



Kingdom Center - JUSTIN HERNANDEZ

Jehovah Nissi & Jehovah Tsaba (The Lord my banner & The Lord our Warrior)

I. Jehovah Nissi

A. To understand Jehovah Nissi we must first understand what a banner represents

1. Banners have been important throughout history as visible declarations of authority.
 - Banners show who you represent and to whom you are committed.
 - Banners are often hung or raised to show commitment, allegiance, and victory.

B. As we have noticed throughout the “Names of God” teachings, the names usually arise throughout scripture through certain situations and difficult scenarios that require divine intervention. So, God reveals Himself through a name that speaks directly into meeting the need of the current moment.

1. The names of God serve as a reminder that no matter where we are in life, His nature is the same and we can have confidence that He will see us through.

C. In Exodus, we come across the next name of God

1. In the context of this story, we find people of God at a time where they were greatly discouraged. We know that is how they are feeling, because the Bible gives us insight by telling us that they were constantly complaining and murmuring.
 - We can tell when someone’s faith in God is waning by the way he or she complains. Complaining from time to time is normal, but constant complaint is an indicator of weakening faith.
2. In Exodus, we see that God’s people complained when they camped at Rephidim and “there was no water for the people to drink.” Exodus 17:1
 - We must take notice that their complaint was more than just their thirst and want for water
 - We read in 17:7 “They tested the LORD, saying, ‘Is the LORD among us or not?’”
 - Sometimes life becomes so stale and listless that refreshment is more than a want, it is a need.
 - God knew their need, He saw their need, and He met their need
 - Exodus 17:6 “and you shall strike the rock, and water will come out of it.”



3. So life happens to the Israelites and just as they were coming out of one trial, the they were faced with another one in the very next verse.
- Exodus 17:8 “Then Amalek came and fought against Israel at Rephidim.”
 - Keep in mind that the Location of Rephidim is a rugged desert near Mount Horeb, where the water and food resources are very low.
 - So you have a bunch of malnourished, and worn out people getting attacked.
 - They are worn out, their hearts are unstable, they are questioning if God is even with them and for them, AND now they have to deal with a battle.
 - Amalek has shown up and he wants to fight.
 - Amalek is from the line of Esau, a branch of Abraham and Issac’s ancestral tree
 - So their own family wanted to fight.
 - Moses recognized this was a battle they would have to face head-on despite the condition of the people
 - Exodus 17:9-11
 - When Moses said he would go to the top of the hill with the staff of God in his hand, he was referring to a Shepherd’s crook. The staff was significant because it had been sanctified.
 - Same staff that God used before; same staff that turned into a snake, ushered in the plagues, and opened the Red Sea.
 - God brought victory to the Israelites in the battle against Amalek, as long as Moses continued to hold up the staff.
 - The battle wasn’t decided by those who were fighting, rather the KEY was Moses’s posture with the staff of God- could he keep it raised or would it be lowered?
 - Notice what the Israelites did! They did not just focus in the Mountain, saying “Im just going to trust God and He’ll figure it out.” And they didn’t just seek to win in the valley, by pure grit, determination, and skills, all the while neglecting to look to God.
 - Only when the valley and the mountain come together will we experience victory.
 - As christians who believe and follow God, we have a responsibility to do all that we can in the challenges and struggles we face. BUT, unless God supports and engages in the victory, our efforts alone will not be enough.



- On one hand trust that God is going to fix it, yet on the other hand we must do everything God commands of us to fix it.
 - If we spend all of our time reading our Bibles, praying, and sitting in the church, yet spend no time doing the practical tasks, we give God nothing to work with.
 - Moses didn't stand on the mountain and raise his rod while Joshua and the gang drank tea and had some nice laughs, Joshua and the Israelites had to do their part as well— the practical part.
4. We cannot transfer our responsibilities to God, and at the same time we cannot transfer God's responsibilities to ourselves.
- Joshua fought, and Moses raised the rod. If we don't make contact with Heaven for our battles on earth, we are wasting our energy.
 - 2 Corinthians 6:1
 - Some people will say they are waiting on God to do something when He is actually waiting for them to be obedient and walk by faith.
 - Of course sometimes God has instructed us to wait, I am not saying that doesn't happen. But, sometimes we use theological verbiage to validate our irresponsible inactivity.
 - Scripture shows balance
 - Psalm 37:25
 - 2 Thessalonians 3:10
 - We are never to excuse our irresponsibility in the name of God. Our personal responsibility alone is not sufficient to achieve all God wants to do in the midst of the conflict.
 - In the valley you fight the physical, but in the mountain you fight the spiritual, and only your connection to God can fight the spiritual and win.
5. Ephesians 6:12
- Many of the problems we face has less to do with people than they do with demonic influence. Many of the trials, conflicts, and issues that arise in our lives are demonic attempts to keep us from our destiny.
 - Yes there are people involved, but often they are not the root of the problem. Unless we deal with the root on the mountain in combination with our responsibilities in the valley, we will not win this war.
- II. Never settle for a halfway victory
- A. After the victory, God instructed Moses to write an account as a memorial. He wanted him to make a record of what had just happened.



1. In this record, God made it clear that He would block out of memory of Amalek from under Heaven entirely.
2. He didn't want the Israelites to be satisfied with a halfway victory
 - A halfway victory simply means there will be another battle to fight up ahead.
 - Far too many Christians are concerned with halfway victories.
 - We don't mind hanging out with a little bit of evil, we don't mind if we give it visitation rights. The problem is that those rights become legal possession, and we are faced with a full out war.
 - For example, an alcoholic isn't content to hangout with just a little alcohol. In order to kick the habit, they must stay away from alcohol completely.
 - This is what God wanted for the Israelites. He wanted to erase their memory from the face of the earth.
 - Unfortunately the Israelites did not listen and they did not hold up their end of the agreement
 - God had to later send the prophet Samuel to Saul, to rebuke him for not carrying out his commands to annihilate the Amalekite.
 - 1 Samuel 15:10-11
 - In irony, an Amalekite later aided in Saul's death
 - 2 Samuel 1:8-10
3. After Joshua's victory in the valley and Moses's victory on the Mountain, Moses built an altar and gave it the name we have learned about today: Jehovah Nissi. "The Lord is my banner."
 - Exodus 17:14-15
 - Circumstances in life can become confusing and we end up not knowing whether we are coming or going. We need an objective standard that isn't tied to our emotions, thoughts, or desires. That standard is Jesus Christ. HE is our banner.
4. In the book of Numbers chapter 21, we read a story that foreshadows the banner of Christ.
 - The people had rebelled against God, so God sent poisonous snakes that bit them and many Israelites died.
 - It did not matter where they went for help, it did nothing because what they were facing was a spiritual issue not a physical one.
 - Their disobedience led to a physical consequence so they began to cry out for mercy.



- In response to their cries, God instructed Moses to put a bronze snake on a stick and hold it up high. He told Moses to let the people know, that whoever looked at the stick (the banner lifted up) would live.
 - Everyone who looked for their own solution or cure died
 - This is because God only lifted up one banner. And the people who set their eyes on that banner alone would live.
- Jesus Christ is our Nissi he is our banner
 - John 3:14-15
- Even if you're doing everything you believe you're supposed to do on earth, unless you are pointed toward Jesus Christ and operate under His will, His Word, and His standard, you won't have the spiritual help you need to deal with the battles in the valley.
- Even though God may not always change your situation, He will change you in your situation. So that you may experience peace where there is none, joy when you thought you couldn't have any, power where you thought there wasn't any, and patience when you didn't think that you could be.

III. JEHOVAH TSABA

- A. In 1 Samuel we come across probably the most representative battle in history
- On one side stands a warrior, more creature than man, whose name terrified foes. Towering at 9ft 9in tall, this mammoth specimen was Goliath from Gath.
 - On the other side of the battle stands a boy without armor. Who if he stood up straight, reached the height enough to stare at Goliath's midsection.
1. Goliath was more than just big. He hailed from a group of people who traced their roots from beyond this planet.
 - Genesis 6:4
 - They were a mixed breed of fallen angles called the Nephilim, or giants, and though most were annihilated at the flood, remnants could be found afterward.
 - 2 Samuel 21:20
 - Deuteronomy 3:11
 - Numbers 13:32-33
 2. This battle takes place between the Israelites and the Philistines. They were competing for land, servants, and the well-being and survival of their people.
 - They lined up on each side
 - 1 Samuel 17:3



- The two sides are glaring at each other from a distance until Goliath, who we read is a champion, came forward and offered a challenge
 - 1 Samuel 17:8-9
 - Nothing is said about the Israelites fearing the Philistines or worrying about this battle until the giant showed up.
 - 1 Samuel 17:11
 - This left them at a clear disadvantage- the Israelites had no giants on their side.
 - The giant taunted them morning and evening
 - 1 Samuel 17:16
3. Now David shows up
- David's father had asked him to take roasted grain, bread, and cheese to his brothers at the front line.
 - This wasn't the first time David had been at the battle site
 - 1 Samuel 17:15
 - The Israelites had said .. 1 Samuel 17:25
 - David's reply revealed that his perspective on the giant wasn't like everyone else's.
 - Keep in mind that perspective is not what you see, but rather how you view what you are seeing.
 - Perspective is a key to knowing and applying the character of God's name in our life.
 - The Israelites saw the same giant that David saw, they just didn't view him in the same way.
 - The Israelites looked at his size, strength, and armor.
 - David saw Goliath and zeroed in on a critical reality, Goliath had not been circumcised.
 - 1 Samuel 17:26
 - David saw something much more important, no circumcision could only mean one thing - no supernatural covering.
 - The act of circumcision ratified/made official the covenant between God and His people.
 - All males in Israel were circumcised on the eighth day to signify that they belonged to the covenant, and they positioned themselves underneath its provision, power, and covering .



- To be uncircumcised meant that the power of God's name was not on your side, because there was no divine covering.
 - David's confidence came from having the revelation of what it meant to have God on his side. He says "I've got this because God's got it. This man has not been cut."
 - The Men saw Goliath and David saw God
 - In other words they saw the physical reality, but David saw the spiritual reality behind the physical problem.
4. Perspective is everything. Paul tells us in his letter to the church at Ephesus that our perspective on the ultimate reality ought to come from another location.
- Ephesians 2:6
 - The term "heavenly places" refers to the spiritual realm.
 - Through His death and resurrection, Jesus Christ has given us a seat in another location.
 - The enemy tries to make us forget our heavenly location
 - If we let him do that, we limit our perspective to what we can see physically and, therefore, allow fear to grip us.
 - David got his confidence from what he saw
- B. A kingdom life is not a "cookie-cutter" life
1. God has a unique way He wants to take you to your destination and it often doesn't look like the way your brother or sister in Christ does.
 - Resist the temptation to copy someone else.
 2. When David approached Goliath, he did it with what he knew. He did it with what he had
 - 1 Samuel 17:40
 - David faced the challenge with what he had, confident in his victory because of what he knew: this giant wasn't covered by the covenant
 - Goliath responded to David approaching him with his own disdain
 - 1 Samuel 17:42-43
 - Goliath took one look at David and thought it was a joke. He didn't even think it was worth his time
 - In response he started cursing David by the Philistine gods.
 - David did not get all shaken up, rather his reply was EPIC
 - 1 Samuel 17:45-47



- David didn't approach Goliath with the latest technology or newest weapon, he didn't even mention that he would use a slingshot
 - Instead, David said he came "in the name of the LORD of hosts."
 - God's name was enough for David to win this war because David knew that God's name was more than just a name, but rather a gateway to his power.
- 3. When David approached Goliath in the full power of God's name, he handed off the ball. HE said "I come to you in the name of Jehovah Tsaba."
 - The name Tsaba essentially means army, or Host.
 - David knew that because God was the Lord over the army and the Creator over all, the victory was His.
- David recognized supremacy in the situation rather than trying to handle it himself. He gave the battle over to God.
 - This doesn't mean David sat back and did nothing, rather he did all he could, but he did it with one truth in mind - God would give Goliath into his hands.
- Do not become too busy looking at the problem and circumstance in your life. Whether external or internal, we must ask ourselves: what does God say about this?
- Once David saw the spiritual core of the physical crisis, he can rest on God's willingness to fight, and His ability to win.
 - Prayer may be the place we receive instruction and strength but it isn't the only thing God asks us to do
- David's rest and confidence led him to a brook, where he grabbed five stones
 - 1 Samuel 17:49-50
 - David prevailed with a slingshot and a stone
- Often times, God does incredible things when we have nothing. That way, He receives all the glory and we don't begin to think it was us.
- God gives us victories, and those victories are for us to remember and remind ourselves of who He is.
- 4. David had a heavenly mindset in a worldly conflict, enabling his faith in the situation
 - Immediately after David's victory, we read the Philistines become the ones playing defense.
 - 1 Samuel 17:51-53
 - When God secures your victory in His name, have confidence that His name also has the power to give back what you lost.



- Joel 2:25
- God's name covers all past, present, and future. Trust Jehovah Tsaba. He's got you covered.