

**Greenforest Community Baptist Church**  
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**Facilitator: Rev. Dr. Darryl V. Footmon, Executive Pastor**  
**Teaching on Tuesdays**

**Exodus 17:8-16**

**Keep Your Hands Up: A Work for God (Intro)**

**1-Troubled by Trouble (17:8)**

- As this pericope opens, we find the Amalekites confronting Israel, perhaps even serving as a force hindering them from the promise land vowed to them by God.
- One certain thing we all should know is if there is a promise with our name on it, it does not dismiss us from trouble in attempts to obtain it. In fact, it is almost certain that any promise will also come with a set of challenges.

**Fun Facts:**

- This point in scripture is the first time Joshua's name is mentioned.
- Joshua is the shortened version of Jehoshua, which also is Hebrew for Jesus. It means "Yahweh Saves".
- Joshua was the son of Nun, from the Ephraim tribe, and was considered Moses' right hand.
- Some scholars debate that Amalek was the grandson of Esau and great-grandson of Abraham, whereas other scholars believe that it may have been another tribe with the same name.
- Later, on in scripture Joshua, would be charged to take the reign from Moses and cross the people over to the promise land. (So where we start is not necessary where we will finish)
- So although, we are introduced here to Joshua, it was not overnight that Israel was able to occupy the promise land promised to them and in fact as many of you may know Moses would not actually be allowed to enter that land with Israel but would only see it from a distance and the baton would be given to Joshua to lead the people there.

**2-People in Position (17:9-10)**

- Moses was called by God to lead and orchestrate players in position. His was to give vision as it was birth to him through the voice of God. God also let him know that ultimately he would not have to do everything alone but that God would send him assistance.
- Joshua was compliant in recruiting men to fight on the battlefield.
- Joshua assumed his position on the battlefield while Moses was postured in the position of prayer on top of the hill, with Aaron and Hur one on each side of him.
- It is important for us to be in position and play our role.
- Both position and posture are equally important.

**Fun Facts:**

- Aaron was Moses' brother, and the.
- Hur was Moses' brother-in-law.
- God did not need the entire consensus of Israel to lead them to the promise land but Moses and a few faithful men to accomplish this particular task.

### **3-Power of Prayer, Partnership & Perseverance (17:12-13)**

- Lifting of Moses hand represented both the presence and power of God.
- Moses partnered with both Aaron and Hur to accompany him to the hill.
- We are not certain if either Moses or his companions knew all that was needed to accomplish that which God sent him to do, but Moses had enough sense not to try and go alone.
- Moses was called to give vision and be obedient to what God called him to do but it was his companions who served pivotal roles in giving him that extra support to accomplish his task by holding his hands up.
- Moses lifted hand was equally if not more powerful then Joshua's physical presence on the battlefield. See Joshua brought the brute force and military might but how many of us know we need some folks praying with and for us when we go to battle, particularly when we are called to accomplish an assignment from God?
- Moses persevered but not without the assistance of both Aaron and Hur, holding up his hands.
- All of us, should learn the power of keeping our hands up to God in the posture of prayer.
- It also alright to solicit the assistance of others.
- We should be willing to assist others by way of holding them up, physically and spiritually.
- There is power in partnership, supporting roles should never be discounted.
- We are always better together.
- Often our journey of more humble beginnings may evolve into something larger.

### **4-Preservation of the Plateau**

- Praise God for pivotal position.
- Preserve prize moments and document them for others to revisit.
- Enemies of God will ultimately pay a penalty. See we don't want to be on the wrong side of history. Such was the case of the Confederate Army here in America. (Sometimes I fear for us as a nation as we were built on the oppression of so many, from Native Americans to the backs of slave labor and then we attempt to twist the narrative or whitewash it all as if it never existed).

### **Questions to Consider:**

- Each character in our pericope played a role towards God's bigger or ultimate plan; how would you define each in terms of importance?
- As we reflect on our various positions and roles in life, who are we supporting?
- Who is supporting us?
- How have we fitted in God's ultimate plan so far?
- Have our position shifted along life's journey from supporting to being supported, or vice versa?