



# EXODUS

A STORY OF  
**REDEMPTION  
AND COVENANT**





---

# Lord Will Fight Our Battles

---

- The Lord will fight our battles; we just need to trust Him
- Exodus 17:8–11, 14:14 and Ephesians 6:10–18
- The Israelites have had a whirlwind experience with God.
- They had been living as slaves for 400 years.
- Then, God suddenly arrived on the scene, promising to save them.
- And they have seen so many miracles (Red Sea, water, manna).



---

# Lord Will Fight Our Battles

---

- But they haven't really had any actual battles.
- They have just watched God perform supernatural miracles.
- They haven't done any military training or learned any strategies or tactics.
- They haven't created an army; they're just a group of families wandering through the wilderness.
- It was a huge group – 600,000 men plus women and children (Exodus 12:37), so probably more than 2 million.



---

# Lord Will Fight Our Battles

---

- Imagine how they must have felt when Amalek's army came to fight them.
- The Amalekites were descendants of Jacob's brother, Esau.
- Amalek was Esau's grandson, born to his son Eliphaz and his concubine Timna.
- It was unusual for a woman's name to be mentioned in a genealogy, so when that happens, we should take notice and try to figure out why.
- Eliphaz was Esau's oldest son and heir, but Amalek was not Eliphaz's heir.



---

# Lord Will Fight Our Battles

---

- He wasn't even listed with Eliphaz's legitimate sons, but as a kind of afterthought because of his secondary status as the son of a concubine (Genesis 36:12).
- The genealogy mentions Timna again later, telling us that she was the sister of the Horite chiefs, which would make her a princess of a pagan nation living near Esau (Genesis 36:22).
- Being mentioned twice means we really need to take notice of who she was and what this meant for Amalek.



---

# Lord Will Fight Our Battles

---

- Deuteronomy tells us that Esau's descendants destroyed the Horites and settled in their place in Seir, and it was God who gave them that victory and that land (Deuteronomy 2:12, 22).
- All of this shows us that Timna was taken as a concubine in some kind of battle between Esau and the Horites. If it were a peaceful situation, a merging of two families, they would have gotten married instead.
- Amalek was born into conflict, growing up in Esau's house as the illegitimate son of Esau's heir and Esau's enemy, whom Esau's family would eventually destroy and displace.



---

# Lord Will Fight Our Battles

---

- These Amalekites were his descendants, 400 years later.
- They came to attack the Israelites completely unprovoked – the Israelites were nowhere near their land.
- The Amalekites lived in the Negev, just south of Israel; Rephidim was further south in the Sinai Peninsula (Numbers 13:29).
- God tells us that they attacked Israel with an unprovoked, vicious, surprise attack when they were “weary and worn out” from their journey so far.



# Exodus Route

**The Date of the Exodus: 1446 BC**  
 Pharaoh who killed Hebrew children: Amunhotep I: 1532-1511 BC  
 Pharaoh's Daughter who adopted Moses: Hatshepsut: 1526 BC  
 Pharaoh of Moses' flight to Midian in 1486 BC: Thutmose II/Hatshepsut: 1498-1485 BC  
 Pharaoh of the Exodus: Thutmose III: 1485/1464 - 1431 BC  
 Red sea crossing: Straits of Tiran on the gulf of Aqaba on day 25  
 Mt. Sinai: Jebel/Mt. Lawz in Saudi Arabia arriving on day 45 spending 11 months  
 Kadesh Barnea at El Beidha beside modern Petra spending two years.  
 Crossing the Jordan in 1406 BC, 40 years to the day they left Egypt.



**Goshen**  
 Tel el Dab'a, Avaris  
 30.787419° N  
 31.821367° E



**Exodus Route Itinerary**  
**700 km, 47 days**  
 Dab'a to Tiran: 500 km  
 17 travel days  
 29 km/day  
 Tiran to Lawz: 200 km  
 11 travel days  
 18 km/day

May 2022  
[www.bible.ca](http://www.bible.ca)  
 Steve Rudd original date: 2006

© 2006 Microsoft Corporation Image courtesy of NASA



---

# Lord Will Fight Our Battles

---

- When Joshua was beginning the conquest of the Promised Land, God told the Israelites not to attack or displace Esau's descendants because God had given them their land.
- He told them to utterly destroy the Amalekites and “blot out the name of Amalek from under heaven” because of the way they viciously attacked Israel here – because “they had no fear of God” (Deuteronomy 25:17–19).
- Later King Saul is called upon to do this (1 Samuel 15).



---

# Lord Will Fight Our Battles

---

- This was a completely unfair battle – a trained army bringing a surprise attack against a bunch of untrained slaves who were unprepared and weary and worn out.
- They would have been scared, but they knew they had God with them
- They had seen God do miracles for them in the past.
- So, when Moses told them to go fight as he stood at the top of the hill with the staff of God, they would have trusted that God was in this.



---

# Lord Will Fight Our Battles

---

- This staff had been used by Moses and Aaron to do many miracles already, so the people would have had hope.
- Moses was making it abundantly clear here that it was God who really had the power by calling it “the staff of God.”
- When Moses’ hands were raised, the Israelites were winning.
- The fact that they were losing when his hands were lowered also pointed to the fact that this was all God.



---

# Lord Will Fight Our Battles

---

- Even though the army was fighting, their success was based on the staff of God, not their own strength.
- God used this to make it abundantly clear who was in control and from where the power came.
- He could have just wiped the Amalekites out as He had done the Egyptians at the Red Sea.
- Having Israel actually fight in a battle this way showed them very tangibly that God was fighting for them and through them.



---

# Lord Will Fight Our Battles

---

- In the New Testament, God also promises to fight our battles for us: spiritual battles not physical ones.
- Paul uses similar language in Ephesians as Exodus does at the Red Sea – “stand” is the same as “be still.”
- But he also tells us to fight, not just watch.
- The weapons we use to fight are the armor of God because it's still God who has the power, even though it's we who participate in the fighting.



---

# We Need Other Believers

---

- We need other believers to help hold us up; no one can do it all alone
- Exodus 17:12–13, Hebrews 12:1–2
- With Moses on the top of the hill, he could see the whole battle, but also the army could look up and see him. Even from a distance, they could tell if his arms were raised or not.
- The battle seemed to last all day. It doesn't specify exactly when the battle started, but by the way the story is written ("Tomorrow I will stand..."), it sounds as if it started sometime in the morning and lasted until sunset.



---

# We Need Other Believers

---

- Of course, his arms started to get tired.
- How long can the average person hold up his or her arms in the air? Have you tried it for more than few minutes?
- Research says it is difficult to keep your arms up after only three minutes.
- It starts to put stress on your nervous system and muscles, and it's hard to convince your mind to keep doing something that hurts.
- Imagine having to hold your hands up for 12 hours. It seems physically impossible.



---

# We Need Other Believers

---

- We don't see God telling Moses to do this, as when He told Moses to tap the rock with the staff or throw the staff to the ground to become a snake. This wasn't a method Moses used to enact the miracle.
- Moses went to the highest place around and held up the staff toward heaven in an act that represented Israel's complete dependence on God for the victory.
- Moses wasn't told, "if you hold up your hands, we'll win." He went to God in prayer, and it was only when he lowered his hands that they realized that when he lowered his hands, they started losing.







---

# We Need Other Believers

---

- Perhaps God was teaching Moses to persevere in prayer.
- God could have answered his prayer right away and won the battle immediately with one fell swoop.
- But instead, he showed Moses what it felt like to get worn out from having to persevere in prayer.
- How many times have we all felt as though we have prayed so hard for the same thing over and over, and we just can't pray about it anymore?



---

# We Need Other Believers

---

- Jesus told His disciples to keep asking and persevering in prayer and never give up.
- He told the parable of a man who needed to borrow bread from his neighbor, and he just kept knocking and knocking until the neighbor finally gave it. How much more will a God who loves you answer your prayers?
- Sometimes it takes a long time for those prayers to be answered, but there's a reason for that, something we don't understand because we're not God, and we don't know the whole big-picture plan for everyone involved.



---

# We Need Other Believers

---

- In this story, Moses learned that he needs help from other leaders, family and friends. No one can walk this journey alone, not even God's chosen prophet with whom He speaks to face to face. Moses had already seen how he needed Aaron to balance his weakness in speaking, but he also saw he needed Aaron – and Hur – for support.
- In this story, it was in a literal, physical way, but that is an illustration of what we all need spiritually.
- We all need friends who can “hold up our arms” for us when we get too tired, friends who can encourage us when we want to give up.



---

# We Need Other Believers

---

- Choosing God as our king is the way to life
- Exodus 17:14–15
- In the end, Israel persevered to win the battle, but it took all day. That isn't because the battle was hard for God. He had already proven He could destroy the strongest army in the world (Pharaoh) in an instant.
- He allowed it to continue so Moses and Aaron learned to persevere in prayer and to teach Moses that he can't do everything alone. He needs others to help him.



---

# We Need Other Believers

---

- When Israel prevailed, Moses gave God all the glory.
- Even though the army fought physically themselves, it was still God who gave them the power and won the victory.
- And it was perseverance in prayer that made the difference.
- At the end of the battle, Moses built an altar to the Lord, a common response to winning a battle in the ancient world.
- He named the place “The Lord is my banner.”



---

# We Need Other Believers

---

- The word translated “banner” here means “standard” or “sign.” In a battle, it was the flag under which an army fought.
- In the ancient world, most nations were monarchies, and the banner was representative of their king. The king may choose to have some symbols related to their gods on their banner, but it was the king’s flag.
- But Israel was a theocracy – God was their king. God had proven that to them in the Battle of Rephidim. He is their leader. He is the One in control. Moses is just a vessel for God. God is their King.



---

# We Need Other Believers

---

- Moses declared that the Lord was their standard. But this doesn't just mean they were going to carry a flag for God into battle from now on.
- This wasn't about creating a symbol of God.
- Israel was not supposed to create idols of God.
- Moses said God is their standard.
- God is the "flag" they bring into battle with them. They don't just bring a symbol of God with them into battle, they bring God Himself.



---

# We Need Other Believers

---

- This word is the same word used for the pole on which they put the bronze serpent in the wilderness.
- Jesus said was like Him, being lifted up on the Cross (John 3:14–16).
- A banner or flag is just a symbol of a king, as the bronze serpent was just a statue.
- We have the real thing.
- We have our king Himself.



---

# We Need Other Believers

---

- God will continue to fight with Amalek through His people Israel, and they will destroy Amalek and blot them from the face of the earth.
- This may sound harsh to our modern ears, but it is a symbol of what happens on a spiritual level when you make yourself an enemy of God.
- When we accept God and follow Christ, our names are written in the Book of Life, and we live forever (Revelation 20:15).
- If we reject Christ and make God our enemy, as Amalek did, our names are blotted out, and we go into eternal death (Matthew 25:46).



---

# We Need Other Believers

---

- With this focus on God's throne and the banner being God Himself, Moses is distinguishing between two kingdoms – the kingdom of God and the kingdoms of the world.
- Following God or rejecting God and living for ourselves, in our own ways, following our own passions and desires instead of God's Word, as Adam and Eve did, as Amalek did.
- Later Moses will tell Israel, one leads to life, and one leads to death, so please choose life.



---

# We Need Other Believers

---

- Don't be like Amalek; be like Moses.
  - Choose to take your pleas to God in prayer.
  - Choose to trust Him and follow Him.
  - Choose to bring Him into battle with you.
- You don't have to do it alone.
- This is the way to life – not only eternal life, but abundant life here on earth.



---

# Influence of Amalekites Today

---

CURRENT AFFAIRS

## Hamas Is Borrowing Tactics from the Amalekites

OCTOBER 13, 2023 — PETER LEITHART

## Amalek Style Terrorism and the Lesson of Ziklag

By Rabbi Dr. Avi Kuperberg | October 19, 2023



---

# Biblical Background

---

- Israel gets its first taste of war with the Amalekites (Exodus 17:8–16). While Moses sits on the hill with hands held up by Aaron and Hur, Joshua defeats the enemy in the valley below.
- God commands King Saul to carry out destruction against Amalek (1 Samuel 15:1–3). Saul wins the battle but spares the Amalekite king Agag and much of the plunder. Samuel kills Agag. David later fights other Amalekites.
- The villain of the book of Esther is Haman the “Agagite” (Est. 3:1; 8:3), a descendant of the king who’d fought King Saul.



---

# Battle Tactics of Amelekites

---

- Amalekites specialize in attacking the weak. Moses reminds Israel that Amalek “attacked among you all the stragglers at your rear when you were faint and weary” (Deuteronomy 25:18).
- Amalekite raiders attacked Ziklag when David and his mighty men were marching with the Philistines to fight Saul, when only women and children were present (1 Sam. 30:2–3).
- Haman conspires to enlist the power of Ahasuerus’s empire to exterminate the exiled Jews.



---

# Battle Tactics of Hamas

---

- Like other terrorist groups, Hamas used these tactics on October 7.
- For decades, terror groups have used women and children as shields.
- Indonesian Islamists deploy women as suicide bombers.
- Boko Haram uses children as “human bombs.”
- The Taliban have killed pregnant women and babies in maternity wards.
- Hamas doesn’t protect women and children but hides behind them so that the world will condemn Israel and accuse it of genocide.



# Resources

