

Overcoming Cycles of Amalek

by Ariel Bar Tzadok

Copyright © 2013 by Ariel Bar Tzadok. All rights reserved.

**Those who do not take a stand against evil,
will in the end, be overcome by it.**

**Those who tolerate evil in their midst
will eventually tolerate evil in their hearts.**

**Those who are silent before evil,
will in the end be silenced by evil.**

When the nation fasts, those who remember the sins of the past, stand a chance not to repeat them. When the nation fasts, and those who do so, act only by rote, or by custom, but not knowing in their hearts the sins of the past, they stand ripe to repeat the same old sins in the present, and in the future.

Life goes in cycles. We always come back to a place that we have been in the past. Yet, we always have choices. We can, and do, choose, whether we wish to make things better, or to make things worse. Opportunities abound, yet, when we fail to take advantage of a blessing, we stand the chance of turning that blessing into a curse.

We can fix the past right now in the present. All we have to do is to choose change. But how many are really willing to stand up against the crowd, against the flood of continuity, and be different, and make a difference? No, not many want to be different, even if that difference is the right and necessary thing.

The reason why the past never gets fixed is because no one is willing to stand up, and take a position to plot a new and proper course. How can there be change when no one wants to admit, and address what is really wrong?

"And the Lord said: "Because this people has come near, with their mouth and with their lips they honor Me, but their heart they draw far away from Me, and their fear of Me has become a command of people, which has been taught. Therefore, I will continue to perform obscurity to this people, obscurity upon obscurity, and the wisdom of his wise men shall be lost, and the understanding of his geniuses shall be hidden." (Isaiah 29:13-14)

If our hearts are far from God, then wisdom is removed from the wise, and understanding is hidden from the community leaders. Such leaders are leaders in

name only. Yet, they have no wisdom, no understanding, and no leadership to offer the community. Thus, as they have already fallen, so too all who follow them are destined to fall.

In the past, many have fallen, living in prosperity and peace until the very last moment, when doom came upon them. As it was in the past, so too will it be in the future. There is nothing new under the sun.

The cycle of old will continue until the individuals thereon decide not to go around and around again. When the individuals make the choice to stand out, and stand apart, only then will others come join them. Only then can we begin the end of the old cycle and the beginning of the new.

It has been taught long ago that evil resides everywhere. Evil resides in the world at large, it resides within Israel, the people and the land, and worst of all, evil resides within the human heart. **Combating evil, therefore, becomes our primary human obligation.**

Evil has been given a symbolic name, taken from the pages of the Bible itself. Evil is symbolically called Amalek, after the name of the nation which God Himself has declared war against. *“There shall be a war for the Lord against Amalek from generation to generation”* (Exodus 17:16).

Later Sages have turned to identify Amalek, not so much as an actual nation of individuals, but rather as personality types and behaviors that can be found in almost everyone. Essentially, **Amalek has been symbolically transformed from being a nationality, and into a personality trait.**

Amalek is referred to as the master of argument. Amalek is defined as the vicious, religious hypocrite who always seeks to create strife, division, and hatred.

Amalek separates himself from all others with a spirit of elitism, racism, and false superiority.

Amalek always believes himself to be the people of God, whereas at the same time, Amalek is always first in pointing his finger against the true children of God, condemning them for being what Amalek himself is.

Amalek is like a virus, small, deadly, and often unrecognized until it is too late. Amalek is the evil amongst us that unless we expose, denounce and cast off, there can never be peace within our communities, or our world. For Amalek, left unchecked, spreads its viral infection of hate and divisiveness.

The spirit of Amalek has already been responsible for so much suffering and evil in the world, ***it is no wonder that there is a fast day dedicated to mourn all the loss, pain and suffering brought on by Amalek, upon the nation that he has infiltrated, and spares no effort to destroy from within.***

The Bible is clear that there is an ongoing war with Amalek, the evil within our midst, and within our hearts.

If we fall short to actively rise up to recognize, condemn and take action against Amalek, Amalek will succeed again in bringing about further destruction, devastation, pain and suffering upon all his intended victims, and the many more who do nothing but tolerate the presence of evil within our midst.