

MESSAGE THREE: JEHOVAH NISSI AND JEHOVAH TSABA

SUGGESTED PASSAGE: Exodus 17:8-16 (NASB)

8 Then Amalek came and fought against Israel at Rephidim. 9 So Moses said to Joshua, "Choose men for us and go out, fight against Amalek. Tomorrow I will station myself on the top of the hill with the staff of God in my hand." 10 Joshua did as Moses told him, and fought against Amalek; and Moses, Aaron, and Hur went up to the top of the hill. 11 So it came about when Moses held his hand up, that Israel prevailed, and when he let his hand down, Amalek prevailed. 12 But Moses' hands were heavy. Then 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 one on the other. Thus his hands were steady until the sun set. 13 So Joshua overwhelmed Amalek and his people with the edge of the sword.

14 Then the LORD said to Moses, "Write this in a book as a memorial and recite it to Joshua, that I will utterly blot out the memory of Amalek from under heaven." 15 Moses built an altar and named it The LORD is My Banner; 16 and he said, "The LORD has sworn; the LORD will have war against Amalek from generation to generation."

1 Samuel 17:41-47 (NASB) 41 Then the Philistine came on and approached David, with the shield-bearer in front of him. 42 When the Philistine looked and saw David, he disdained him; for he was but a youth, and ruddy, with a handsome appearance. 43 The Philistine said to David, "Am I a dog, that you come to me with sticks?" And the Philistine cursed David by his gods. 44 The Philistine also said to David, "Come to me, and I will give your flesh to the birds of the sky and the beasts of the field." 45 Then David said to the Philistine, "You come to me with a sword, a spear, and a javelin, but I come to you in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have taunted. 46 This day the LORD will deliver you up into my hands, and I will strike you down and remove your head from you. And I will give the dead bodies of the army of the Philistines this day to the birds of the sky and the wild beasts of the earth, that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel, 47 and that all this assembly may know that the LORD does not deliver by sword or by spear; for the battle is the LORD's and He will give you into our hands."

MESSAGE GOAL:

The goal of this message on Jehovah Nissi and Jehovah Tsaba is to learn how to gain victory over your greatest fears through the LORD our Banner, the LORD of Hosts.

INTRODUCTION:

In the Olympics you see American flags being waved to demonstrate that Americans are pulling for their fellow athletes. At a Cowboys game, banners are waved to show we are rooting for a victory by our favorite football team. When I wave a banner, I'm stating that this is the team I'm committed to, this is who I am, this is where my allegiance lies, and this is the one I'm looking to for victory.

Now as you know, it doesn't always turn out your way. Your banner may not wind up signifying the winner because of the limitations of the players operating under that banner. Your team has a competitor with other people waving banners for them. You will see Rangers banners at Texas Stadium because their fans are pulling for a Rangers victory, and they are operating under that banner. The problem is, San Francisco fans are waving banners too, and their commitment lies elsewhere. Thus, banners signify where your allegiance lies, under what authority you're operating. And the goal of a banner is always the same—victory.

Did you know you're waving the banner of victory? One of God's names is Jehovah Nissi, which means the LORD is My Banner. This name comes from Exodus 17, where God defeated the Amalekites. In response, Moses built an altar and named it The LORD is My Banner. The Lord secured a victory for His people against the Amalekites. But He also won a victory for His people against a giant-sized problem—Goliath and the Philistine army.

Goliath was a Philistine warrior who was over nine feet tall. There was much to fear about him. He was an evil force the Israelites feared.

Perhaps you are facing a giant-sized problem too. Maybe you have a bully at work. Perhaps you have a fear that seems

our society's problem
is not solely our *government's* problem.
it is **the church's** problem.
it is *our* problem.





impossible to defeat. For those of us in this camp, we have another name of God to encourage us—the Lord of Hosts.

David knew God was the Lord of Hosts. As Lord of Hosts and Creator of everything, God always rises to victory. The Lord of Hosts always wins.

SERMON POINTS:

1. FACE YOUR FEARS WITH GOD'S HELP.

- Moses told Joshua they had to fight against the Amalekites (Exodus 17:9).
 - Some obstacles in life you cannot hide from, just as Moses and Joshua could not hide from the fact they had to fight against the Amalekites.
- Moses stationed himself on the top of the hill with the staff of God in his hands while Joshua was to fight down below in the valley.
 - Moses was not to fight down below in the valley. Instead, He was to wage war in the spiritual realm by lifting up the staff of God.

2. FIGHT COURAGEOUSLY WITH DEPENDENCE ON GOD'S HELP.

- Joshua was to fight in the valley with his chosen men (Exodus 17:9).
 - Sometimes you need to assume responsibility and be willing to fight, just like Joshua and his men.
- Moses was to fight on top of the hill with the staff of God (Exodus 17:9).
 - When fighting, you must rely on God's help. You cannot fight with only human effort. You must turn to God for power.
- The key to fighting is bringing both the mountain and valley together.
 - One extreme is to abdicate personal responsibility and not fight. "I'm trusting that God will fix it" may be your excuse for not taking action.
 - Another extreme is to fight with only human capability. This person relies only on their skill, training, and strength without relying on God's help.

3. FACE YOUR FEARS IN BIBLICAL COMMUNITY.

- When Moses' hands were heavy, he got the help of Aaron and Hur.

- Aaron and Hur put a stone under Moses and supported his hands, one on one side and one on the other (Exodus 17:12).
- Their only job was to help Moses maintain contact with God by supporting him.
 - Because spiritual matters can often weigh us down, we need to have brothers and sisters in Christ support us and help us maintain contact with God by reading His Word and by praying.

4. CHANGE YOUR PERSPECTIVE BY APPLYING THE CHARACTER OF GOD'S NAMES.

- Just like Moses, David had a perspective that included the spiritual realm (1 Samuel 17:45).
 - David countered Goliath's mockery by announcing that he had the LORD of Hosts (Jehovah Tsaba) on his side, whereas Goliath did not.
- David saw the spiritual reality behind the social problem.
 - David understood that Goliath was not circumcised and did not have God's covering.
 - David told Goliath that he had offended the LORD of Hosts and that the LORD would kill him.
- David had confidence because he knew the power of God's name.
 - Whereas the Israelites' perspective focused on Goliath's physical stature, David's perspective focused on God's power.

5. GIVE YOUR BATTLES TO GOD.

- David understood God was supreme over the situation.
 - David informed Goliath that the LORD would deliver him into his hands (1 Samuel 17:46).
- David didn't abdicate his personal responsibility.
 - David chose to pick up stones for his sling and to engage Goliath in battle.
- David trusted God for victory.
 - David claimed, "The battle is the LORD'S and He will give you into our hands" (1 Samuel 17:47).

SERMON ILLUSTRATIONS:

ADDRESSING EVERY SIN IN YOUR LIFE: If you have cancer, you really want to get rid of it all. You don't want even a little bit of cancer hanging around. Why? Because it will come back with a vengeance!



Some of us are still hanging out with some of the evil in our lives; it keeps coming back! We don't have it as full-time evil; we have it as part-time evil. Or maybe we don't have it as part-time evil; we just give it visitation rights. But then visitation rights become squatters' rights, and now it makes itself home again. And you wonder why it's worse! God said He wanted to "utterly blot out the memory of Amalek from under heaven" (Exodus 17:14). Amalek represents the evil that is preventing you from reaching God's purpose for your life. God says you must address it all if you are to have spiritual victory.

JESUS AS YOUR STANDARD: The movie Inception is about a dream world. A man could enter dreams—and then dreams within dreams. The problem was that reality got all confused. So he created a totem—a spinning top—to guide him. If he spun the top and the top kept spinning without falling over, he knew he was in the dream world. But if he spun the top and it eventually fell over, that meant he was in the real world. That's how he measured reality. For Christians, Jesus is our standard. Jesus is how we are to measure reality. We are to operate by His will, His Word, and His standard to deal with the battles we are facing.

VICTORY IN JESUS: In the classic movie The Wizard of Oz, the lead character, Dorothy, winds up in another world. She starts out in Kansas, but a whirlwind takes her to a different place, where she gets lost. A witch tells her to follow the yellow brick road because at its end she would find a city called Oz. In Oz she would meet a wizard who could show her which way to go. At the end of the movie, the wizard tells Dorothy she could have gone back to Kansas anytime she wanted. Her confusion was in her head. All she needed to do was click her heels three times, and she would be back in Kansas. For Christians, victory is right there in front of us. All we need to do is turn to Jesus and seek His help to give us victory over the Amalekites in our lives.

CHANGING OUR PERSPECTIVE: The sun is staggering in size. But if you hold a quarter up to your eye and look directly at the sun, that small quarter can actually block out the enormity of the sun. Sometimes we allow the size of our problems to eclipse the size of God. That's how we lose our battles. We allow something small to eclipse a larger power.

BACKGROUND BIBLICAL HISTORY AND CULTURE:

MOSES' STAFF: Moses' staff was a shepherd's hook that had been sanctified. God had sanctified it sometime earlier. It was

the same shepherd's hook that brought about the plagues and that opened up the Red Sea. Through Moses' sanctified staff, God used the natural to perform the supernatural.

AMALEKITES: Amalek represents the forces of evil because he stood in opposition to God's purposes and God's people. Anything in your life that blocks you from doing what God wants done is your Amalek. Amaleks try to thwart God's purposes, programs, and progress. Amaleks show up many times in the Old Testament, always trying to block God's people from getting to where God wants them to go.

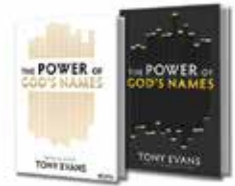
REPHIDIM: Rephidim is a rugged desert place near Mount Horeb, where the water source had been very low. God's people were weary from thirst. Just when things appeared to improve because the Israelites finally got some water, things went south again because the Amalekites wanted to fight them. To the Israelites, it looked as though the Lord was not on their side.

JEHOVAH NISSI: Moses built an altar and named it Jehovah Nissi, that is, The LORD Is My Banner. What made the Lord Moses' banner? The Lord had sworn He would have war against Amalek from generation to generation. It's as if God was saying, "Whenever Amalek shows up, I will show up. Amalek is on My radar, and whenever Amalek messes with you, Amalek will mess with Me, because I am your banner."

Holding a banner in this case was the rod of God, but for us it can be flags and other items. The word "banner" means to glisten. Just as our banners have glistening sequins, the rod of God glistened. Holding up the rod of God meant Moses was going to operate underneath the banner. The banner was going to be over Moses; it was going to be his standard. So that raises a question, doesn't it? What's our banner today? What exactly are we supposed to hold up as we enter our battles?

GOLIATH: Goliath was over nine feet tall and came from a rare species, the Nephilim, one of a dying breed of giants whose reputation was at times enough to keep an enemy at bay. Goliath's looming presence dominated the landscape. His footsteps beat the ground. Draped over his supersized frame was "scale armor which weighed five thousand shekels of bronze" (1 Samuel 17:5). The armor alone probably weighed more than David himself. One hundred and seventy-five pounds of armor





made Goliath seem impenetrable. And that was only for his upper body. The passage goes on to tell us that “he also had bronze greaves on his legs and a bronze javelin slung between his shoulders. The shaft of his spear was like a weaver’s beam, and the hand of his spear weighed six hundred shekels of iron; his shield-carrier also walked before him” (1 Samuel 17:6-7).

JEHOVAH TSABA. The name Tsaba essentially means army, host, warfare. David knew God was the Lord of the army, and as the Lord of the army—and the Creator over all—the victory was ultimately His. You can fight the Lord in battle; you just can’t win.

SERMON LINES:

This sermon will help you understand the biblical significance of relying on Jehovah Nissi and Jehovah Tsaba in gaining victory over your fears and your giant-sized problems in life.

This sermon will outline five ways Jehovah Nissi and Jehovah Tsaba will help you address giant-sized problems in your life.

QUOTES ATTRIBUTED TO DR. TONY EVANS:

“The bad news today is, life has problems. The good news today is, God has a name for them. That whatever you’re facing, there is a name for God that is applicable to the crisis that you are in.”

“You must bring the mountain and the valley together to experience the victory.”

“When you maintain contact with the spiritual, you prevail!”
“If all you see is what you see, then you do not see all there is to be seen.”

“The reason you need the spiritual to make contact with heaven is because you not only want to address the situation but the evil that’s driving it.”

“Most of us can handle regular problems or the normal challenges in life. We don’t like them, but when they loom at a distance, we are somehow able to keep going in spite of them. Yet when that one giant shows up in your life, that changes everything.”

“A giant has a way of intimidating you at such a deep level that you end up doing nothing.”

“Keep in mind, perspective is never just what you see. Perspective is how you view what you see. Perspective is a key you gain in knowing and applying the character of God’s names in order to live the abundant life.”

“There are certain benefits and privileges that come with the names of God. Use them.”

“Accept it. Satan has your game film. He has studied you. He knows your weaknesses. He knows just what to do to get you to go where you never would even think of going and do what you never would even dream of doing, or to paralyze you in fear, or even to get you sidetracked on seemingly good things, but in so doing, keep you from what is best—the destiny and victory for which you have been created.”

“Some of the most incredible things God will ever do in your life will occur when you think that you have nothing.”

“When God secures your victory for you in His name, have confidence that He not only has gained you the victory but that His name has the power to give you back ‘what the locusts have stolen’ (Joel 2:25).”

“God’s name covers all: past, present, and future. But it especially covers those giants who rear their ugly heads from time to time. Trust Him. He’s bigger than Goliath.”