

# Exodus 17:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Moses built an altar, and called the name of it Jehovah-nissi:

## Analysis

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**And Moses built an altar, and called the name of it Jehovahnissi**—Moses' altar commemorates victory through worship. The name יְהוָה נִסִּי (YHWH-Nissi, 'The LORD is my banner') proclaims that God Himself is Israel's standard/ensign under which they fought. Ancient armies rallied around visible banners; Israel rallies around invisible YHWH. The altar's name teaches that worship recognizes God as source of victory. This anticipates Christ lifted up on the cross becoming the banner drawing all nations (John 12:32, Isa 11:10). The altar at Rephidim—place of thirst and warfare—shows that locations of testing become sites of worship when faith triumphs. Moses' immediate response of building an altar models giving God glory before proceeding.

## Historical Context

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This altar likely served for thank offerings. Its name entered Israel's theological vocabulary as declaration that YHWH goes before His people as their rallying point in battle.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

## Study Questions

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1. How does God being our 'banner' differ from human military standards or national flags?
2. What does building an altar at the place of testing teach about transforming trials into worship?

## Interlinear Text

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בָּנָה וְיַעֲשֵׂה מִזְבֵּחַ וְיִקְרַב אַנְשֵׁים וְיִשְׁמַע שְׁמִי  
built And Moses an altar and called the name H3068 H5251  
H1129 H4872 H4196 H7121 H8034

## Additional Cross-References

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**Genesis 22:14** (Parallel theme): And Abraham called the name of that place Jehovah-jireh: as it is said to this day, In the mount of the LORD it shall be seen.

**Judges 6:24** (Sacrifice): Then Gideon built an altar there unto the LORD, and called it Jehovah-shalom: unto this day it is yet in Ophrah of the Abiezrites.

**Psalms 60:4** (Parallel theme): Thou hast given a banner to them that fear thee, that it may be displayed because of the truth. Selah.

**Genesis 33:20** (Sacrifice): And he erected there an altar, and called it El-elohe-Israel.