

**Aug 31<sup>st</sup> 2008: Names of God: Jehovah-Nissi The Lord my Banner: Exodus 17**

**Less than 2 weeks ago**....you like me....were enthralled...way our athletes performed  
Every time our flag flew high.....**And often** you...would noticed.... competitors...  
Look to their flag....for inspiration...extra enablement...encouragement

**When the** children of Israel followed Moses...out of Egypt and into.....they had no flag  
In fact....they had something far better...**The Rod of Elohim** ....Of God...in the hand of

**The Rod**.....caused havoc in Egypt.....at one point had turned into a snake  
**The rod**.....that had struck the red sea and caused it to part  
**The rod**.....that had recently brought forth water from a rock

**Part of me wanted to bring a rod along** ....To hold it above my head.....  
But two things stopped me: I didn't know what it looked like  
**Second**.....rod itself wasn't important.....**BUT Who the rod symbolised**

**The Rod of God was their Banner**.....Reminding them that Elohim was their King  
He was in charge.....And He was the One they looked to.....For Deliverance...Power

**You see the Hebrew word translated banner**.....**Nissi**  
Does not necessarily refer to a piece of cloth.....like a flag  
More often it meant a pole....with a brass emblem or ensign on the end

**It was a standard belonging to a king....ruler**  
Taken into battle as a sign that the king was in the midst  
It was in his power and strength.....that the battle was fought

**So the banner that the** children of Israel had.....the rod.....was nothing much  
Yet what it represented.....was Almighty God in their midst

- **And so it was that with God in their midst**  
They had covered many miles.....Overcome many obstacles including ...food...water  
**But now they were visited with yet another great test**  
The test of battle

Exodus 17:8 says:

***The Amalekites came and attacked the Israelites at Rephidim.***

**Now these Amalekites** were descendents from Esau and vowed enemies  
They had been the first enemies to attack.....in the wilderness

**Throughout the OT they are pictured as the forces of evil.....**  
constantly trying to absolutely eliminate.....Even...Esther....Haman Amalekite.

For the first time.....the Israelites do battle.....v9 says:

Moses said to Joshua, "Choose some of our men and go out to fight the Amalekites.  
Tomorrow I will stand on top of the hill with the staff of God in my hands."

**Moses stands on top of the hill**.....and lifts up the Rod.....

He lifts up the Banner.....**That proclaims**.....we are depending upon God for victory  
**And as long as Moses kept the Rod**...high.....They kept on winning....BUT.....

**And it soon became apparent**....that Moses could not hold up.....without help  
So the people of God joined with Moses.....in lifting up the Rod.....and Joshua overcome

- **And after the battle had been won**....Moses built an altar....in thanksgiving  
And He called it.....Jehovah-Nissi.....The Lord is my banner  
**For he knew** .....that it wasn't the Rod.....It wasn't even those holding up.....  
**It was Yaweh Himself**.....THE Banner there for His people....When they.....

- **And this is just as true for us**.....The evil one is still the enemy of the Redeemed  
**Jehovah-Nissi still stands**.....He promises us the victory....when we come to Him  
As our Banner

**We need as a church**.....As believers.....to gather together under Jehovah-Nissi  
**We need to trust Him**.....as we battle ... For our battles too...are many

**Battles against addictions**.....be they drugs....alcohol....pornography....gambling  
**Battles** against sickness.....Against bitterness....loneliness.....disappointment

**Battles** against depression.....hopelessness.....dissention....injustice....financial hardship  
Sexual impurity.....**add to the list**

**The evil one attacks on many fronts**.....and before we know it we are in a battle  
And at times its hard to see the victory at the end

**Are you involved in a battle**.....Then remember Jehovah-Nissi  
**Call upon Him**.....Commit yourself to spending time with Him about it in prayer  
Make seeking His presence all the time....your number one priority

**Like Israel you are** in a deadly serious position.....and your strength is not enough  
**You need** to do your part.....But God's power is only available to you in this  
**When you commit** yourself to seeking it as Moses did

**It wasn't easy for Him** to hold up the Rod of God.....He needed help to persevere  
And it won't be easy for you either.....**You will need** others to stand with you  
To hold up your hands when you get tired .....

**The encouraging thing is that God** has already shown....the power He has over..  
**He won the greatest** victory on the cross.....and as you draw Him alongside you  
.in your struggle.....**He guarantees** that he or she who endures.....will be saved

**Some time after this battle**.....the Israelites sinned against God in at terrible way  
**And as a** judgment God sent snakes into their midst  
**But God** also caused Moses to raise a pole in the centre....with the image of a.....

**That word for pole**.....is the same word used here for banner  
**And when we turn to the NT we read in John 3:14-15**  
Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the desert, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, that  
everyone who believes in him may have eternal life.

**And as I read that**.....I thought.....**that even as the Rod of**.....was the symbol of  
Lord our Banner.....The Lord who gives the Victory.....  
The Lord who empowers so that we might overcome

**So the empty Cross** is the Symbol for us.....of a God who fights for us against the evil

**That attacks from within....or without**

**Last Thursday I sat and listened.....to the testimony of Fay and John**

**And as John talked** about the amazing battles against evil....  
**that He had seen God victorious in.....**Within his own life...and in the lives of many  
**I kept finding my eyes....move to the cross.....**  
**To the symbol of the One.....**who in His death....became... Jehovah-Nissi

**This morning you may be aware....**of being in a battle.....  
and you know you need ...

**I would like to invite you....**to come to the front.....as a sign to Him  
That you are looking to Him.....as the Israelites did...for the victory

**I'm sure that you** have already prayed much.....  
**but this is to do so....amongst God's**

**And I will pray for you as a group.....**and then you can return  
Unless you wish....and then you can stay

**There in the ground His body lay  
Light of the world by darkness slain;  
Then bursting forth in glorious day,  
Up from the grave He rose again.  
And as He stands in victory,  
Sin's curse has lost it's grip on me;  
For I am His and He is mine,  
Bought with the precious blood of Christ.**