

Worship Tools – Flags



Preface:

- God’s greatest calling on our life is to be a worshipper. Worship is our response to God’s love for us. Worship is what we were created for. Worship is a lifestyle. Worship is the one thing we can do on earth that we will still be doing in heaven.
- Don’t have to be a trained or highly skilled dancer to use worship tools (most people in Bible who used symbolic instruments or did prophetic acts were not dancers – e.g. Moses, Gideon, Joshua, Jesus)
- Most Important Things to Remember When Using Worship Tools:
 - ▶ Submitted to God (Romans 12:1)
 - ▶ Sowing to the Spirit, not the flesh (Galatians 6:8)
 - ▶ What is in our heart (1 Samuel 16:7)

Some Purposes for Flags

- Represent Country / Kingdom
- Declare a message
- Signal
- Stake a claim to territory

Biblical Uses of Flags

- Flags mentioned in Bible usually translated: Banner, Ensign, Standard
- Different terms used for Flags in the Bible (Hebrew):
 - nêç** (Strong’s H 5251) – a flag; also a sail; by implication, a flagstaff; generally a signal; figuratively, a token
 - a. Pole (Numbers 21:8-9)
 - b. Ensign, Banner (Isaiah 5:26, 11:10-12, 13:2, 18:3, 30:17, 31:9, Psalm 60:4)
 - c. Standard (Isaiah 49:22, 62:10, Jeremiah 4:6, 21, 50:2, 51:12, 27)
 - nâçaç** (Strong’s H 5264) – a primitive root; to gleam from afar, i.e. to be conspicuous as a signal; the idea of a flag as fluttering in the wind; to raise a beacon (Zechariah 9:16)
 - degel** (Strong’s H 1714) – a military standard for a large division of an army (Numbers 1:52)
- First mention of “Banner” in Bible – **Exodus 17:15** – “The Lord is my Banner” (Jehovah-Nissi) – Lord calls Himself a Banner
- **Song of Songs 2:4** – “...His banner over me is love.” – Declaring a message over us (God is love, declaring Who He is)

3 Main Purposes for Banners in the Bible

1. Identification

Numbers 1:52, 2:2 - Each tribe of Israel had own banner to identify themselves

- God Himself is our banner – our identity is in Him
- When we wave a flag or banner, we are identifying/declaring who God is, who He is to us
e.g. Gold – “Glory of God” – Waving a gold flag declares that aspect of who God is (His glory). Refer to Biblical Color Significance for more understanding of color symbolism.



3 Main Purposes for Banners in the Bible (cont.)

2. Claim Rulership or Possession of a Territory

- Most references to banners or standards in Bible are military in context
 - “Our worship is warfare” – As we praise & worship, God is setting ambushes, delivering us
- 2 Corinthians 10:4 (NIV)** – “*The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds.*”

Some military references to banners:

Song of Songs 6:4

Isaiah 31:8-9

Jeremiah 4:6, 19-21, 51:12, 27

3. Celebration and Symbol of Victory

Exodus 17:15, Psalm 20:5, 60:4, Zechariah 9:16,

Banners were also used to rally the people

Isaiah 5:26, Isaiah 11:10-12, 18:3, 49:22, 62:10, John 12:32

Using Banners to Declare the Word of God

- Banners can be used to symbolically declare, decree and proclaim the Word of God
- Job 22:28 (AMP)** – “*...decree a thing, and it shall be established for you; and the light [of God’s favor] shall shine upon your ways.*”

Jeremiah 50:2 (NIV) – “*Announce and proclaim among the nations, lift up a banner and proclaim it...*”

- Remember, there is no power in tool itself, but when we yield to God and act in faith and obedience (like Moses), we are making a powerful declaration in spirit realm.
- Banners are powerful when used in unity in a corporate setting (Matthew 18:18-20).
- Banners are a point of contact to express what is in our heart and release it into the atmosphere (we confess with our mouth and believe in our heart – Romans 10:9).
- It is important to live the life of a worshipper, daily abiding in His presence.
- Whatever we dedicate to Lord becomes holy, set apart for His use.