



RAISING THE STANDARD

A Quarterly Newsletter Dedicated To Banner Bearers Everywhere

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“What is in Your Hand?” Exodus 4:2

What a strange question for the Lord to ask Moses. It reminds me of a similar question God asked Adam in the garden, when he asks, “Adam, where are you?” I believe both questions were power packed and complex. The ministry we serve in is also power packed and complex. Some view the ministry as a beautiful addition to a Sunday morning presentation or a colorful expression of worship with marked limitations. The Lord has been revealing Himself at an unprecedented rate all over the globe. Whether it is in the manifestations of fragrance, music, creative sounds and movement, or in color, He is showing sides of Himself in the body as we learn what the true essence of being fitly joined together means as the Word describes in Ephesians chapter 4.

Houses of prayer and worship are springing up all over the globe, in the most elaborate of places and more simple. Each one of us plays a part in bringing forth unique expressions of worship. For those of us called to Banner ministry it is time for us to ask ourselves, “What is in your hand?” How much more effective our ministry could be if we better understand the Lord’s questions. I know many of you have been in banner ministry many years, as I have been myself, however we still need to re-evaluate and challenge ourselves to stay fresh and on target with the Lord in the purposes He has for our ministries.

Why would the Lord ask Moses such a question? Why would he ask us? Chuck Pierce and many other prophets have been talking about shifts for the last 18 months. It is time of re-evaluation personally and corporately as the Body of Christ.

Do you have a vision statement for your church team of personal ministry? Are you on target? Have you pursued further revelation regarding this ministry of the banner? How is the ministry affecting you personally, corporately or your city? As we look at Exodus chapter 4 we can learn a lot about the Lord and see ourselves in Moses and his reactions to the tests set before him. Here we see the Lord giving Moses a history lesson on what will transpire over time with regards to the Hebrew children and Pharaoh. He had just met Him at the burning bush and was introduced to Him as “I AM”. Yet after this incredible encounter we find Moses saying, “Suppose they do not believe me?”

Have you felt that way as you have tried to introduce something new into the present situation at your church, trying to share how wonderful and majestic the ministry of Jehovah

Nissi is? Don’t be discouraged, there is a perfect time for all things.

The Lord instructed Moses to cast his rod to the ground where it then became a serpent. It was transformed by God’s power into something else. I think of how even though Pharaoh’s magicians turned their rods into snakes as well, Moses’ snake ate them all. He beat them at their own game so to speak. It reminds me of Psalm 74:4. Even though the enemy sets up signs for ensigns, we raise up Jehovah Nissi the Banner; the banner of Love; love that conquers death. As we raise the Standard we beat the enemy at his own game just like Moses did by the power of God.

In verses 6 thru 8 we see yet another challenge for Moses’ faith. The leprous hand. How many of us in ministry struggle with sin in one way or another? Some have sins, which are obvious, others are hidden. But God’s love and forgiveness surpasses any sin we may have. We must remember Psalm 24, “Who can ascend the hill of the Lord? One with clean hands and a pure heart.” We must keep ourselves in check. Take responsibility for what is yours and allow God to cleanse any leprosy in your life.

The Rod of God, The Standard of the Lord represents His power, His character, and all that He represents in whichever form He chooses. We see this displayed all through Exodus. God shows Himself strong in so many different ways. His power is released over and over again through this simple rod belonging to the Shepherd, Moses. The Shepard who became a leader and a deliverer. It was Exodus 17 where we see Moses establishing the name Jehovah Nissi, the Lord my banner. The Lord has continued throughout history to establish His name whenever His standard is raised.

As you consider the question posed to you at the beginning of this teaching, I trust you will be blessed as the Lord asks you personally, “What do you have in your hand?”

Banner Bearers, “Raise the Standard”, in your own lives first being those living epistles known and read by all men. Secondly by sharing and imparting your gifts so that you become part of the joint that supplies the body, and thirdly, go and teach that the earth might be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord!