



# sermon notes

## KINGDOM PROSPERITY – PART 2 Ps Dave Connell

Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2026

Conflict in the world today...the **breaking of a stronghold** that has  
- kept a beautiful nation/people oppressed for years  
- behind most terrorism

### 1. The Context of Judges 6

In the Book of Judges 6, Israel is oppressed.

#### Judges 6:2-4, 6

*[2] The crushing power of the Midianites overwhelmed Israel, forcing the Israelites to make hiding places for themselves in caves and mountain strongholds. [3] **Whenever the Israelites planted any crops, and before they could reap the harvest, the Midianites would come with the Amalekites and other desert tribes and invade the land. [4] They would camp in their fields and destroy their crops as far as Gaza. They would seize all their sheep, cattle, and donkeys. They left nothing for the Israelites to live on.***

*[6] **Israel was impoverished and helpless against them. Then the Israelites, with shattered hearts, cried out to Yahweh for mercy.***

#### vs 3

*“Whenever the Israelites planted crops, the Midianites, the Amalekites and other eastern peoples invaded...”*

So, this is not random — **it's a combined/multi-faceted oppression model.**

#### There are two main influences of the Scriptures name:

- Amalek
- Midian

Today we will look at one of them — **Amalek** — and how it works today. (Next week Midian)

### 2. The War with Amalek

Exodus 17:16 AMPC

*And he (Moses) said, Because **Amalek's hand is a hand against the throne of the Lord, the Lord will have war with Amalek from generation to generation.***

**This is not ethnic vengeance.**

It is divine opposition to predatory systems, spirits, and heart attitudes.



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The phrase “from generation to generation” tells us something important:

*The contention against systems, mindsets, and forces that oppose God’s life-giving purposes continues.*

## **Every generation must confront its own expressions of Amalek & Midian**

Nearly every deliverer /leader in Scripture encountered this enemy:

- Moses – Joshua – Gideon – Saul – David – Esther - Jesus

Amalek becomes a recurring anti-Christ/ Kingdom force that appears at key moments

- Emergence – Transition – Inheritance - Deliverance

**Whenever people are stepping into God’s purpose, Amalek often appears.**

### **3. The Roots of Amalek**

To understand Amalek, we have to look at where it came from. Amalek was raised in the tents of Esau.

Esau’s story includes several defining moments:

- He despises his birthright (Genesis 25:34) - He loses the blessing to Jacob - He reacts in anger

**So the emotional atmosphere around Esau’s line includes:**

- Loss of inheritance – Resentment - A sense of injustice - Anger toward Jacob’s line

If Amalek grows up in that narrative, **he grows up hearing a repeated story:** “*Jacob stole what was ours.*”

When stories of loss or injustice are repeated for generations, it forms a **culture of grievance.**

Amalek can represent the manifesting of unresolved grievance — a people defined by what they believe was taken from them.

### **Amalek represents:**

- Bitter resentment toward others  
- Identity built around offense & grievance

### **4. The Strategy of Amalek**

Amalek’s strategy appears consistently throughout Scripture.

Amalek represents:

1. Opportunistic aggression  
They attack when you’re fatigued.



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## 2. Assault on the vulnerable

They strike the weak edges of the community.

## 3. Warfare against emerging identity

Israel is newly free, but not yet fully formed.

So, Amalek does not primarily target strength - It targets transition vulnerability.

Amalek tries to strip people of courage - It is deeply intimidating.

## 5. Modern “Amalek”

Modern “Amalek” is anything that:

- Targets the discouraged - Attacks identity - Amplifies shame - Exploits vulnerability

*These forces appear whenever people are moving toward freedom, purpose, or inheritance.*

## 6. A Powerful Prosperity Insight

Prosperity in Judges 6 is not defined by more crops.

Prosperity is:

Freedom from systems that devour harvest.

Freedom from fear that devours identity.

## 7. The Contrast with Jacob

Jacob is transformed.

In Genesis 32, Jacob wrestles with God and becomes Israel.

His identity changes through encounter with God.

So we see two very different generational paths:

One line is transformed through encounter.

The other line continues through resentment.

## 8. The Partnership That Creates Poverty

In Judges 6, Midian and Amalek partner together.

- One devours the harvest.
- The other exploits weakness.

That combination keeps people and societies impoverished.

## Look at what happens in Judges 6:2.

Israel hides in:

- Caves - Dens - Strongholds in the mountains



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## **Gideon himself was found “Threshing wheat in a winepress.”**

A winepress is a hole in the ground.

Threshing normally happens on a hilltop where wind separates grain from chaff. So Gideon is threshing in hiding.

### **9. The Result: Shrinking People**

**Oppression produces spiritual and emotional shrinkage.**

People who were meant to inhabit land now live underground.

They move from inheritance thinking to survival thinking.

People still work... but they work:

- Small - Hidden - Afraid

### **10. The Real Cause**

Judges 6 begins by revealing the real cause.

Israel had let their internal life drift.

They:

- Turned from the ways of God - Neglected or lost their identity - Adopted the false gods of the surrounding culture - Trusted those ways and systems for prosperity

*When identity drifts, oppression gains access.*

*And when people forget who they are, Amalek finds opportunity.*

### **11. God Speaks Identity Before Circumstances Change**

Judges 6:12:

*“The LORD is with you, mighty warrior.”*

At that moment Gideon is:

- Hiding - Afraid - Living under oppression

Nothing about his situation looks like a mighty warrior.

*But God speaks identity before transformation.*

*He calls out who Gideon really is, not what Gideon currently feels like.*

*This is often how God breaks the cycle of oppression.*

*He restores identity first.*

### **12. Breaking the Amalek Cycle**

Remember what Amalek represents:

- Grievance - Intimidation - Attacks on identity - Exploiting weakness



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**God breaks that cycle firstly by restoring who people believe they are.**

Before Gideon fights Midian...

Before the army gathers...

Before the victory comes...

God restores Gideon's identity.

**When identity returns, fear loses its power.**

## 13. A Word for Every Generation

*"The LORD will have war with Amalek from generation to generation."*

1. Every generation will experience offence of some kind or degree that has the power to shape generational lines
2. Every generation will decide the alignment of their life
3. Every generation must confront forces that try to:

- Steal courage - Attack identity - Exploit vulnerability

**But God also raises up people in every generation.**

People who may feel:

- Hidden - Small - Uncertain

But God still speaks over them: "The LORD is with you, mighty warrior."

Today God calls you!

Maybe grievance sits in your life - allow it to be resolved > not like the spirit of Amalek/ Esau

Maybe you are facing a form of oppression

- family
- personal