

Jesus Has a Name

Episode 9

Call Upon His Name

Yahweh Nissi

I want to begin this episode reminding us of our theme in this study: ***If we call on His name we will be saved, for there is much power in the name when it is accompanied by faith.*** For it is by believing that we will have life in the power of His name.¹

By way of summary, we have learned that faith is not just about a belief in a truth, it is about actively believing the truth until it becomes our truth. That is how we experience His power and His life. But this sort of active belief requires a work of the Holy Spirit.

Accordingly, we must be **willing** to dig down deep in our soul and choose to let the Holy Spirit cause us to be believing—cause us to bet our lives on the name of God as He has revealed it to us. Our burden to carry is that we must be **willing**, the rest is up to Him. The grace of God always requires our permission so as not to violate our personal sovereignty, but then everything else, all the work, is **100%** the responsibility of the Holy Spirit, as He causes us to be believing and to be confessing that Jesus is **Yahweh**.

To be willing, however, we must be inclined to let go of the demands we have for God to behave towards us as we want, and instead choose to let Him have His way with our lives. Scary as that may be, we can do this because we are His precious possession and the Spirit is working in us both to will and to do for His good pleasure.² But make no mistake, His obsessive goal for our lives is that we be transformed into the image of the Son such that He literally lives in and through our lives as we live in and through His.³ We have termed this the *Design Point*—"it is no longer I who live but Christ lives in me."

All He does in our lives, including the war He must wage against everything within us that refuses to believe that He is our **I AM**, is towards this one purpose. And all things, yes, all things, cooperate with Him in this singular purpose of effecting the *Design Point*.

¹ **John 20:31**

² **Philippians 2:13**

³ **See John 15:5**

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We have also learned that being **saved** is not about going to heaven (though ultimately it will include that journey); rather, it is about a systematic act of war that is waged against our *flesh*, our Old Sinful Nature, until it is crucified and slowly bled of all its pride, fear, and shame (the trifold of darkness), and **Yahweh** is free to reign over our heart, mind, soul, and strength. He literally saves us from ourselves.

It may seem ironic, but there is life through death (death to our *flesh*). And those who die will know **unrestrained freedom** in Christ where there is no law, no condemnation, and no fear of punishment, just the freedom to love with God's *agape* love.

That is the pathway to knowing Him as He wants to be known. And with each area of our life in which He wages war, we will be confronted with the opportunity to know **WHY** we can trust ourselves to His name and **HOW** to trust ourselves to His name, such that we experience and know Him as our **I AM**—our complete sufficiency and provision for all things all the time. That is what the pain and the suffering is all about, it is giving us the opportunity to learn these precious truths. But it is only an opportunity, we still must be **WILLING** to let the Holy Spirit cause us to be believing.

This understanding of life through death may have been hidden from our understanding, but **Yahweh** has not spoken in secret, in some dark land, rather, He has declared things that are upright and good, for He has revealed to us His name.⁴ ***And if we call on His name we will be saved, for there is much power in the name when it is accompanied by faith.***

All throughout the first 8 episodes, we studied the name **Yahweh Adonai**, as this name was woven tightly into our overall understanding of the name **Yahweh**. His name is **Yahweh**, and His role is that of the **Adonai**, the Sovereign, or Lord. He is Lord of all and the Lord over all (the only Sovereign); hence, one of His titles is the Lord of Lords.⁵

With that information all tucked away in our minds (and hopefully our hearts), we are going to explore a name that at first might seem a bit odd and it might leave us unsure as to how this name practically functions in terms of providing us power, but as we go through some of the

⁴ See *Isaiah 45:19*

⁵ *Deuteronomy 10:17; Psalm 136:3; 1 Timothy 6:16; Revelation 17:14, 19:16*

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other names in future episodes, we will refer to this name and it will all start to make sense. So, please keep that in mind.

Our Banner

Yahweh Nissi—Yahweh our refuge or our token—our banner and rallying place.⁶ In short, **Yahweh Nissi** is the one we are to run to when trouble nears. He is the one we gather around when the enemy seeks to devour us. He is the run we cling to when everyone else has left and abandoned us.

In **Yahweh Nissi**, we safely hide in the shadow of His wings until destruction passes by.⁷ And in the shadow of His wings we sing for joy,⁸ for He covers us with His feathers and under His wings we seek refuge, *for His faithfulness is our armor and protection.*⁹

**YAHWEH NISSI IS THE ONE WE HOLD HIGH AS OUR TOKEN OR BANNER
ALWAYS IDENTIFYING OUR LIVES WITH HIS NAME.**

In the days when Israel left Egypt and were marching towards the Promised Land, they divided into groups by tribal clans. Each tribe carried a banner or a standard which identified their peculiar tribe. For instance, Judah's banner had a lion and the banner of the tribe of Naphtali had a gazelle. As they traveled, especially during times of war, each person went out according to their tribal banner; it uniquely identified them.

The clan moved when the banner moved and during times of war, when things got crazy and scary, they rallied together at the banner. They could be in a terrible fight, but when they would see their banner, they knew there was hope. They understood that if they could get to their banner, they would be safe and would find refuge and help with the others in their tribal group.

THE BANNER BECAME A SOURCE OF HOPE AND SURETY—A GUARANTEE.

It was upon a victory in a great battle against the Amalekites in which **Yahweh** prophetically revealed this name through Moses.¹⁰ After the war, Moses raised up an altar and declared that

⁶ *Exodus 17:8-16*

⁷ *Psalm 17:8; 36:7; 57:1*

⁸ *Psalm 63:7*

⁹ *Psalm 91:4*

¹⁰ *See Exodus 17:8-16*

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God is **Yahweh Nissi**, my banner or token. It was a way of declaring that **Yahweh** is our place of refuge, our rallying place, where we gather for hope and assured victory.

Moses knew that it was **Yahweh** who won the battle for the Israelites, and it was only because of **Yahweh** that their fierce enemies were defeated. Thus, in stating that **Yahweh** is his Banner, Moses was declaring for himself, and on behalf of the nation Israel, that they are fully and completely identified by **Yahweh** as belonging to His tribe. They fly the flag of **Yahweh** over their lives. Therefore, they can be assured that as they run and gather at their tribal standard (**Yahweh Nissi**), they will be safe because the living God goes before them in battle and leads them in victory.¹¹ This is the confidence we can have in **Yahweh Nissi**.

GOD GOES BEFORE US AND LEADS US IN VICTORY AGAINST OUR ENEMIES!

This is such a powerful name in that it goes to our very identity and all our associations. If we were honest and were to raise a banner over our lives displaying a picture or word to communicate to both those in the world and to all the unseen powers in the heavenly realms what identifies our life, what would it be: fear, pride, shame, emotions, intellect, practicality, power, authority, control, personal goodness, religion? Or perhaps such things as: bitterness, anger, hatred, murder, insecurity, victimhood, injustice, self-pity, self-love, narcissisms, loneliness, depression, hopelessness, despair, division, drugs, alcohol, sexuality, serial relationships, eating disorder, passivity, resentment, abuse, violence, or the demonic.

Sadly, these are the banners many of us fly, and these banners represent how we have chosen to identify ourselves, and they have become our rallying point and place of refuge in trouble. Truth be told, our personal banners are indicators of the various coping mechanisms we utilize to manage and get through life. They represent our dependencies and where we place our hope.

But **Yahweh Nissi** reminds us that if we run to our God and let Him be our refuge, if we identify ourselves with Him knowing that He is our victory, then all the enemies in our land (whether those enemies are in our soul or external) will know that **Yahweh** fights for us through us, and that we will have victory, for He always leads us in triumph, it is just a matter of time.¹² After all,

¹¹ **Deuteronomy 31:8**

¹² **2 Corinthians 2:14**. See also **1 Corinthians 15:57** and our victory over death, sin, and the law.

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if God is for us, who can be against us?¹³

Yahweh is the one who wins our battles, whether internal or external. However, we must be **willing** to run to Him fully identifying ourselves with Him—raising His standard over our lives. If we keep identifying our lives by our plethora of personal banners, then we will see little victory in our lives, and we will not know or experience the safety and security which only He can provide.

The Promise of War

When Moses built the altar and named it **Yahweh Nissi** (**Yahweh** is My Banner), he said, “**Yahweh** has sworn; **Yahweh** will have war against Amalek from generation to generation.” This was a promise upon which we can bet our lives. Amalek will always be a target of God’s wrath and vengeance.

What is fascinating about that promise is that, biblically, Amalek is a metaphor for our *flesh*, for our Old Sinful Nature, the one who opposes God and blocks our path to freedom, to the Promised Land. Hence, God promises that He will, on our behalf, go to war against our *flesh* until the enemy is conquered—from generation to generation—until we know **unrestrained freedom**. In fact, Yahweh promises that He will one day blot out the memory of Amalek from under heaven.¹⁴ And although Amalek was the first among the nations, his end shall be destruction.¹⁵ This is a promise which God make us regarding our Old Sinful Nature, our *flesh*.

The founder of the Amalekites was a descendant, a grandson, of Esau (one of the sons of Isaac who was the son of Abraham). God declared in advance, “Jacob I loved, Esau I hated”. Clearly, from the get-go, this nation did not have a promising destiny. We also know that Esau became an immoral and godless person who even disrespected his birthright (his inheritance) as the oldest child and treated it as common. In fact, he sold his birthright to his younger brother Jacob for a single meal.¹⁶

Regardless, Esau and his progeny (the Amalekites) serve as a Biblical type of the *flesh*, a type of what God hates. The Spirit makes the point that God hated Esau even before he had done

¹³ **Romans 8:31-32**

¹⁴ **Exodus 17:14**

¹⁵ **Numbers 24:20**

¹⁶ See **Romans 9:13; Hebrews 12:16; Malachi 1:2**

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anything wrong. This confuses many, but understand that God is big on typology, and despite Esau's godlessness, this hatred is about the typology and not so much the person.¹⁷ Accordingly, Esau's progeny, the Amalekites, carried the banner of their father that declared to all that they opposed God.

Many years after Moses' encounter with the Amalekites, God commanded Saul, the first king of Israel, to destroy the Amalekites, for it was payback time for the battle they waged against Moses and the children of Israel when they were leaving Egypt on their way to the Promised Land—the time when God first revealed His name, **Yahweh Nissi**. Though many years had passed, it is good to remember that **Yahweh** always keeps His promises, it is just a matter of time!

1 Samuel 15:2-3

Thus, says **Yahweh** 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.'"

King Saul went to war, but he did not faithfully carry out the commands of **Yahweh** and did not utterly wipe out the Amalekites; as a result, **Yahweh** rejected him as king and appointed someone else who would be faithful to the commands of the Lord, which as we later find out was David.¹⁸

Now as for the typology of the Amalekites and our *flesh*, when God gave Saul a command to destroy the Amalekites, to wipe them from the face of the earth, and he refused, surviving members of this tribe literally haunted the Israelites throughout their history. The point being that if we hold on to any parts of our *flesh*, cherishing it above the desires of **Yahweh** for our lives, our *flesh* will haunt us in ways that we will always regret. It always bites us in the proverbial

¹⁷ See **Romans 9:9-13**. See also **Isaiah 63:1-6** and **Obadiah** where God pronounces a last day's judgment against Edom.

¹⁸ **1 Samuel 15:1-35**

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but when we least expect it.

For instance, during the time that Saul remained King, a clan of the Amalekites attacked the villages in which David and his people were living, and they took everyone captive, women, children, and everyone small and great, and they burned their cities to the ground. David and his men were not in the village when this happened. However, upon finding out about this attack, David and his men went after the Amalekites and slaughtered them from twilight until the evening of the next day, and he recovered all that the Amalekites had taken, losing not one person.

Unfortunately, 400 Amalekite men escaped on camel, so the saga would continue.¹⁹ But it is important to note that it was not due to the insolence of David, they just escaped. And there are times when God allows areas of our *flesh* to remain, for He has purposes for it that will only become clear later as He continues with His transformation of our lives and teaches us how to wage war against the enemies in our lives.²⁰

Later when it was time for King Saul to die, he led the Israelites into a fierce battle with the Philistines. Saul became wounded, withdrew from the battle, and was found leaning on his spear unable to fight. Next, an Amalekite, who by chance happened to be in the area, struck Saul with a sword, killed him, and brought his crown to David. Of course, David in turn struck down the Amalekite for having raised his sword against **Yahweh's** anointed one.²¹

Once again, we find that if not dealt with, our *flesh*, our Old Sinful Nature, our living Amalekite, will literally take our lives. For like Amalek's founder (Esau), our *flesh* despises our birthright as a son of the living God and despises all that we are destined to inherit—all that the Son of God inherits from the Father.²² And like David, **Yahweh** will strike down those Amalekites who lift the sword up against **Yahweh's** anointed.

Throughout David's rule, which is a picture of our lives when they are ruled by the Spirit of **Yahweh**, the Amalekites seemed to be subdued and to have fallen off the face-of-the earth, as

¹⁹ **1 Samuel 30:1-20**

²⁰ See **Judges 3:1-2** for this principle

²¹ **2 Samuel 1:1-16**

²² **Romans 8:16-17; Titus 3:7**

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they no longer appear in any notable way.

However, 542 years after David's kingdom, during the reign of the Medes and the Persians, during the time of Hadassah (also known as Esther), a man named Haman, an Agagite, was promoted to the role of what we would call the King's Chief of Staff. He was set in charge over all the provincial rulers of the empire. This man hated the Jews and secretly plotted to eradicate them all throughout the Media Persian kingdom. His plan almost worked if it was not for the love this king had for his wife, Esther (a Jew). In the book of Esther, Haman's epithet as "the Agagite" indicates that he was a descendent of king Agag, king of the Amalekites.²³

Just when it seems that our *flesh* is conquered and we are free from its terrible influence, those hidden areas of our *flesh*, the wrong belief and unbelief that has been concealed deep in our soul, shows its face, and once again tries to destroy our lives.

"**Yahweh** has sworn; **Yahweh** will have war against Amalek from generation to generation." This was a promise upon which we can bet our lives. Amalek, a metaphor for our *flesh*, will always be a target of God's wrath and vengeance. And this is a powerful, albeit scary, promise.

When we come to accept the truth that our Amalek opposes God in everything and is motivated to destroy us and prevent us from reaching that place of **unrestrained freedom** (the Promised Land), we can be sure that **Yahweh Nissi** contains a powerful promise of victory, freedom, and peace, albeit through all-out war.

What does it mean to live by faith and to bet our lives upon the name Yahweh Nissi?

The beauty of our relationship with God is that it is based 100% on grace, or 100% on what God does for us and not we do for Him. What He requires from us is relational reciprocation, the **willingness** to let Him cause us to believe. By the way, this is the reason Jesus could say, with a straight face, that His yoke is easy, and His burden is light.²⁴ For most of us, it has never felt light nor easy, but that is usually because we have loaded ourselves up with religious burdens of our own creation—burdens that He never asked us to carry. All He wants is our **willingness** to let Him

²³ **Esther 3:1, 10, 8:3, 5, 9:24**

²⁴ **Matthew 11:29-30**

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do His work in and through our lives.

Therefore, to bet our lives on **Yahweh Nissi**, He simply asks us to **declare** that we want only the Banner of **Yahweh** to fly over our lives. In other words, we are willing to let Him have His war against our Amalek. The rest will be up to Him; it will be His war. He knows every crack and crevice in our soul where warriors of Amalek hide and have dug in. He knows how to route them out. For our part, we must not let our heart be overcome with fear and let Him have His war.

The truth is, we have no power to remove our own banners which fly over our lives, as they are an imbedded part of our *flesh*. They represent all the various aspects of our *Old Sinful Nature* which are rooted in self-reliance or personal idolatry of the **ME**. Besides, since our heart is more deceitful than all else and desperately wicked,²⁵ like Saul, we would be fully convinced that what needs to die needs to live and what needs to live needs to die. This is not a war we are equipped to fight.

But if we are **willing**, **Yahweh** will wage His war against our *flesh*, and over time we will begin to see His banner fly proudly over areas of our life while our own banners are removed one-by-one. He will literally pull down and burn up those old worthless banners, and painful as the process may be, we will come to know safety, security, victory, and joy in each area of our life where His banner flies. We will also come to know His peace, for we will not be constantly antagonized by our Amalek. Our enemies will no longer be able to rule us and control us, no matter who they are (seen or unseen). How glorious is that?

Yes, the removal of each banner will demonstrate to all our enemies (both seen and unseen) that we have learned **WHY** we can trust **Yahweh Nissi** and **HOW** to trust **Yahweh Nissi**, as He becomes our rallying place, our refuge, our place of safety, and our victory.

After all, ***if we call on His name we will be saved, for there is much power in the name when it is accompanied by faith.*** Therefore, we should let Him have His war. He will get the work done, and though it may be brutal, as in the tale in the book of Esther, we will likewise be more than victors in this world as we fly the banner of **Yahweh Nissi** over our lives.

²⁵ *Jeremiah 17:9*

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Romans 8:36-39

Just as it is written, "FOR YOUR SAKE WE ARE BEING PUT TO DEATH ALL DAY LONG; WE WERE CONSIDERED AS SHEEP TO BE SLAUGHTERED." **But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us.** For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

May we always be **willing** to let the Spirit cause us to fly the banner of victory over our lives, **Yahweh Nissi.**

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