

"The Battle with Amalek"

Part 2

Exodus 17:8-16

Introduction: Last week we looked at the battle of Amalek and as I sought the will of God as to what we were going to look at tonight, God led me back to the same text to see some other lessons here. In our study last week, we looked at this battle as a picture of the first battle that occurs in the life of a believer. This battle is a picture of the believer's battle with the flesh.

Last week we looked at Amalek as a type of the flesh and to begin tonight I want to consider this in some greater detail.

1. The History of Amalek.

Genesis 25:22-27

²² And the children struggled together within her; and she said, If it be so, why am I thus? And she went to enquire of the LORD.

²³ And the LORD said unto her, Two nations are in thy womb, and two manner of people shall be separated from thy bowels; and the one people shall be stronger than the other people; and the elder shall serve the younger.

²⁴ And when her days to be delivered were fulfilled, behold, there were twins in her womb.

²⁵ And the first came out red, all over like an hairy garment; and they called his name Esau.

²⁶ And after that came his brother out, and his hand took hold on Esau's heel; and his name was called Jacob: and Isaac was threescore years old when she bare them.

²⁷ And the boys grew: and Esau was a cunning hunter, a man of the field; and Jacob was a plain man, dwelling in tents.

Getting back to Amalek, we ask the question, "Where did Amalek come from?"

Genesis 36:12

¹² And Timna was concubine to Eliphaz Esau's son; and she bare to Eliphaz Amalek: these were the sons of Adah Esau's wife.

Amalek is the grandson of Esau and so he too is a picture of the sin nature/the flesh. We looked at all this last week but there is more if we continue to trace the line of Esau. God shows in in several types throughout the Bible the sinfulness of the flesh.

Notice 1 Samuel 15:1-33

Saul was to destroy the Amalekites, but he chose to allow the King Agag to live. This is a picture of how we are not to all the flesh to control our lives but there is often that one practice of the flesh that we desire to hold on to and so we allow it to live. Samuel demonstrated how the flesh is to be dealt with and that is by the sword which represents the Word of God. It is the Word of God that tells us our flesh has been rendered powerless by the cross. Let us notice another picture of the flesh.

Esther 3:1-6, 13-15

After these things did king Ahasuerus promote Haman the son of Hammedatha the Agagite, and advanced him, and set his seat above all the princes that were with him.

² And all the king's servants, that were in the king's gate, bowed, and revered Haman: for the king had so commanded concerning him. But Mordecai bowed not, nor did him reverence.

³ Then the king's servants, which were in the king's gate, said unto Mordecai, Why transgressest thou the king's commandment?

⁴ Now it came to pass, when they spake daily unto him, and he hearkened not unto them, that they told Haman, to see whether Mordecai's matters would stand: for he had told them that he was a Jew.

⁵ And when Haman saw that Mordecai bowed not, nor did him reverence, then was Haman full of wrath.

⁶ And he thought scorn to lay hands on Mordecai alone; for they had shewed him the people of Mordecai: wherefore Haman sought to destroy all the Jews that were throughout the whole kingdom of Ahasuerus, even the people of Mordecai.

¹³ And the letters were sent by posts into all the king's provinces, to destroy, to kill, and to cause to perish, all Jews, both young and old, little children and women, in one day, even upon the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, which is the month Adar, and to take the spoil of them for a prey.

¹⁴ The copy of the writing for a commandment to be given in every province was published unto all people, that they should be ready against that day.

¹⁵ The posts went out, being hastened by the king's commandment, and the decree was given in Shushan the palace. And the king and Haman sat down to drink; but the city Shushan was perplexed.

Esther 4:1-3

When Mordecai perceived all that was done, Mordecai rent his clothes, and put on sackcloth with ashes, and went out into the midst of the city, and cried with a loud and a bitter cry;

² And came even before the king's gate: for none might enter into the king's gate clothed with sackcloth.

³ And in every province, whithersoever the king's commandment and his decree came, there was great mourning among the Jews, and fasting, and weeping, and wailing; and many lay in sackcloth and ashes

Haman was also a descendant of Esau and so he too is a picture of the flesh. He is seen here hating the Jews because they represent God, and the flesh despises anything that has to do with God and His Word. Let me show you how Haman was destroyed.

Esther 7:9-10

⁹ And Harbonah, one of the chamberlains, said before the king, Behold also, the gallows fifty cubits high, which Haman had made for Mordecai, who spoken good for the king, standeth in the house of Haman. Then the king said, Hang him thereon.

¹⁰ So they hanged Haman on the gallows that he had prepared for Mordecai. Then was the king's wrath pacified.

He was lifted up on the gallows that he had built. These gallows are a picture of the cross also and so we see that the flesh has been crucified with Christ and it is the cross that takes away the power of the flesh.

Now let us get back to Exodus 17.

2. The Battle

Notice Exodus 17:8-13

There are several important points to be seen in this victory.

a. There were three things which were important in the victory.

1. The lifting up of Moses' arms.

This is a picture of the cross as we looked at last week. But there is something else to be seen here that plays an important part in the battles in the life of the believer.

1 Timothy 2:8

⁸ *I will therefore that men pray every where, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting.*

The lifted hands of Moses also represent prayer in the life of the believer. Prayer is essential for victory in our battles.

Colossians 4:2

² *Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving;*

2. The sword of Joshua.

This is symbolic for the Word of God.

Ephesians 6:12-18

¹² *For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.*

¹³ *Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.*

¹⁴ *Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness;*

¹⁵ *And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace;*

¹⁶ *Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.*

¹⁷ *And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:*

¹⁸ *Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;*

Paul tells us two things are important in the battles, one is a weapon, the Word of God, the other is prayer. In the battle of Amalek, we can see both of these pictured.

There is something that I do need to say about prayer. We do not need to pray for power to defeat the flesh because that power has already been given to us. We have all the power we need for every battle no matter what the situation is.

2 Peter 1:3-4

³ According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:

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.

We do not need to pray for power because that has already been given to us. We need to pray for faith to exercise the power and for wisdom to comprehend what the Lord has provided for us to put it to use.

3. The stone which Moses sat upon.

This can be seen as a solid foundation. We will never gain victory over the flesh if we are standing on loose ground.

Matthew 7:24-27

²⁴ Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock:

²⁵ And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock.

²⁶ And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand:

²⁷ And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it.

The stone upon which Moses rested is a picture of the Word of God. To live a victorious life, we MUST have our feet planted upon the Truth of God's Word.

4. The help of Aaron and Hur.

Moses could not do it alone. Joshua could not do it alone. They all needed each other. The same is true of you and me. We need each other in the battles to gain victory.

Let us take a walk to the grave of Lazarus and see something that is remarkably interesting.

John 11:41-44

⁴¹ Then they took away the stone from the place where the dead was laid. And Jesus lifted up his eyes, and said, Father, I thank thee that thou hast heard me.

42 And I knew that thou hearest me always: but because of the people which stand by I said it, that they may believe that thou hast sent me.

43 And when he thus had spoken, he cried with a loud voice, Lazarus, come forth.

*44 And he that was dead came forth, bound hand and foot with graveclothes: and his face was bound about with a napkin. **Jesus saith unto them, Loose him, and let him go.***

Jesus commanded his friends to untangle the grave clothes from him. This is a picture of how we are to help one another get free from the grave clothes.

Conclusion:

We have all we need to live the victorious life in Christ. We have the Word, the promises, the power, prayer, and each other. Let us learn to access each of these which God has blessed us with.