

## THE CHRISTIAN'S FLAG/BANNER

Exodus 17:8-15

(Not entirely original with me)

**Introduction:** Stand the flag of your nation before the congregation. Remind/explain what the flag represents, the respect and loyalty owed to it, how allegiance is pledged to it, how it is carried in parades, how it is flown in public places, how much emphasis is placed upon it by the military (Iwo Jima image), how the enemy's flag is removed upon being conquered and replaced with the conquering nation's flag. The flag is carried before the soldiers in battle. (A flag is a banner, a piece of cloth mounted on a staff/pole/rod which has emblems and writings on it which identify the king/ruler/country.)

The text describes a battle between the army of Israel and the Amalekites and Moses stood on top of Mt. Horeb which is Mt. Sinai, holding a rod/staff which he stretched out before the Lord. As long as Moses held the staff/rod up, Israel was victorious for they could see him standing there holding the staff/rod up before them. However as Moses' arms got tired and the rod/staff was lowered, Israel began to be defeated by the Amalekites. Aaron and Hur propped the arms of Moses up with a large stone and there he was able to hold the rod/staff up until sun set and the defeat of the Amalekite army. The rod/staff of Moses represented almighty God and all that God had done and could do for Israel and Israel knew it. It was their banner, their flag, it represented their nation and their God. *"...Moses built an altar, and called the name of it Jehovah-Nissi" which means "The Lord our Banner..."*

There is an old hymn that describes the Christian's flag/banner entitled "The Banner of the Cross."

"There's a royal banner given for display, to the soldiers of the King;  
As an ensign fair we lift it up today, wile as ransomed ones we sing.  
Marching on, marching on, For Christ count everything but loss,  
And to crown Him King, toil and sing, 'Neath the banner of the cross..."

### I. JESUS CHRIST THE LORD IS THE CHRISTIAN'S BANNER/FLAG

1. Under Jesus Christ Christians fight and prevail.
  - Under this banner Christians rally.
  - What a nation's flag is to its people, Jesus Christ is to His Church.
  - Different opinions about certain things, like baptism, the Lord's Supper elements, however there is one rallying point around which all true Christians meet and that is the person and work of Jesus Christ.
2. In times of war, the banner is out front, leading, directing the battle and encouraging the soldiers.
  - Moses held up the staff/rod like a banner before Israel both encouraging and directing the soldiers.
    - Although Moses grew weary, the Lord Jesus never shall.
  - The best way for the Christian to be a soldier is to fix his/her eyes upon the Lord Jesus, follow His steps, imitate His every action, mold one's life after the Lord Jesus and look to Him for direction.
3. The Banner/flag is always the chief object the enemy wants to attack/remove.
  - To take down, away the enemy's flag/banner means that victory has been accomplished.
  - Satan and the demons of hell are always trying to take down the Christian's banner in five areas:
    - The Glory of the Lord Jesus' Person.
    - The Efficacy of Christ's Atonement.
    - The Sufficiency of the Lord Jesus' Righteousness.
    - The Freeness of the Lords' Saving Grace.
    - The Fulness of the Lord Jesus' Pardon.

4. The Banner/flag represents DEFIANCE.
  - Unfurled in the face of the Christian's enemy, it is telling the enemy to do the worst possible for there is no power greater than that of the Lord Jesus Christ.
  - The enemy's power has been destroyed forever by the cross of the Lord Jesus.
  - When the Christian lifts up the Banner of the Cross, all the powers of hell will oppose him/her but he/she will indeed draw sinners to the Lord Jesus.
  
5. The Banner/flag is the source of great consolation to every wounded soldier.
  - When the wounded Israelite soldiers laid on the battlefield, they looked up to Mt. Sinai to see if the rod was still lifted up and found great comfort that it was still there.
  - Every believer in the Lord Jesus finds great comfort and consolation in the Lord Jesus Christ.
  - Believers may fall, but their Banner, their Flag, the Lord Jesus Christ does not.
  
6. The Banner/flag is the symbol of victory.
  - When the soldiers come home from war, having been victorious, they march through the streets in celebration and leading that victorious procession is the flag, the banner which they fought under.
  - In that last great day when the Lord Jesus calls His soldiers home, they will celebrate and praise their flag/banner, the Lord Jesus Christ.

## **II. THE LORD JESUS CHRIST IS A BANNER/FLAG TO THOSE THAT FEAR HIM**

1. The Lord Jesus Christ was given to believers as their Banner/flag by almighty God, the Father.
  - God gave His Son to be the Banner of salvation.
    - Before the creation, Jesus was given to be Mediator, Substitute, Messiah, King, Lord and Savior.
  - When the fulness of time was come, God gave His Son in the manger at Bethlehem to be the believer's Banner/flag.
  - While upon the cross, the Lord Jesus was given by almighty God to die in the believer's place.
  - Jesus Christ is given to every believer as his/her Banner/flag of salvation, love, grace, mercy and eternal life upon that person's belief.
  - Believers dare not lay down their Banner for a moment for any cause/reason.
  
2. The Lord Jesus Christ was given as a Banner/Flag to those that fear God.
  - Jesus is not given to just everyone.
    - Jesus is given only to those who believe in Him and entrust their entire being to His keeping.
    - Only those who fear God and believe in Jesus are allowed to carry this Banner/flag.
    - If a person fears God, if he/she knows, worships and trusts the living God, this Banner has been given to him/her.
  - Wherever the believer goes, he/she is to take the Royal Banner with him/her.
  - NEVER BE ASHAMED OF YOUR COLORS/BANNER/FLAG.
  
3. The Lord Jesus Christ has been given as a Banner/Flag to be displayed because of the TRUTH.
  - The banner/flag must be taken out of its container and unfolded before it can be displayed.
    - It is the believer's daily business to open the Word of God, taking the Banner out of its case.
    - It is the believer's daily duty to display and lift up the Banner, carrying it out into the world.
  - The banner will never be displayed unless there is a breeze/wind to blow it around and that is just what the Holy Spirit, the heavenly wind does, but believers must pray that He may blow like a heavenly wind the Banner, the Lord Jesus Christ.

### **III. JUST WHY DID GOD GIVE THE LORD JESUS CHRIST TO BE THE BELIEVER'S BANNER?**

1. Jesus Christ has been given as the believer's Banner that God's elect scattered throughout the world may be gathered unto Him.
  - Believers are to lift high the Lord Jesus Christ, their Banner/Flag and call upon sinners to come to Him.
    - As sheep to the shepherd - as children to their parents - as chicks to the hen.
  - All who come to the Lord Jesus Christ in true repentance and faith shall find rest in Him.
2. There is coming a day when all believers, God's elect, shall be gathered unto Him.
  - Believers find rest in the Lord Jesus Christ in this world from all their fears, yet there is a rest yet to come beyond their greatest imagination.
  - Believers, fix your eyes upon the Lord Jesus Christ, your Banner, your Flag.
  - Believers set your hearts upon the Lord Jesus Christ, be courageous, carry your Banner with you wherever you go, staying always close to Him.

### **CONCLUSION:**

1. Moses had his staff/rod which God used to perform countless miracles and as long as the rod/staff was in visible sight, Israel always prevailed.
2. Believers also have something which God uses to perform countless miracles and that something is called a Banner/Flag, and that Banner/Flag is God's Son, the Lord Jesus Christ.
3. What the flag/banner is to a nation, to soldiers, to patriotic countrymen, the Lord Jesus Christ is to every believer.
4. As the flag/banner must be displayed to represent it's people, so must the Lord Jesus Christ be displayed representing WHO He is and WHO He represents by those who accept Him as their Flag/Banner.
5. Believers, keep your eyes upon your Royal Banner, the Lord Jesus Christ.