



- Scripture Reading Psalm 82
- Proverbs 21:31 (ESV) 31 The horse is made ready for the day of battle, but the victory belongs to the LORD.
- Deuteronomy 8:4 (ESV) 4 Your clothing did not wear out on you and your foot did not swell these forty years.
 - Do we sometimes idealize the struggle of the Israelites through the wilderness?
 - We know that the Israelites mumbled and complained along the way.
 - But God was taking care of them: water and bread and meat; leading them

The Staff of God



And Moses
took the
staff of God
in his hand
(Exodus 4:20)

- The Staff of God
 - (NET Bible Notes - Full Notes)
 - In Exodus so far the staff of God is the token of the power of God;
 - when Moses used it, God demonstrated his power.

The Staff of God



And Moses
took the
staff of God
in his hand
(Exodus 4:20)

Turned into a serpent (Exodus 4:3)

With which you shall do the signs (Exodus 4:17)

Turned into a serpent (Exodus 7:10)

Swallowed other serpents (Exodus 7:12)

Struck Nile, water turned into blood (Exodus 7:20)

Frogs (Exodus 8:5)

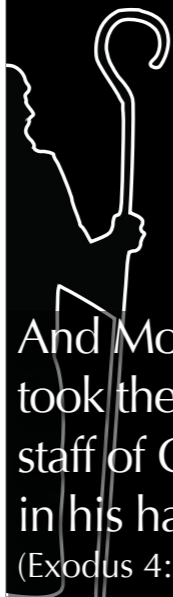
Thunder, hail, fire (Exodus 9:23)

Locusts (Exodus 10:13)

Divided Red Sea (Exodus 14:16, 21)

Struck rock, water came out (Exodus 17:6)

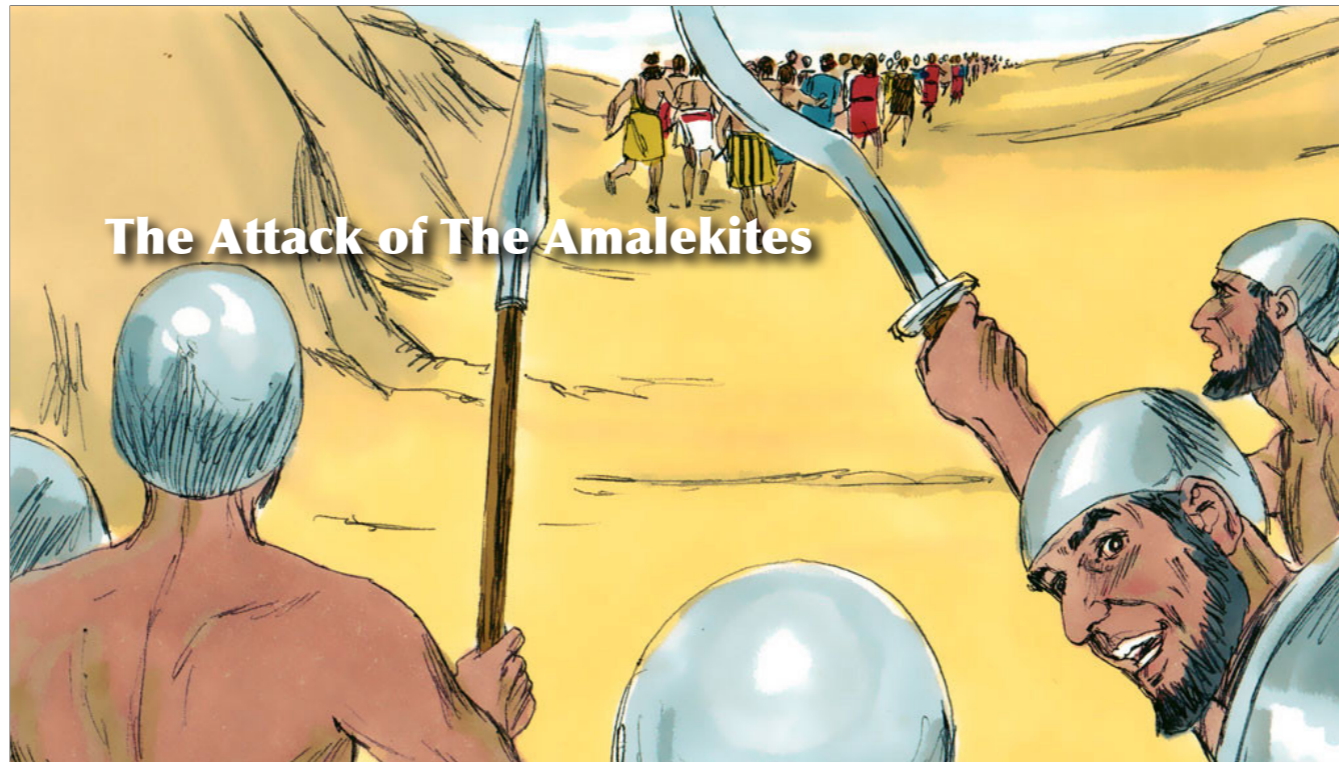
- Turned into a serpent (Ex. 4:3)
- With which you shall do the signs (Ex. 4:17)
- Turned into a serpent (Ex. 7:10)
- Swallowed other serpents (Ex. 7:12)
- Struck Nile, water turned to blood (Ex. 7:20)
- Frogs (Ex. 8:5)
- Thunder, hail, fire (Ex. 9.23)
- Locusts (Ex. 10:13)
- Divided Red Sea (Ex. 14:16, 21)
- Struck rock, water came out (Ex. 17:6)

 <p>And Moses took the staff of God in his hand (Exodus 4:20)</p>	<p>The Staff of God</p>	<p>Turned into a serpent (Exodus 4:3)</p> <p>With which you shall do the signs (Exodus 4:17)</p> <p>Turned into a serpent (Exodus 7:10)</p> <p>Swallowed other serpents (Exodus 7:12)</p> <p>Struck Nile, water turned into blood (Exodus 7:20)</p> <p>Frogs (Exodus 8:5)</p> <p>Thunder, hail, fire (Exodus 9:23)</p> <p>Locusts (Exodus 10:13)</p> <p>Divided Red Sea (Exodus 14:16, 21)</p> <p>Struck rock, water came out (Exodus 17:6)</p>
--	-----------------------------	---

- The Staff of God

- (NET Bible Notes - Full Notes)

- To use the staff of God was to say that God did it; to fight without the staff was to face defeat.
 - Using the staff of God was a way of submitting to and depending on the power of God in all areas of life.



The Attack of The Amalekites

- 8 Then Amalek came and fought with Israel at Rephidim.
- Deuteronomy 25:17-19 (ESV) 17 “Remember what Amalek did to you on the way as you came out of Egypt, 18 how he attacked you on the way when you were faint and weary, and cut off your tail, those who were lagging behind you, and he did not fear God. 19 Therefore when the LORD your God has given you rest from all your enemies around you, in the land that the LORD your God is giving you for an inheritance to possess, you shall blot out the memory of Amalek from under heaven; you shall not forget.



- 9 So Moses said to Joshua,
 - “Choose for us men, and go out and fight with Amalek.
 - Tomorrow I will stand on the top of the hill with the staff of God in my hand.”
- 10 So Joshua did as Moses told him, and fought with Amalek,
- while Moses, Aaron, and Hur went up to the top of the hill.
 - 11 Whenever Moses held up his hand, Israel prevailed, and whenever he lowered his hand, Amalek prevailed.



- 12 But Moses' hands grew weary,
 - so they took a stone and put it under him, and he sat on it,
 - while Aaron and Hur held up his hands, one on one side, and the other on the other side.
 - So his hands were steady until the going down of the sun.
- 13 And Joshua overwhelmed Amalek and his people with the sword.



- 14 Then the LORD said to Moses,
- “Write this as a memorial in a book and recite it in the ears of Joshua, that I will utterly blot out the memory of Amalek from under heaven.”
- 15 And Moses built an altar and called the name of it, The LORD Is My Banner,



- Banner
 - (TWOT) In the OT, דָגל generally means a rallying point or standard which drew people together for some common action or for the communication of important information.
 - (TWOT) People would rally together around a דָגל for various purposes, one of the most important being the gathering of troops for war.



- 16 saying, “A hand upon the throne of the LORD!
- The LORD will have war with Amalek from generation to generation.”



- Our victory comes only through the power of God
 - The people of Israel had often complained when presented with difficulties.
 - Armies of Egypt at the Red Sea
 - No water (2X)
 - No food
 - Can God provide for us in the wilderness?



- Since leaving Egypt, this is their first military engagement
 - A sneak attack on the weak
 - They did not fear God
 - Reminds us that the journey through the wilderness was difficult, and some suffered more than others.
 - Weary, faint, lagging



- Ephesians 6:10-13 (ESV) 10 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. 11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil.
- Jehovah is our Banner
 - The staff of God represented the power of God.
 - Lift up God and battles go well.
 - Let it slip and battles go poorly.
 - Jehovah must be our rallying point in all our battles.



- Hope in God
 - Don't depend only on your own strength.
 - Don't think it's just about you.
 - You are not alone.
 - Put on the WHOLE armor:
 - Truth, righteousness, readiness given by the gospel of peace, faith, salvation, Word of God, pray
 - all are necessary or there is a chink in our armor: enemy will find chink!
 - Pray, pray, pray



- When the battle is going the wrong way
 - Why does the battle go the wrong way? Because we forget to keep rallying around God.
 - lift up the Lord in your heart again (tired, weary)
 - strengthen yourself in the Lord (Like David)
 - we don't have the staff of God, but we can rally around him
 - prayer, meditating on God's words



- Proverbs 21:31 (ESV) 31 The horse is made ready for the day of battle, but the victory belongs to the LORD.



- Sometimes we are attacked by the wicked.
 - Ephesians 6:10-13 (ESV) 10 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. 11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the **schemes of the devil**. 12 For **we do not wrestle against flesh and blood**, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over **this present darkness**, against the **spiritual forces of evil** in the heavenly places. 13 Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm.



- 1 Peter 5:8 (ESV) 8 Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary **the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour**. The wicked attack the weak. (Lion seeks easy target to bring down, not the strongest)



- The wicked attack the weak. (Lion seeks easy target to bring down, not the strongest)
 - Too often we dismiss the weak with a shake of our heads, disappointment in our eyes and fail to act in any significant ways to help them at all.



- 2 Corinthians 2:5-11 (ESV)

- 5 Now if anyone has caused pain, he has caused it not to me, but in some measure—not to put it too severely—to all of you.
- 6 For such a one, this punishment by the majority is enough,
- 7 **so you should rather turn to forgive and comfort him, or he may be overwhelmed by excessive sorrow.**
- 8 So I beg you to **reaffirm your love for him.**
- 9 For this is why I wrote, that I might test you and know whether you are obedient in everything.
- 10 Anyone whom you forgive, I also forgive. Indeed, what I have forgiven, if I have forgiven anything, has been for your sake in the presence of Christ,
- 11 so that **we would not be outwitted by Satan; for we are not ignorant of his designs.**



- 1 Thessalonians 5:14 (ESV) 14 And we urge you, brothers, admonish the **idle**, encourage the **fainthearted**, help the **weak**, be patient with them all.
 - idle, fainthearted, weak
 - Are any among us idle? fainthearted? weak?
 - of course.
 - We must not be dismissive toward them
 - admonish, encourage, help
 - BE PATIENT!



- Hebrews 12:12-13 (ESV) 12 Therefore **lift** your drooping hands and **strengthen** your weak knees, 13 and **make straight paths** for your feet, so that what is lame may not be put out of joint but rather be **healed**.
- Sometimes we forget that the weak need our help, our protection, need us to fight for them



- 1 Peter 5:8-11 (ESV) 8 Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary **the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.**
- 9 Resist him,
 - firm in your faith,
 - knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world.
- 10 And after you have suffered a little while,
- the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ,
 - will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you.
 - 11 To him be the dominion forever and ever. Amen.



- What didn't happen this time
 - There's no complaining, murmuring, or grumbling
 - Why?
 - They struggled with lack of water and food; blamed God and Moses
 - Had they finally learned to trust Jehovah? (nope.)



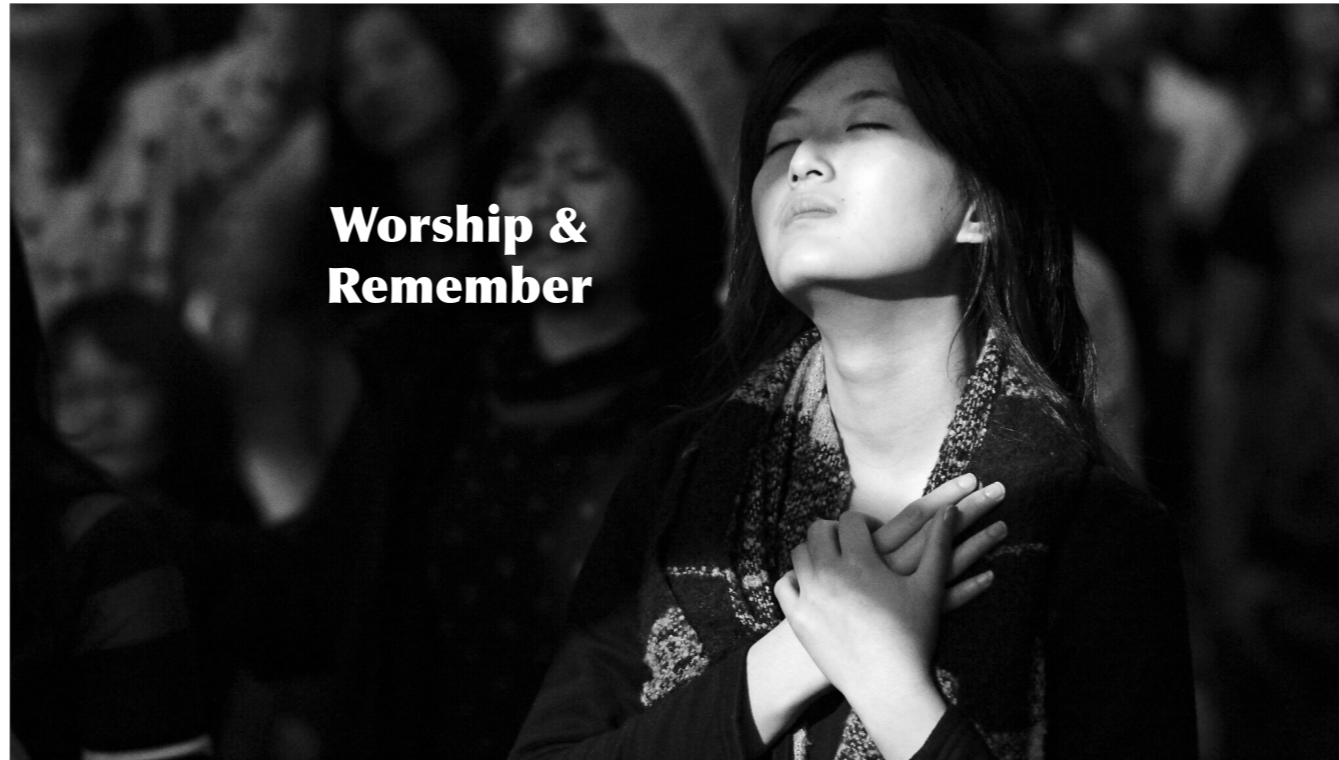
- Moses' plan was simple
 - some men needed to go fight.
 - some men needed to go before God / seek God's help / exalt God
- We shouldn't think that we can just sit back and wait for God to hand us a victory.
 - The Israelites had seen God's power for them at the Red Sea ... so God can.
 - But that's the exception
 - In this case, and most cases, it was necessary to fight



- When attacked, we all have roles in the battle
 - Ephesians 6:13-14 (ESV) 13 Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm. 14 Stand therefore
 - Be ready to fight!
 - Our battles are spiritual.
 - We need to be very clear about who we are fighting: those who do not fear God
 - different responses for different attackers?
 - not everything is an attack... these refused to honor God
 - They are battles for Christ's kingdom (not the world) and souls of the lost, struggling



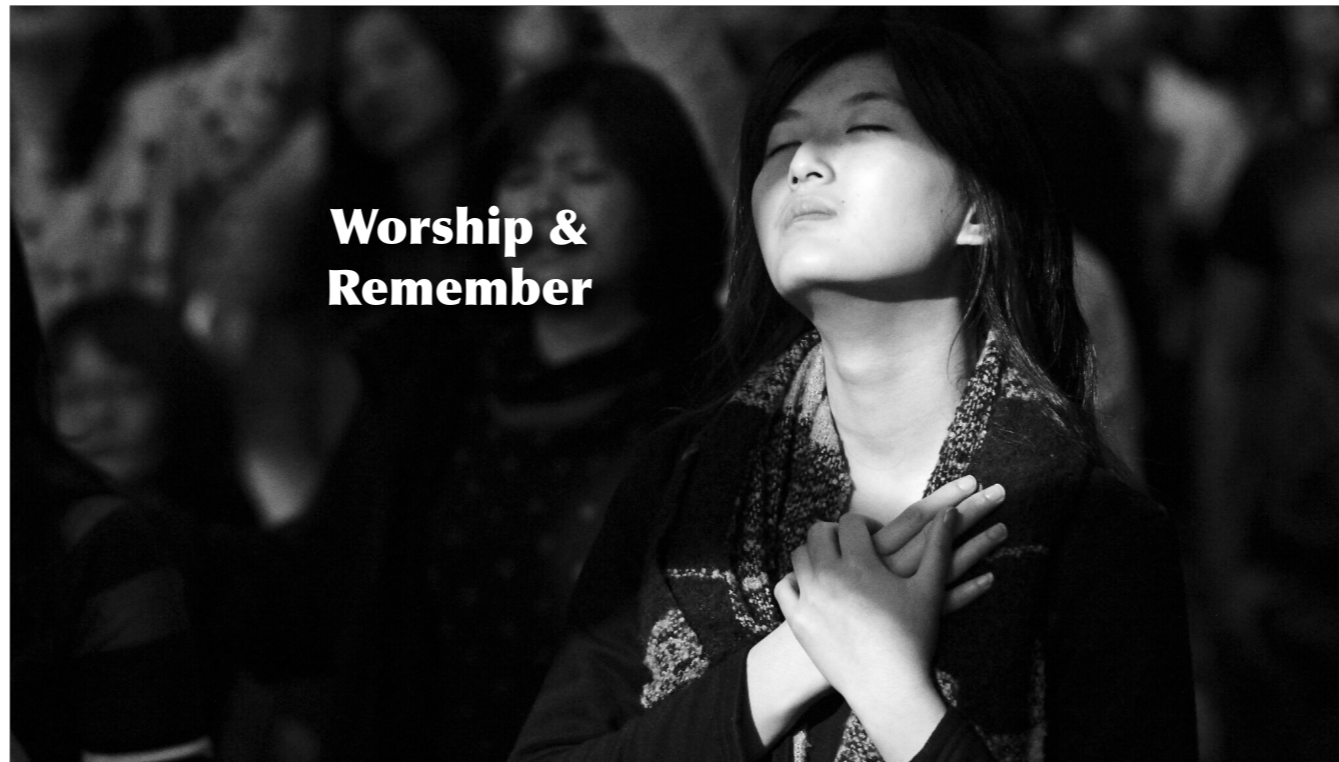
- Be ready to get God's help!
 - Rally around the banner of Jesus
 - Prayer and Worship, exaltation of the power of God
 - Hope in Him
- Let others help you when you are weak, tired, fainting
 - tired needed defending
 - armies needed God
 - Moses needed arms held up
 - Leaders grow tired, they need positive, uplifting support.



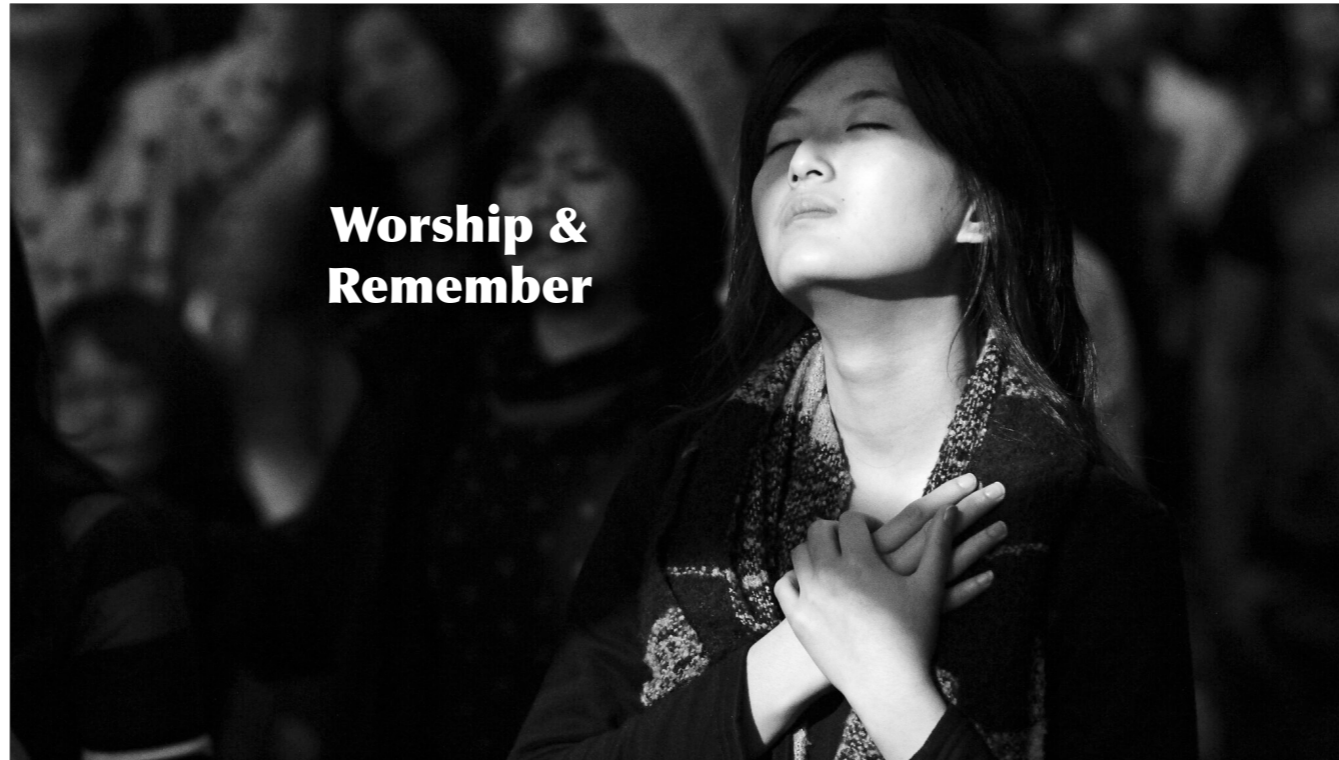
- God commanded Moses to write down what happened and to recite it to Joshua:
 - Amalek utterly blotted out
 - war with Amalek from generation to generation
 - This was a great battle: worthy of being remembered
 - Not just for what happened
 - But also for the clear indication that Jehovah would always defeat Amalek



- Jehovah is my banner
 - Our greatest battle is with sin, death, fear, guilt
 - In Jesus we have our victory over sin
 - 1 Corinthians 15:56-57 (ESV) 56 The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. 57 But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.
 - Rally around the banner!



- Communion: remember and unite
 - 1 Corinthians 11:23-26 (ESV) 23 For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, 24 and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, "This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." 25 In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." 26 For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.



- 1 Corinthians 10:17: Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread.

**We implore you on
behalf of Christ,
be reconciled to God.**

2 Corinthians 5:20

Photo Credits:

All photos from istockphoto.com, crestock.com, bigstock.com, dreamtime.com, thinkstock.com, and shutterstock.com are copyright protected. They are used by permission. Please do not reuse without permission.)

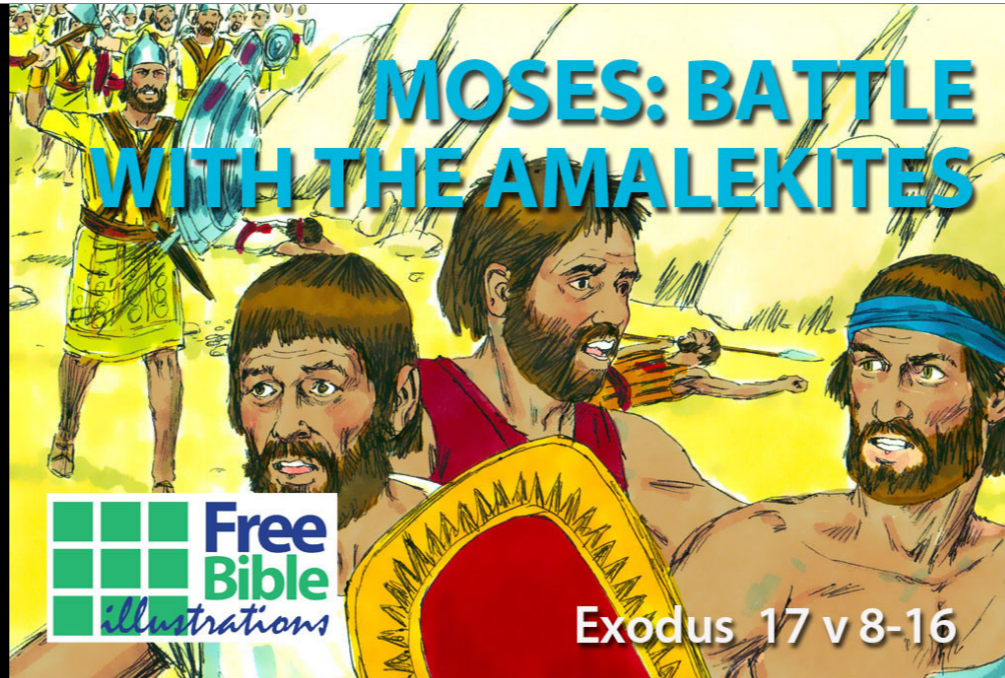
<https://frbonnie.com/2019/10/18/holding-up-the-staff-of-prayer-homily-for-the-29th-sunday-in-ordinary-time-year-c-rev-fr-boniface-nkem-anusiem-ph-d/>

canstockphoto5142748

<https://pixabay.com/photos/medieval-soldiers-spears-armor-1125807/>

<https://pixabay.com/photos/diver-photomontage-composing-shark-4350667/>

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/38991571@N00/20094858439>



MOSES: BATTLE WITH THE AMALEKITES

 Free
Bible
illustrations

Exodus 17 v 8-16

www.freebibleimages.org



These illustrations are the copyright of Sweet Publishing and licensed by FreeBibleimages for free download under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution Share-alike 3.0 unported licence.

www.freebibleimages.org

Jehovah Is My Banner

Exodus 17:8-16

Synopsis: The Amalekites attacked the weak of Israel. In this lesson, we are reminded that the wicked will attack us, and especially those who are weak. We must all be ready to fight, to rally to Jehovah our Banner, ready to help those who are weak and those who lead us. And we must worship and remember the victory given to us our God.

*Unless otherwise indicated, all Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version, copyright © 2001 by Crossway Bibles, a division of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

“Let all that you do be done with love.”