**Victory Through Prevailing Prayer**

Ex 17:8 Then came Amalek, and fought with Israel in Rephidim.

9 And Moses said unto Joshua, Choose us out men, and go out, fight with Amalek: to morrow I will stand on the top of the hill with the rod of God in mine hand.

10 So Joshua did as Moses had said to him, and fought with Amalek: and Moses, Aaron, and Hur went up to the top of the hill.

11 And it came to pass, when Moses held up his hand, that Israel prevailed: and when he let down his hand, Amalek prevailed.

12 But Moses' hands were heavy; and they took a stone, 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.

13 And Joshua discomfited Amalek and his people with the edge of the sword.

14 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.

15 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.

**Introduction**: focus not upon war. focus upon victory: prevailing prayer— intercession, crying out to God. Victory against the enemies of life comes from the LORD and from the LORD alone. When the enemies of life attack us, our duty is to go before the LORD and cry out to Him for victory. This is the great focus of this passage: *The Crisis of Israel In the Wilderness—Warfare:*

**The Cure** *Victory Through Prevailing Prayer,*

The crisis of war.

1. The Amalekites attacked Israel while they were camped at Rephidim.

Why would the Amalekites attack Israel? No doubt, because they felt threatened. They were a desert people who lived just south of the promised land of Canaan. They had obviously heard about Israel being freed from Egypt and of their march to Canaan, somewhere between two to three million of them. To reach Canaan, this large mass of Israelites would have to march either through or close by the land of the Amalekites. The leaders of the Amalekites had no idea what Israel's intentions would be, to pass by their land in peace or to attack them. Consequently, the Amalekites launched a surprise attack against Israel. The attack was sudden, totally unexpected. facts need to be pointed out about the attack of the Amalekites.

De 25:17 Remember what Amalek did unto thee by the way, when ye were come forth out of Egypt;

18 How he met thee by the way, and smote the hindmost of thee, even all that were feeble behind thee, when thou wast faint and weary; and he feared not God.

19 Therefore it shall be, when the LORD thy God hath given thee rest from all thine enemies round about, in the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee for an inheritance to possess it, that thou shalt blot out the remembrance of Amalek from under heaven; thou shalt not forget it.

a. The attack was a surprise attack launched against a mass of civilians, not against an army, totally unprovoked and uncalled for.

b. The Amalekites were set on annihilation of the Israelites, totally exterminating and erasing them from the face of the earth. They were driven by prejudice and bitter hatred against the Israelites, the same bitter prejudice held by many nations against the Jews down through the generations.

 They have said, Come, and let us cut them off from being a nation; that the name of Israel may be no more in remembrance...Gebal, and Ammon, and Amalek; the Philistines with the inhabitants of Tyre (Psalm 83:4, [7](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ps+83%3A7)).

c. The Amalekites should have known that God had promised the land of Canaan to Israel. They should have known just as people today know that the Jews look upon the land of Palestine (Canaan) as the *promised land* given to them by God. But the Amalekites should have been aware of the fact far more than we are today. Why?

Because the Amalekites were the descendants of Esau, the twin brother of Jacob. And God had given the promise of the *promised land* to Jacob and his descendants. Esau knew all about the promise.

Amalek was the grandson of Esau. His father, Eliphaz, was the oldest son of Esau. Esau would certainly have shared the great promises of God with both his son Eliphaz and his grandson Amalek (cp. Genesis 36:15).

Amalekites-distant cousins of the Israelites. They most likely knew about Israel's being promised the promised land of Canaan.

1. Moses appointed a commander to mobilize an army to defend Israel, the young man Joshua ([Exodus 17:9](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ex+17%3A9)).

Remember, the attack was a surprise attack against those who lagged behind: the handicapped, sick, weary, and aged.

Where did Israel's armed forces get their weapons? they requested wages—back pay—for their slave labor. One of the requests would have been for weapons for protection and hunting purposes out in the wilderness of the desert, weapons such as swords and bows and arrows. This would have been a natural and understandable request. There is also a possibility that they were able to recover some weapons from the Egyptians when the army was drowned in the Red Sea. In addition, they would have been making what weapons they could as they marched along from place to place in their wilderness wanderings, weapons such as long spears, slingshots, bows and arrows, and shields.

3. Note that Moses promised to seek God, to intercede for Joshua and the soldiers ([Exodus 17:9](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ex+17%3A9)). Joshua was to fight; Moses was to pray. Moses promised to go to the top of the highest hill surrounding the battle field, to lift up the rod of God, appealing and calling out to God in prayer. The rod of God was looked upon as the *Banner* of Israel. Consequently, when they saw the *rod of God*—their banner—lifted high, they knew that God's servant was crying out to God. They were encouraged and motivated to fight beyond their strength. They knew that God would give them the victory over their enemy. The point is this: Moses promised the warriors of Israel that he would be their intercessor, their prayer-warrior.

When enemies attack us, our only hope is the Lord, going before Him and crying out for help. Prevailing prayer—intercession, seeking the face of God—are our only hope.

Seek the LORD and his strength, seek his face continually" (1 Chron. 16:11).

Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you" (Matthew 7:7).

Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints" ([Ephes. 6:18](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Eph+6%3A18)).

Pray without ceasing" (1 Thes. 5:17).

And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart" ([Jeremiah 29:13](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jer+29%3A13)).

Moses prayed while Joshua and the army fought: *prevailing prayer* was made while the battle was being waged (Exodus 17:10).

The time for prevailing prayer is when the enemy attacks.

Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed [is] willing, but the flesh [is] weak (Matthew 26:41).

And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint (Luke 18:1).

Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full" (John 16:24).

2. Moses did exactly what he promised he would do: he went up to the top of the highest hill. He went to the very top so everyone could see him as he sought God.

 a. When Moses held up his hand and the rod of God, Israel advanced (Exodus 17:11).

b. When Moses' hand tired and he lowered his arm and the rod, Israel had to retreat under the onslaught of the enemy ([Exodus 17:11](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ex+17%3A11)).

Why did this happen? Because God needed to teach His people a striking lesson. They were just beginning their journey to the *promised land*, and they needed to learn the basic truth of life: victory is through the LORD and through the LORD alone. In the future, no matter who the enemy was, the only hope for victory was the LORD. No one else could carry them victoriously to the *promised land*, no one except the LORD.

This was the reason God wanted Moses on top of the hill in sight of all, so they could witness the power of...

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| • prevailing prayer  • intercession  • crying out to God | • seeking God  • appealing to God  • trusting God |

God's people, both the soldiers and the civilians, could easily see what happened when Moses was strong enough to keep the rod raised: the army of God began advancing against the enemy, began winning the battle. But they also witnessed what happened when Moses became tired and lowered the rod of God: they began losing the battle and were forced to retreat.

lesson clear: when the enemy attacks, God's people must go before God: must...

• prevail in prayer

• become intercessors

• cry out to God

• seek God

• continuously appeal to God

• trust God

And Jehoshaphat bowed his head with his face to the ground: and all Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem fell before the LORD, worshipping the LORD" (2 Chron. 20:18).

And it came to pass in those days, that he went out into a mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God" ([Luke 6:12](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Lk+6%3A12)).

And he said, Let me go, for the day breaketh. And he said, I will not let thee go, except thou bless me" (Genesis 32:26).

This poor man cried, and the LORD heard him, and saved him out of all his troubles" (Psalm 34:6).

From the end of the earth will I cry unto thee, when my heart is overwhelmed: lead me to the rock that is higher than I" (Psalm 61:2).

4. Moses, the prayer warrior, needed a stone to sit upon for rest and support (Exodus 17:12). The stone supported him, held him up, and gave him rest so that he could endure and continue to prevail in prayer.

The stone is a symbol, a picture of the LORD Jesus Christ.

• support

• rest

• security

• foundation

But the LORD is my defence; and my God is the rock of my refuge" (Psalm 94:22).

He is the Rock, his work is perfect: for all his ways are judgment: a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right is he" ([Deut. 32:4](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Dt+32%3A4)).

The stone which the builders refused is become the head stone of the corner" ([Psalm 118:22](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ps+118%3A22)).

Jesus saith unto them, Did ye never read in the scriptures, The stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner: this is the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes?" ([Matthew 21:42](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Mt+21%3A42)).

And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone" (Ephes. 2:20).

Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Sion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded" (1 Peter 2:6).

God knows that we need His support day-by-day, moment-by-moment. This is where Jesus Christ comes in. He is the Rock of our salvation. He undergirds us as we walk through the wilderness of this world. When we reach the end of our resources, He will undergird our lives. He is a rock, a support that never collapses, a source that has no limits or boundaries, a Savior who never grows weary of saving us from ourselves.

The eternal God is thy refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms: and he shall thrust out the enemy from before thee; and shall say, Destroy them" ([Deut. 33:27](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Dt+33%3A27)).

The Lord *is* my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, *and* my high tower" ([Psalm 18:2](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ps+18%3A2)).

For who *is* God save the Lord? or who *is* a rock save our God? *It is* God that girdeth me with strength, and maketh my way perfect" ([Psalm 18:31-32](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ps+18%3A31-32)).

Thou hast also given me the shield of thy salvation: and thy right hand hath holden me up, and thy gentleness hath made me great" ([Psalm 18:35](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ps+18%3A35)).

The Lord liveth; and blessed *be* my rock; and let the God of my salvation be exalted" ([Psalm 18:46](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ps+18%3A46)).

For in the time of trouble he shall hide me in his pavilion: in the secret of his tabernacle shall he hide me; he shall set me up upon a rock" ([Psalm 27:5](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ps+27%3A5)).

Unto thee will I cry, O Lord my rock; be not silent to me: lest, *if* thou be silent to me, I become like them that go down into the pit" ([Psalm 28:1](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ps+28%3A1)).

Bow down thine ear to me; deliver me speedily: be thou my strong rock, for an house of defence to save me. For thou *art* my rock and my fortress; therefore for thy name's sake lead me, and guide me" ([Psalm 31:2-3](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ps+31%3A2-3)).

Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness" ([Isaiah 41:10](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Isa+41%3A10)).

And even to your old age I am he; and even to hoar [gray] hairs will I carry you: I have made, and I will bear; even I will carry, and will deliver you" ([Isaiah 46:4](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Isa+46%3A4)).

For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved" ([Romans 10:13](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ro+10%3A13)).

Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you" ([1 Peter 5:7](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Pe+5%3A7)).

The prayer warrior, Moses, needed others who could help him in his intercession and appeal to God. Two other men had gone up the hill to see the LORD with Moses: Aaron and Hur.

When Moses became too tired to hold up the rod of God, the two men held up his arms for him. They stayed right with Moses all day, until sunset. Keep in mind that all three of these men were servants of God. Standing there on the hill, holding up the rod of God with the battle for their very survival being waged in the valley below, these men were doing what any servant of God would be doing:

⇒ praying and crying out to God

⇒ struggling and interceding with God

⇒ beseeching and appealing to God

one prayer warrior is often not enough. Support in prayer is needed. Others are needed when the enemy attacks and threatens God's people.

Every believer needs to prevail in prayer. There are times when we, our loved ones, friends, church, and believers world-wide need special prayer—special periods of intercession—of crying out to God. Therefore, we must be ready to pray and pray—ready to spend long periods of time in prayer—ready to prevail in prayer, appealing to God to give us the victory over the fierce enemies who attack us.

1. The enemy was defeated ([Exodus 17:13](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ex+17%3A13)). God gave His people victory over their enemy. The Amalekites were crushed.

The Amalekites are a picture of fierce, violent enemies, enemies whom the believer has to face as he walks through the wilderness of this world. Such enemies as...

Such enemies are extremely dangerous. But there is hope, glorious hope. All enemies, no matter how strong or terrible, can be defeated. We can overcome and conquer. We can gain the victory over all—no matter what confronts us.

How?

By God!

By God's power.

By calling upon the Lord for help. If we call—pray, prevail in prayer—God will hear and deliver us from the Amalekites of our day. God will give us victory over all enemies, no matter who or what they are, and no matter how ferocious their attack. Victory only comes when God's power, the power of prayer, is used to overcome the Amalekites of this day and age.

2. The victory was to be written down and remembered forever ([Exodus 17:14](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ex+17%3A14)). God told Moses to write an account of the attack and victory so that Joshua and succeeding generations would always remember the event. But note: What specifically did God want His people to remember? That victory is through the LORD and through the LORD alone. When enemies attack God's people, their hope is the LORD. God's people are to go before the LORD and pray, prevail in prayer until the LORD gives the victory.

Then sang Moses and the children of Israel this song unto the Lord, and spake, saying, I will sing unto the Lord, for he hath triumphed gloriously: the horse and his rider hath he thrown into the sea" ([Exodus 15:1](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ex+15%3A1)).

O my God, I trust in thee: let me not be ashamed, let not mine enemies triumph over me" ([Psalm 25:2](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ps+25%3A2)).

For thou, Lord, hast made me glad through thy work: I will triumph in the works of thy hands" ([Psalm 92:4](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ps+92%3A4)).

*And* having spoiled principalities and powers, he [Jesus Christ] made a show of them openly, triumphing over them in it" ([Col. 2:15](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Col+2%3A15)).

1. Judgment was pronounced upon the enemy: the enemy of God's people was to be completely blotted out ([Exodus 17:14](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ex+17%3A14)).

Deliverance is possible. Victory over all enemies can be had. Victory is through the Lord. But note: victory is through the Lord and through Him alone.

Now thanks *be* unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ, and maketh manifest the savour of his knowledge by us in every place" ([2 Cor. 2:14](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=2Co+2%3A14)).

But thanks *be* to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ" ([1 Cor. 15:57](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Co+15%3A57)).

For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, *even* our faith" (1 John 5:4).