

## Yahweh Declares Perpetual War Against Amalek

Exodus 17:8 – 16

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### Amalek becomes Israel's first enemy

- **Exodus 17:8**  
Then Amalek came and fought against Israel at Rephidim.
- **Numbers 24:20**  
And he looked at Amalek and took up his discourse and said, "Amalek was the first of the nations, But his end shall be destruction."

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### Amalek's wickedness

- **Deuteronomy 25:17, 18**  
Remember what Amalek did to you along the way when you came out from Egypt, how he met you along the way and attacked among you all the stragglers at your rear when you were faint and weary; and he did not fear God.

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Amalek's wickedness

- **Deuteronomy 25:19**  
Therefore it shall come about when the LORD your God has given you rest from all your surrounding enemies, in the land which the LORD your God gives you as an inheritance to possess, you shall blot out the memory of Amalek from under heaven; you must not forget.

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"Joshua" means "Yahweh is deliverance."

- **Exodus 17:9**  
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."

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The "staff of God"

- **Exodus 4:2-17**  
a sign that God appeared to Moses
- **Exodus chapters 7 – 10**  
signs of Yahweh's power (plagues)
- **Exodus 14:16**  
The splitting of the sea (deliverance from Egypt)
- **Exodus 17:5, 6**  
water from the rock (Yahweh's provision)

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The uplifted staff is the key to victory because the battle is the Lord's

■ **Exodus 17:10, 11**

Joshua did as Moses told him, and fought against Amalek; and Moses, Aaron, and Hur went up to the top of the hill. So it came about when Moses held his hand up, that Israel prevailed, and when he let his hand down, Amalek prevailed.

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Moses' role as mediator is again affirmed

■ **Exodus 17:12, 13**

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. So Joshua overwhelmed Amalek and his people with the edge of the sword.

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Yahweh's promissory curse

■ **Exodus 17:14**

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."

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“Banner” is an allusion to the lifted up staff: Yahweh’s power and provision

■ **Exodus 17:15**

Moses built an altar and named it The LORD is My Banner;

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Translation issue

■ **Exodus 17:16**

and he said, “The LORD has sworn; the LORD will have war against Amalek from generation to generation.”

(NLT)

He said, “They have raised their fist against the Lord’s throne, so now the Lord will be at war with Amalek generation after generation.”

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Important themes

■ Yahweh is the deliverer of His people

■ Yahweh’s presence and power are proven to Israel and her enemies

■ Moses is God’s authoritative mediator

■ Those who make Israel their enemy also make God their enemy

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
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 Applications and Implications

- 1) God will curse those who curse Israel
- 2) Israel's enemies are God's enemies
- 3) God will deliver His people from their enemies

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
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 1) God will curse those who curse Israel

■ **Genesis 12:2, 3**

And I will make you a great nation, And I will bless you, And make your name great; And so you shall be a blessing; And I will bless those who bless you, And the one who curses you I will curse. And in you all the families of the earth will be blessed.

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
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 1) God will curse those who curse Israel

■ **Numbers 24:2, 9**

And Balaam lifted up his eyes and saw Israel camping tribe by tribe; and the Spirit of God came upon him. . . "He couches, he lies down as a lion, And as a lion, who dares rouse him? Blessed is everyone who blesses you, And cursed is everyone who curses you."

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1) God will curse those who curse Israel

Balaam did not practice what he preached

■ **Numbers 31:16**

“Behold, these caused the sons of Israel, through the counsel of Balaam, to trespass against the LORD in the matter of Peor, so the plague was among the congregation of the LORD.”

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1) God will curse those who curse Israel

Balaam did not practice what he preached

■ **Revelation 2:14**

But I have a few things against you, because you have there some who hold the teaching of Balaam, who kept teaching Balak to put a stumbling block before the sons of Israel, to eat things sacrificed to idols and to commit acts of immorality.

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2) Israel's enemies are God's enemies

■ **1Samuel 15:2-3**

“Thus says the LORD of hosts, ‘I will punish Amalek for what he did to Israel, how he set himself against him on the way while he was coming up from Egypt. Now go and strike Amalek and utterly destroy all that he has, and do not spare him; but put to death both man and woman, child and infant, ox and sheep, camel and donkey.’”

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2) Israel's enemies are God's enemies  
 An Amalekite killed Saul

■ **2Samuel 1:8-10a**

"He said to me, 'Who are you?' And I answered him, 'I am an Amalekite.' Then he said to me, 'Please stand beside me and kill me, for agony has seized me because my life still lingers in me.' So I stood beside him and killed him,"

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2) Israel's enemies are God's enemies

■ **Zechariah 14:2, 3**

For I will gather all the nations against Jerusalem to battle, and the city will be captured, the houses plundered, the women ravished and half of the city exiled, but the rest of the people will not be cut off from the city. Then the LORD will go forth and fight against those nations, as when He fights on a day of battle.

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2) Israel's enemies are God's enemies

■ **Joel 3:2**

I will gather all the nations And bring them down to the valley of Jehoshaphat. Then I will enter into judgment with them there On behalf of My people and My inheritance, Israel, Whom they have scattered among the nations; And they have divided up My land.

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2) Israel's enemies are God's enemies

■ **Romans 11:25, 26**

For I do not want you, brethren, to be uninformed of this mystery so that you will not be wise in your own estimation that a partial hardening has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in; and so all Israel will be saved; just as it is written, "The Deliverer will come from Zion, He will remove ungodliness from Jacob."

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2) Israel's enemies are God's enemies

■ **Romans 11:27 - 29**

"This is My covenant with them, When I take away their sins." From the standpoint of the gospel they are enemies for your sake, but from the standpoint of God's choice they are beloved for the sake of the fathers; for the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable.

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3) God will deliver His people from their enemies

■ **1Corinthians 15:25, 26**

For He must reign until He has put all His enemies under His feet. The last enemy that will be abolished is death.

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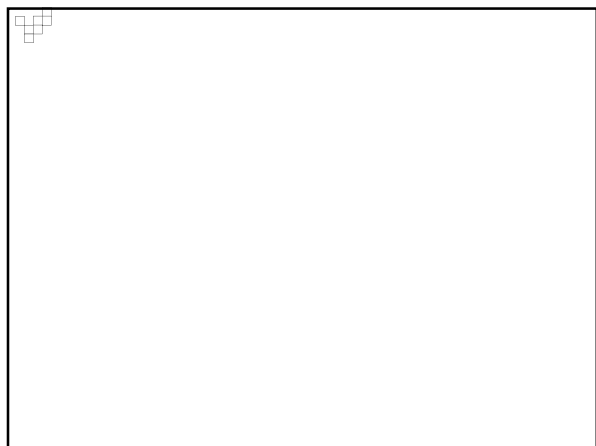
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