

## “Holding Up Your Pastor’s Hands”

Text: Exodus 17

Introduction:

- Before we examine the text of Exodus 17, I would like to present to you some pictures or types that can be gleaned from the text.
- The **Children of Israel** would be a picture or type of the **New Testament church**.
  - In fact in **Acts 7:38**, the children of Israel are called “**the church in the wilderness**”.
- If the Children of Israel are a picture or type of the church, then it would follow that **Moses** as their leader would be a picture or type of **Pastor**.
- **Aaron and Hur** – We will see during the time of battle were literally Moses’ right and left hand men and picture the New Testament Church **Deacons**.
- **Joshua** – picture or type of the **Lord Jesus Christ**.
- **Amalek** – picture or type of the **Devil**, the enemy or adversary of God’s people.
- I believe also within our text we will see a picture or type of the spiritual battle that goes on within the New Testament Church today.

### **Examination of Text:**

- **V1.** – We want to see that even in the will of God, God will take you to a place where you will have to depend solely on Him.
  - Notice even though the children of Israel journeyed according to the commandment of the Lord.
  - They ended up in a place where there was no water.
- **Vs. 2-3** – We want to notice that the instance there appears to be a problem in the church the pastor is to be blamed for it.
  - Regardless if it is his fault or not.
  - The individual believer always makes the situation look more dim than it really is – Notice what the children of Israel say in V. 3. – “**Wherefore is this that thou hast...thirst?**”
- **Vs. 2-3** – We need to notice Moses’ response as a man of God or a pastor.
  - **First**, he tells the people that their complaint is not with him but God.
    - **See V. 2**

- In essence what they are saying is that God does not know what He is doing.
    - God's people instead of trusting in God and following the leader that God has given them – murmur and complain and finger point.
    - God's people at times are a faithless bunch.
  - **Second**, Moses cries out to God with the problem and asks for the solution. – **See V. 4.**
    - As a man of God, the pastor should be a great man of prayer.
    - Going to God always for the solution to the problems he faces instead of trusting in his own instincts and abilities.
    - In fact according to **Acts 6:4**, the man of God's two main duties is to be continually in prayer and to the ministry of the word.
- **Vs. 5-6** – We want to notice God's faithfulness and answer to prayer.
- **Vs. 6** – We want to notice the obedience of the man of God
  - **“And Moses did so in the sight of the elders of Israel”**
- We need to see the great victory that was won in **Vs. 1-7.**
  - God was faithful in providing the man of God to lead His people – Moses.
    - We saw Moses was a man of prayer.
      - Interceding on behalf of the people who did not trust in God.
      - Moses was a man of obedience to the Word of God and doing exactly what God said to do.
- **V 8** - We want to notice what happens next.
  - We want to notice who shows up after the great victory.
  - Amalek – Remember, I said Amalek was a picture or type of the devil.
  - What we can learn is this after each spiritual victory expect the devil to show up.
  - Remember, in Matthew 3, we have the public baptism of Jesus by John the Baptist and beginning our Lord's public ministry.
  - We saw the Spirit of God descend upon our Lord and the Father speak from heaven saying, **“This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.”**
  - Then immediately in the next chapter, Matthew 4, Jesus is led up into the wilderness and tempted of the devil.

- My friends the same thing has happen here at Evangelical Baptist Church.
  - You were without a pastor for two years.
  - A great spiritual battle was won because God provided you a man called of God to lead you.
  - You have to expect the devil to show up and cause division in the church and try to run your pastor off.
  - Let us continue in our text and see if we cannot find some things to help us win the spiritual battle before us.
- **Vs. 9-10 – Read**
    - **V. 9** – Moses instructs Joshua to choose out men to fight the battle against Amalek.
    - He we have a picture of God the Father as Moses instructing the God, the Son (Joshua) to choose out among the saved those who are fit to battle.
    - The Bible tells us many are called but few are chosen.
    - I am sure that Joshua chose men that were seasoned warriors.
    - Men who would be obedient to his commands.
    - That is who Jesus Chooses to fight the spiritual battles those who are humble and obedient to His word.
    - To be assure of victory and accomplish anything for the Lord a church must be of unity and harmony and one spirit.
    - The Lord cannot use a church that is divided and full of strife and contention.
  - **V. 10** – Notice what it says about Joshua – **“So Joshua did as Moses said to him,...”**
    - **First**, we learn the reason Joshua was greatly used of God because he was obedient to the man of God.
    - We see Joshua as type of Jesus Christ.
    - Jesus was obedient to the will of the Father.
    - Jesus was obedient even to the death of the cross.
  - **Second**, we learn in order to win the spiritual battle then you have to be in submission to the Word of God and the man of God.
  - The Bibles says concerning the pastor:
    - The pastor is your spiritual leader.
    - He is to have rule over you.
    - **Hebrews 13: 7,17**
    - The Bible says that you are give your pastor double honor and esteem him very highly in love.
    - **See 1 Timothy 5:17; 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13.**

- **V. 11** – Notice what it says about Moses
  - **“when Moses held up his hand, that Israel prevailed:”**
  - What this pictures is that the man of God needs to pray for his flock if they are going to prevail in the spiritual battle on this earth.
  - The Bible tells us in **1 Timothy 2:8**, **“I will therefore that men pray every where, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting.”**
  - You see the key is **holy** hands.
  - Hands separated and clean for the Lord’s work.
  - Not hands that have been defiled by doing the work of the devil, sowing seed of discord among the brethren.
  - Notice when Moses let down his hand, Amalek prevailed.
  - You need the man of God praying for you and interceding for you to win the spiritual battle.
  - That is why the pastor is so important to the church.
  - The Bible tells us that the pastor is a gift to the church.
  - The pastor was given to the church, **“For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ.”**  
**Ephesians 4:12**
- **V 12 – Read**
  - Notice that the man of God cannot win the battle alone.
  - He needed the help of both Aaron and Hur (they picture deacons) to help keep his hands from falling.
  - It so true that the pastor of a New Testament church needs good godly men full of Holy Ghost to be behind him and support him. If the church is going to be victorious in the spiritual battle.
  - How can you expect a church to be victorious and win souls for Christ when their deacons are not even behind him.
  - Always murmuring behind his back or not evening showing up for the services.
  - If man is a deacon and cannot support his pastor then he should have the common decency for the church’s sake to step down.
  - The pastor needs men of God in the church that will help keep his hands up not constantly pulling them down.
  - Or tying them behind his back.

- **V. 13 – Read**
  - What we have picture here is Jesus prevailing over the devil with the Word of God as we saw in Matthew 4 with the temptation of Christ.
  - Each time the devil came and tempted Christ, Jesus pulled out the Sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God and said, **“It is written” “It is written” “It is written”**
  - So if you are going to win the spiritual battle then you need to use the Word of God to defeat your adversary the devil and his workers in the church.
  
- **V. 14 – Read**
  - In verse 14 we have a picture of the blessed promise that Satan someday will totally defeated and destroyed.
  - Cast into the Lake of Fire.
  - Never again to hinder the people of God.

### **Conclusion**

- What we need to learn from Exodus 17 is that if the New Testament Church is going to be victorious and win the spiritual battle against the world, the flesh, and the devil.
- Then the people need to be in submission to the Word of God and the man of God that God has chosen to lead them.
- The people need to have a mind to work and build and not a mind to murmur and complain and destroy.
- The pastor needs men and women who are behind him 100% who will help lift up his hands so that they can prevail against the devil.