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Jehovah-Nissi

Harold Willmington

Liberty University, hwillmington@liberty.edu

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ARTICLE THIRTY: NISSI, THE SECOND OF NINE COMPOUND NAMES OF JEHOVAH

What a march it had been—forty days—filled with both terror and triumph, both sin and salvation. Moses sat on a rock at the base of Mt. Sinai contemplating all that had happened since leaving Egypt. There was:

- The successful crossing of the Red Sea by Israel
- The drowning of Pharaoh's pursuing chariots in the Red Sea
- The giving of manna
- The appearance of God's glory cloud to lead them
- The institution of the Sabbath Day
- The rebellion of the people who threatened to kill Moses for not providing water
- The miracle of God who had created cold, fresh water from a rock

But now all had safely arrived at the base of Mt. Sinai. However, a new and deadly threat soon confronted the great lawgiver:

"Now Amalek came and fought with Israel in Rephidim. And Moses said to Joshua, 'Choose us some men and go out, fight with Amalek. Tomorrow I will stand on the top of the hill with the rod of God in my hand.' So Joshua did as Moses said to him, and fought with Amalek. And Moses, Aaron, and Hur went up to the top of the hill. And so it was, when Moses held up his hand, that Israel prevailed; and when he let down his hand, Amalek prevailed. But Moses' hands became heavy; so they took a stone and put it under him, and he sat on it. And Aaron and Hur supported his hands, one on one side, and the other on the other side; and his hands were steady until the going down of the sun. So Joshua defeated Amalek and his people with the edge of the sword" (Exod. 17:8-13, NKJV).

A very practical lesson can be learned as one considers this name in regard to church members. It will be remembered Moses' arms soon became so heavy that he lowered them. But when he did, the Amalekites began winning. Immediately realizing the danger, two men, Aaron, his older brother, and Hur, probably Moses' brother-in-law (husband of Miriam), quickly ran to his aid, with one man holding up Moses' right arm, and the other, his left arm. This prompt action soon led to victory. And the (hopefully) obvious lesson? Simply this: When a local church is going through a dry spell (as all do sooner or later) it usually does *not* stem from the preaching of false doctrine, gossip, or some secret sin in the congregation. No, on many occasions it is the result of tired arms on the part of the pastor or church leaders, or both. How blessed is the church whose lay people sense this and quickly volunteer to become spiritual Aarons and Hurs!

After the victorious battle, Moses did the following: *"And Moses built an altar and called the name of it, The Lord is my banner" (Exod. 17:15, NKJV). Thus, the title of Jehovah-Nissi literally means, "The Lord Jehovah is my banner."*

At least three Christian hymn writers have highlighted this banner in their songs:

- John Yates: *Faith Is The Victory*:

*Encamped along the hills of light, Ye Christian soldiers, rise,
And press the battle ere the night shall veil the glowing skies.
Against the foe in vales below let all our strength be hurled;
Faith is the victory, we know, that overcomes the world.*

*His banner over us is love, our sword the Word of God;
We tread the road the saints above with shouts of triumph trod.
By faith they like a whirlwind's breath swept on o'er ev'ry field;
The faith by which they conquered death is still our shining shield.*

- George Duffield: *Stand Up For Jesus*:

*Stand up, stand up for Jesus, ye soldiers of the cross!
Lift high His royal banner – it must not suffer loss.
From vict'ry unto vict'ry His army shall He lead,
Till ev'ry foe is vanquished and Christ is Lord indeed.*

- Sabine Baring-Gould: *Onward, Christian Soldiers*:

*Onward, Christian soldiers, marching as to war,
With the cross of Jesus going on before!
Christ, the royal Master, leads against the foe,
Forward into battle, see His banner go!*

One final thought: May it always be remembered that as believers we are never fighting *to* a victory, but rather *from* a victory!

The following verses bring this out in glorious fashion:

“He will swallow up death forever, and the Lord GOD will wipe away tears from all faces; the rebuke of His people He will take away from all the earth; for the LORD has spoken” (Isa. 25:8, NKJV).

“These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world” (Jn. 16:33, NKJV).

“So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: Death is swallowed up in victory. ‘O Death, where is your sting; O Hades, where is your victory?’ The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ” (1 Cor. 15:54-57, NKJV).

“Now thanks be to God who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and through us diffuses the fragrance of His knowledge in every place” (2 Cor. 2:14, NKJV).

“For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith” (1 Jn. 5:4, NKJV).