:41)
- ▶ Just like bending knees, hand raising is a sign of **humility**—to earnestly called on God (Psa. 28:2)
- ▶ We cannot cut off our flesh by our will, our experience, or our knowledge alone, because it was a part of us. The “cutting” requires God’s work.

Holding Up Moses' Hand

- ▶ What were Aaron and Hur doing? They were holding up Moses' arms.
- ▶ There will be times when we are too **weary** to pray, and have no desire to seek after God (i.e. Mark 14:38)
- ▶ It is good to have **others** praying with us (and for us) both to keep us **accountable** and to **encourage** one another to pray—also a sign of humility



3. The Lord is My Banner (v.15)

- ▶ (v.9) With that **staff** they have seen miracle after miracle. Do you also remember God's work in your life?
- ▶ Now we are called to follow the **banner** that is God to battle (2 Cor. 10:3-5; Eph. 6:10-18)
- ▶ (1 Tim. 6:12) "a good fight of faith" Do you **rely** on God and believe that it is He who wins battles?



Conclusion

- ▶ Just like battling against Amalek from generation to generation (v.16) this fight against our flesh (former old self) will be a **daily fight** continually (Eph. 4:22)
- ▶ (Col. 3:5-10) we are called to **put off** our flesh and to put it to **death** daily—and to put on our new life that is Christ. (Eph. 4:24)
- ▶ Are you ready to follow God's banner today?

