



October 23, 2022 | Reggie Roberson

**WARM UP QUESTION:** Share about a time when you overcame something challenging.

**READ:** Exodus 17:8-16

**FOCUS:** We overcome opposition from our adversary through our arsenal and our advantage.

**OBSERVE:**

**Our Adversary**

- After God delivered the Israelites from Egypt, they were opposed by the Amalekites - descendants of Amalek, the grandson of Esau, the twin brother of Jacob, from whom the Jews descended.
- From Esau to Amalek to the Amalekites, this lineage of people had a history of opposing God's purposes for His people. The Amalekites fought Israel before and after they entered the promised land.
- As Christians, we also have an adversary, Satan, who opposed God's purposes in our lives before we started following Jesus and continues to oppose us as we follow Jesus.

**Our Arsenal**

- In the battle against the Amalekites, God fought on behalf of Israel in an unusual way: the tide of the battle depended on Moses' arms being raised in prayer; with the help of Aaron and Hur, Moses kept his arms lifted, and the battle was won.
- From this story, we see that we have three important weapons in our spiritual battle against Satan:
  - Intercessory Prayer - although we don't see the word prayer mentioned here, it is clear that when Moses lifts his staff to heaven, he is asking for God's help. Moses has already prayed and interceded in this way in Exodus 9:29 after the plague of thunder and hail against Egypt. Further, the lifting of hands to heaven is an act of prayer in both the Old and New Testaments.
  - Praying with Others - The battle lasted all day, and Moses needed Aaron and Hur's help to keep his hands lifted to heaven to achieve victory. We also need others to pray with and for us.
  - Remember God's Victories - when the battle ended, God told Moses to record what happened. He made Israel a promise they could stand on: "I will wipe this enemy out eventually. In the meantime, remember how I gave you the victory over them in the past."

**Our Advantage**

- What the Amalekites did not account for when they saw what seemed to be vulnerable and helpless Israelites was that they were under the banner of a King who is God Himself (vv.15-16).
- As Moses interceded for Israel, we have a better Moses, Jesus Christ, our God and King, who prays and fights on our behalf. He is our advantage, having overcome Satan on the cross.

**REFLECT:**

- Since becoming a Christian, how have you responded to challenges in your life?
- When have you seen God intervene on your behalf to help you?
- How does Jesus as your advantage change the way you perceive challenges?

**TAKING ACTION:**

- Think about times when God has helped you overcome adversity and write them down.

**PRAY:** *Holy Father, You are an overcoming God. Thank You for empowering us by Your Holy Spirit to be more than conquerors in Christ Jesus. We declare that every scheme of the enemy to tempt us to sin and dishonor Your Name will fail. We trust in You for all things. In Jesus' Name. Amen.*

