



**Lessons from Deuteronomy—
God as Conqueror**

Mike Halpin ~ June 18, 2017

Intro:

God will bless His Word and His Spirit will empower it to do God's work in our lives. We need hearts that are soft and wills that are given to obedience if we want to routinely benefit from God's word, from whatever venue we're reading or hearing it.

Text: Deuteronomy 25:17—19

God called Israel His own beloved son, Exodus 4:22; Hosea 11:1. Israel was like a newborn infant in their Exodus/ birth out of the womb and through the waters of Egypt when Amalek attacked them.

- Exodus 17:8–16

I. God's Sovereign Plans—

1. Genesis 15:17–21 and God's promise of the land.

2. Israel's call to be God's holy people.

- Deuteronomy 4:5–8
- Num. 33:55

Israel can't afford to live w/ the peoples already in the Land of Promise because in doing so they would lose their unique ability to enjoy and represent God to the nations.

The Enemy: Amalek/Amalekites = 50X in OT, Genesis 14:7 – Psalm 83:7; no reference is positive.

Amalek, son of Eliphaz, Esau's son (and Adah, his wife Gen 36:12, 16.)

Numbers 14

Judges

1 Samuel 30

2 Samuel 1:1–16

Psalm 83:7

Numbers 24:20

1 Samuel 15

II. Our Amalekites— For us to apply these kinds of passages we change the point of application but not the principles.

Q: What forces do you and I face that we might need to treat as Israel was called to treat Amalek?

A: The world, the flesh, and the devil.

- The world is the worldwide system, organized and overseen by Satan, at odds w/ God and antagonistic to God's plans and people.
 - * 1 John 2:16
 - * John 17:14–16
- The Flesh is our old, sinful nature; it's the inner self we have through natural birth. There is not one entirely, holy element to that sinful nature
 - * Romans 8:7–8
- The Devil = Slanderer
 - * Revelation 12:9
 - * Ephesians 6

Q: What plan and purpose does God have for us today that these forces would undermine?

1. Holiness— to be set apart from the world, flesh and devil and be wholly consecrated to God. (Romans 12:1, 1 Corinthians 3:17, Ephesians 1:4, 5:27, Colossians 1:22, 1 Peter 1:15-16)
2. Worship— God means for us to be a worshipping people in everything we do.
 - a. Romans 12:1
 - b. John 4:23
3. Make Disciples— Instead of being a nation located in one geographic location Christians are now called to make disciples in the entire world.
 - a. Matthew 28:19–20

Just like Israel we have a mission and an enemy. To succeed in our God-given mission we must conquer our enemies as surely as Israel was called to conquer theirs.

Called to Conquer—

Esther 3:1 Haman is an "Agagite", a descendant of Agag, king of the Amalekites.
Mordecai is a descendant of King Saul, 2:5.

The failure of Israel to follow God's call entirely resulted in Israel's ongoing persecution and harm.

Q. What happens when we fail to conquer the world, the flesh, and the devil in our own lives?

A. Like Israel we sow the seeds of future temptations, failure, and destruction.

- Am I on God's side? Have I trusted Jesus to save me from my slavery to sin and make me His own?
- Do I give God thanks daily for Jesus conquering sin and death so I don't have to live under their tyranny?
- Am I prayerfully, thoughtfully, and consistently choosing to conquer the world, the flesh and the devil in my own life?
- Do my choices in entertainment promote affection for the world, or Christ?
- Am I characterized by being "in the world" or "in Christ"?
- Am I characterized by the lusts of the flesh & eyes & the pride of life? By humility and the fruits of the Spirit?
- Am I feeding my new Christ-life, or my old sinful desires in what I do, where I go, or who I'm with?
- Am I in God's word, prayer and fellowship regularly as a means of conquering my own sinful tendencies?
- Is my life increasingly characterized by freedom from past sinful tendencies?
- Am I putting on the whole armor of God: God's word, faith, the gospel?
- Am I sharing my own story and the gospel as often as God provides opportunity?