

The Lord is my Banner, Jehovah-Nissi

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Scene Summary

This exciting story reveals a covenant name of God: Jehovah-Nissi, the Lord our Banner. The scenes include attacks from the enemy on the people of Israel...Moses speaking to Joshua to assemble the army...Moses, Aaron and Hur go to the top of the hill...the battle goes back and forth depending on Moses' raised hands...Aaron and Hur help...the Lord is victorious.

Scripture

(Exo 17:8-16 NIV) The Amalekites came and attacked the Israelites at Rephidim. {9} Moses said to Joshua, "Choose some of our men and go out to fight the Amalekites. Tomorrow I will stand on top of the hill with the staff of God in my hands." {10} So Joshua fought the Amalekites as Moses had ordered, and Moses, Aaron and Hur went to the top of the hill. {11} As long as Moses held up his hands, the Israelites were winning, but whenever he lowered his hands, the Amalekites were winning. {12} When Moses' hands grew tired, they took a stone and put it under him and he sat on it. Aaron and Hur held his hands up--one on one side, one on the other--so that his hands remained steady till sunset. {13} So Joshua overcame the Amalekite army with the sword. {14} Then the LORD said to Moses, "Write this on a scroll as something to be remembered and make sure that Joshua hears it, because I will completely blot out the memory of Amalek from under heaven." {15} Moses built an altar and called it The LORD is my Banner. {16} He said, "For hands were lifted up to the throne of the LORD. The LORD will be at war against the Amalekites from generation to generation."

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Players

- **Narrator** – The play's "catechist" or teacher should be a good reader with a clear voice.
- **God** – Powerful offstage voice.
- **Moses** - Leader of the people of Israel
- **Aaron** - The High Priest, the older brother of Moses
- **Hur** - Prince of the tribe of Judah, his name means "Praise"

- **Joshua** - The leader of the Israelite army
- **Army of Joshua** - several warriors, these are non-speaking parts
- **Army of the enemy** - warriors, non-speaking parts

Special Props

- A staff for Moses
- A table that can easily hold three students.
- Weapons for the armies must be selected with great care depending on the age of the students. Older and mature students can successfully use toy swords and spears. Cardboard tubes commonly used for wrapping paper can be a relatively safe alternative. Small paper or cardboard stones, or other soft material.
- It would be helpful if each army were easily identifiable from the audience. For example if Joshua and his army wore blue t-shirts and the enemy army wore red shirts.
- Normal clothing and headdress from the prop box.

Script – The Lord is my Banner

Opening Scene: The whole cast, with the exception of the enemy and the narrator, come slowly on stage, lead by Moses. They move across the stage, and then sit down in half circle on stage left.

Narrator: [comes to stage right] The people of Israel came out of Egypt and camped in the desert. An enemy came and began to hurt them.

Enemy: [appear briefly from stage right, looking angry and throwing a few stones, then retreat back offstage]

Moses: [stands up with his staff] Joshua! We need your help.

Joshua: [stands up] What do you want me to do Moses?

Moses: Pick some of our people and go fight the enemy tomorrow. I will go stand on that hill with the staff of God in my hands.

Joshua: [begins going through the people picking out the army]

Scene change: Moses, Aaron and Hur go to the top of hill and remain standing while Joshua and his army gather their weapons.

Moses: [holds up his hands with the staff]

[The actors in the battle scene must watch Moses' hands. When his hands are raised, Joshua wins and pushes the enemy back offstage. When Moses lowers his hands, the enemy wins and pushes Joshua's army offstage.]

Joshua's army: [move toward the enemy]

Enemy army: [moves toward Joshua's army]

Narrator: As long as Moses held up his hands, Joshua and the Israelites were winning. [pause] But after a while, Moses' hands became tired.

Aaron: Moses, sit down on this rock.

Hur: Aaron and I will stand beside you and hold up your arms.

Moses: [sits or kneels down] Hurry, my arms are so tired!

Aaron and Hur: [stand beside Moses and hold up his hands]

Joshua's army: [pushes the enemy back for the last time]

Scene change: both armies go offstage, pause, then just Joshua and his army return are excited, happy and victorious. They look up to Moses on the hill.

Moses: [stands up and lowers his hands] Let's make an altar here. The Lord is our banner. He won the battle.

The End.

Supplemental Information

From Deuteronomy 25:17-18, out from the hills came a band of mountain men. They went after the stragglers. There were the Amalekites. Genesis 36:12 indicate they are a people that descended from Esau. Esau gave up the birthright and was always against the things of God. The children of Amalek were opposition to Israel and the God of Israel. In Numbers 24:20, when Balaam called to curse, but blessed the people of Israel, he calls Amalek "the first of nations." This could mean "the first nation" to attack the people of God, when they left Egypt as a nation.

In this event, the realization is that the battle is actually taking place on the mountain, not in the valley. A new thing is learned from this situation: the Lord is our victory, not through the size and strength of our army, but by the Lord, our Banner. It is not by might or by power, but by My Spirit says the Lord." (scripture ref) The battle was won through the intercession of Moses.

Isaiah 11: A shoot out of the root of Jesse, Jesus Christ is our Banner. Jesus would be lifted up and draw all people unto himself. Jesus Christ defeated the powers of darkness. In the death and resurrection, Jesus is lifted far above all principalities and powers. (Eph 1:19). Christ trampled them under His feet. (Heb 2:15) All power and authority is given to Jesus on Heaven and Earth. In the proclamation of truth, God provides the manifestation of His power. We carry with us the rod of God in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord. (Phil 2:9-11) The powers of darkness are all around, but the victory is already won!

There is no battle. We cannot add to Christ victory with our works. We just speak the Word. We see through appearances, through the defeat of darkness and know that Christ has won all things. We stand and having done all things then we stand. Satan is defeated. The Lord had fought and the Lord has won. We take that stand on behalf of others in intercession. Intercession is living on behalf of that duty, for bringing that thing to pass. We will grow weary, but the High Priest, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit in praise establish and sustain us.

Moses' apprentice was named Hoshea. Hoshea means help. Hoshea was renamed to Joshua. Joshua means Yahwah is my help. The people of Israel realized that it was not Joshua which won the battle, but Yahwah was the victor. His plan on earth is our union with Christ. Christ living in us by the Holy Spirit. Christ, by His Spirit lives as me to intercede and express his saving power to the world.

Reflection Questions

- Who did Moses send to fight the enemy?
- Who did Moses take with him to the top of the hill?
- When Moses raised his hands, which army would begin winning the battle?
- Why did Moses drop his hands?
- What did Aaron and Hur do?
- Who won the battle?

Extra Time

Help your student understand the meaning of "intercession" in relation to prayer. For example, a child falls on the playground and hurts their knee; a person would intercede by comforting the fallen child or going to an adult to get help for the injured. Relate to your students that in our story Moses interceded with God and their battle was victorious.

Ask your students if they pray for others. Listen carefully and affirm their responses, remembering the words of our Lord, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." (Matthew 19:14)