



Prayer Focus

March 1 – 7, 2021

The Just Shall Live by Faith

The unspoken war we battle day in, and day out is a battle between faith and doubt. We are not so dissimilar to the Israelites in the desert who after just being rescued out of the house of bondage questioned why they were brought up out of Egypt – was it to die of thirst in the wilderness? See Exodus 17

Moses called the name of that place Massah (Tempted) and Meribah (Contention) “because of the contention of the children of Israel, and because they tempted the LORD, saying ‘**Is the LORD among us or not?**’” Exodus 17:7

What do we see in the very next verse? Amalek. “*Now Amalek came and fought with Israel in Rephidim.*” Exodus 17:8

The Jewish people are commanded to “remember Amalek” how he “happened upon” the people on the way as they were coming out of Egypt.

*“¹⁷Remember what Amalek did to you along the way as you came out from Egypt— ¹⁸how he **happened upon** you along the way and attacked those among you in the rear, all the stragglers behind you, when you were tired and weary—he did not fear God. ¹⁹Now when Adonai your God grants you rest from all the enemies surrounding you in the land Adonai your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess, you are to blot out the memory of Amalek from under the heavens. Do not forget!” Deuteronomy 25:17-19 (TLV)*

The translation of the Hebrew word “**korcha**” - **happened upon** or **met** you, does not give the full essence of the meaning in English. It means “**chance**,” like just-so-happened, and can also mean to “**make you cold**.”

I have learned from my Israeli Jewish friends that Amalek is the “enemy of chance” (i.e., Amalek alleges that God is not in control). Amalek arrives when the Israelites **doubted** God’s presence **and he seeks to rob them of their spirit, their inner fire, their faith.** **Thus, the battle between Faith and Doubt. It was the peoples’ doubt that started the war.**

The Bible calls out Amalek for his **uniquely evil** attack on the Israelites –

- 1) he attacked them when they were weary and tired,
- 2) he attacked them from the rear, **and**
- 3) **he did not fear God.**

Amalek was - in effect - attempting to take away from the awe the world had of God, as revealed through His people, and the freedom/salvation that the Lord had given the Israelites - by seeking to defeat them on their way to the promised land. The Israelites were newly set free out of their bondage, but they had not yet entered their rest.

I believe this is a crucial word in this time – the issue of utmost important is Who is God? Is He Just? Is He God Almighty? The fear and awe of God by the world is at stake, His Glory and Honor. There either is a God, or there is not. There is no “chance.”

The Jewish people collectively “remember Amalek” on the Sabbath before Purim. Purim is the celebration of the Jewish people being saved from Haman’s wicked plan to annihilate them told in the book of Esther.

In Haman’s plan to terrify and annihilate the Jewish people, he arrives at the date that this wicked plan will be carried out by casting “pur.” Pur means lot, i.e., *chance*. The casting of the lot is discussed in Esther 3:7, “...*they cast the pur (that is, ‘the goral.’)*” **Goral** is mistranslated in English. Goral means “destiny” or “pre-ordained.” Thus, what is “hidden” here is that Haman (an Agagite – recall Agag was King of the Amalekites, 1 Samuel 15) is attacking the idea that there is a God, he is saying there is only chance in this world; but God, through the story of Esther, is saying all of this is destiny. It was pre-ordained that the day of the Jewish peoples supposed annihilation, would actually turn out to be a day of rescue and freedom. Thus, Purim is a fantastic celebration of God’s Providence over all things.

The story of Esther reveals the “hidden.” The name of God is never mentioned in the book of Esther - yet it is God Almighty Who is orchestrating all the events within the story, and He uses a Jewish orphan girl “hidden” in the palace to reveal Himself and accomplish His purposes.

The Lord instructed Moses, “Write this for a memorial in the book and recount it in the hearing of Joshua, that **I will utterly blot out the remembrance of Amalek from under**

heaven.” “And Moses built an altar and called its name, **YHVH Nissi** ‘The-Lord-Is-My-Banner’ [also translated “The Lord Is My Miracle”]; for he said, ‘Because the Lord has sworn: **the Lord will have war with Amalek from generation to generation.**” See Exodus 17:14-16

We must remember – God, Himself, fights our battles. We must TRUST HIM at ALL times.

We must keep our eyes completely focused on God-alone, trusting in Jesus and resting in His finished work, and we will have the victory when we do.

This is what the Lord says, “**Therefore it shall be, when the LORD your God has given you rest** from your enemies all around, *in the land which the LORD your God is giving you to possess as an inheritance*, that **you will blot out the remembrance of Amalek from under heaven.** *You shall not forget.*” Deuteronomy 25:19

Rest assured, Amalek has NO POWER over you, therefore we must remember Amalek. We must always be aware that we have an enemy that is seeking to hinder us, who arrives at our doubt; when we are tired and weary. This enemy does not fear God and would make us cold, robbing us of our Fire and our Faith.

Instead, let us **TRUST in the Lord**. In doing so, we will possess our inheritance and enter our rest, and Amalek will be blotted out from under heaven. God allows us to have a part in overcoming this enemy, we must have Faith in Him, and He allows Himself to be revealed in this world through our Faith and Trust in Him.

*“²Then the LORD answered me and said: “Write the vision and make it plain on tablets, that he may run who reads it. ³For the vision is yet for an appointed time; But at the end it will speak, and it will not lie. Though it tarries, wait for it; Because it will surely come, It will not tarry. ⁴Behold the proud, His soul is not upright in him; **But the just shall live by his faith.**” Habakkuk 2:2-4*

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, ‘The just shall live by faith.’” Romans 1:16-17

“¹Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. ²For by it the elders obtained a good testimony. ³By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible.” Hebrews 11:1-3

Pray

- Abba, we praise Your Name and give You glory and honor. Thank You for saving us. Thank You for fighting our battles. Thank You that You are the

overcomer. Thank You for never leaving or forsaking us – even when we cannot see You, we express our faith in the knowledge that You are with us.

- Abba, forgive us for sometimes acting as though You are not with us, and questioning, “Is the Lord with us or not?” May we, the body of Messiah, live lives of unquestionable faith and expressions of trust in You.
- Lord, we thank you for Your Word, we believe Your word, and we Trust in You.

“Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths. Do not be wise in your own eyes; Fear the LORD and depart from evil.” Proverbs 3:5-7

- Lord, we acknowledge that You are reigning over all the earth, and nothing occurs by chance.

“God reigns over the nations; God sits on His holy throne. The princes of the people have gathered together, The people of the God of Abraham. For the shields of the earth belong to God; He is greatly exalted.” Psalm 47:8-9

- Abba, we thank You that what is meant for evil, You turn around for good.

See Genesis 50:20-21, Esther, “Now we know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to His purpose. For those whom He foreknew He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, so that He might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. And those whom He predestined, He also called; and those whom He called, He also justified; and those whom He justified, He also glorified. What then shall we say in view of these things: If God is for us, who can be against us?” Romans 8:28-31

- Abba, we pray that we, the body of Messiah, would be strengthened through your Holy Spirit and that we would be rooted and grounded in love.

“I pray that from His glorious riches He would grant you to be strengthened in your inner being with power through His Ruach, so that Messiah may dwell in your hearts through faith. I pray that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to grasp with all the kedoshim [holy ones] what is the width and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Messiah which surpasses knowledge, so you may be filled up with all the fullness of God.” Ephesians 3:16-19 (TLV)