

MOSES

They must trust the LORD. It is he who provides for us. Now Joshua, tell us what you and Caleb have learned.

JOSHUA

As you asked, Moses, Caleb and I crept up to the Amalekite camp.

AARON

The Amalekites? Why would you do that?

MOSES

I asked them to find out where the Amalekites are camped and to see if they could gather some information. Are the Amalekites aware of our presence? Are they planning a raid?

MIRIAM

(suddenly frightened)

A raid? Why would they do that?

MOSES

Miriam, the Amalekites are a warlike tribe. They enrich themselves by raiding other tribes, stealing their livestock, and if they regard the tribe as a sufficient threat they capture and enslave the women and children and kill the men.

MIRIAM

(terrified)

No! Are they going to raid our camp?

MOSES

Joshua-Caleb-- what news?

CALEB

We captured one of their shepherds out with his flock. With a bit of pressure he told us the Amalekite elders know of our presence here and they are not happy.

Side 1

START >>>

JOSHUA

We were in Elim just when they planned to come with their flocks and tribe, and now they have followed us. They are camped on the other side of these hills just to the East of us. I think they are just waiting and planning to attack.

AARON

Then we must be ready for them. Moses do you know what tactics they use?

HUR

You have lived in Midian, you must know of their ways.

MOSES

I do.

MIRIAM

Can we negotiate with them? We should be able to live in peace with one another.

MOSES

I know the Amalekites. They are fierce and consider negotiation to be a sign of weakness. They make treaties only to lull pacify enemies. Then they attack.

AARON

You said you know their ways...

HUR

What are their tactics?

MOSES

They usually start with a sneak attack. At the break of day they send boys in to sneak in and wake up the flocks of the tribe they are attacking. With sticks and knives they get the flocks running about in a panic.

(MORE)

MOSES (CONT'D)

This wakes the people of the tribe, and as the people come out of their tents--sleepy and disoriented, the archers of Amalek-- who remain at the back of their army-- fire arrows tipped with tar and set alight into the tents of the tribe they are attacking. Then as the people panic--trying to save their tents, trying to round up their flocks or trying to flee, the Amalekites swoop down to slaughter, capture and enslave. They are ruthless.

AARON

We can fight them. They don't know that we have Moses, who already knows their tactics.

HUR

We should raid their camp first--a surprise attack!

MOSES

It would be unjust. We must only fight in self defense, and with a good chance of winning.

JOSHUA

I've been thinking...We can use their own tactics against them.

MOSES

How do you mean?

JOSHUA

I will take some of our best young men with our swords and shields and hide in the hills above the pass they will use to attack us. In the meantime, Miriam and Aaron prepare the people. The older men must hide in our tents prepared to fight. When the Amalekite boys come in to stir up the flocks we let them. The Amalekites will believe all is well. We let them fire some fire arrows, and the women and children must be told run out and scream and run about as if they are terrified.

CALEB

(catching Joshua's
plan...)

Then, after the first fire arrows
we come down from the hills behind
the archers and attack.

JOSHUA

By then the fighting men of the
Amalekites will be swooping down on
our camp.

CALEB

Yes! I see it! Our older men in the
tents are waiting for them.

AARON

The older men fight from the front
and the younger men hidden in the
hills fight from the rear.

MOSES

Joshua, was there any indication
from the shepherd you questioned as
when the attack might come?

JOSHUA

He said the Amalekite elders were
making ready and it might come at
any time. If you wish I will take
up my post with my men in the hills
above the pass tonight and wait for
them. When the first fire arrows
are fired that will be the signal
that the battle has begun.

<<< END

MOSES

Joshua and Caleb-- gather the men
and engage the Amalekites in
battle. I will come with you onto
the hillside.

AARON

Hur and I will ready the older men
here in the camp. Miriam will
prepare the women and children,
then Hur and I will join you Moses,
to let you know all is ready.

MOSES

Joshua, I will be there with you on
the mountain, and I will give you
the signal to attack once I have
the word from the LORD.

(MORE)