

# Amalek

## Parshat Zakhor

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In our Torah tradition the Shabat before Purim we publicly read the Biblical commandment never to forget the evil perpetuated by the most violent and godless people of all time, Amalek. G-d Himself swore that He would utterly destroy Amalek from under the Heavens. For centuries our Sages have always identified Amalek as not so much being a nation defined by location or by bloodline, but rather by attitude.

Amalek is the attitude of anti-Semitism, the utter and irrational hatred of Jews, Judaism, Torah, religion and ultimately G-d Himself. Today, Amalek can be found in many forms, some of them even within the greater Jewish community at large. We know to recognize Amalek in the Nazis of Germany and in modern Muslim extremism that seeks to exterminate all Jews as did the Nazis. Amalek does not exist only amongst the nations; Amalek also exists within us. While we recognize the face of the enemy we fail to take the appropriate measures to fulfill the Biblical command to wipe out Amalek.

It is a well known fact in Jewish circles that the worst type of anti-Semite is the self-hating Jew. The Jew who hates his own has caused more harm to Jews, Judaism and Torah than anyone else. One can look at some of the most infamous names in history and see Jews whose anti-religious attitudes and behavior have caused much damage to Torah and religion in general.

The two most recent and famous examples of this are Karl Mark, father of communism and Sigmund Freud, father of psychoanalysis. One can easily see in their writings a vehement hatred of both G-d and religion. They both desperately and irrationally sought to displace Torah and religion with other systems. The intent of both was clearly to destroy the past and to build a future created in their own images. Needless to say, both communism and psychoanalysis have failed to provide any solutions for the troubles in our world. Their claims of superiority have been so comprehensively disproven. Let us also not forget the harm done to us by Tomás de Torquemada, the founder of the Spanish Inquisition, responsible for the



torture and deaths of thousands of Jews. Little remembered by history is the fact that he was born of Jewish blood. There are numerous other examples that can be given.

The attitude of hatred towards Torah and religion is what drives Amalek and it is also how he is recognized. Amalek rears his ugly head in many different ways today. We are all subject to his venomous assaults and we are all equally next to powerless to prevent them. Yet, the Biblical commandment to destroy Amalek from the Earth remains. Those who follow Torah are thereby obligated to fulfill this commandment as we would any other. Yet, how can we fulfill this commandment to wage war? What can we do today that can lead to the destruction of Amalek?

The answer to these questions is not as difficult as it might appear. War against Amalek is conducted as is any physical war, first with recon, second with psych-ops, third with guerilla attacks and then after the enemy has been weakened and forced into positions of defense and retreat, a final all out assault. Still, Amalek today is not a people or nation. We cannot fight Amalek with violence and weapons as we would fight a physical war. I only wish a weapon could kill an attitude, but we all know it cannot. Weapons create martyrs and they only create more enemies.

Physical violence, therefore, is never the answer to destroying the attitude of Amalek. Amalek has survived throughout the centuries just because of this. His bloodline may be no more, but his spirit is as strong as ever. The spirit of Amalek must be attacked and destroyed if we ever wish to stop it from finding new homes in new people in new generations.

The first step in battle is recon. We must do reconnaissance. We must discover who the true anti-Semite is; especially we must discover the self hating Jews who are Amalek at its worst. Psychological operations can be done simultaneously to this process of discovery and identification. We must publicize the dangers we face from such attitudes and the people who embrace them. Religious authors around the world must pen articles, essays and books and publicly expose the general danger of self-hating Jews and the damage they cause everyone, Jew and non-Jew alike. We must educate the public and solicit their support to find these malevolent self-haters and to withdraw from them any and all types of support. We must portray them as the public dangers they truly are.

We then move to guerilla assault tactics. This is when we identify specific individuals, or organizations that act with the anti-religious and anti-Torah zeal of Amalek. We publicly identify them by name, showing the world their words, their attitudes and their true agendas to recreate the world in the own nefarious images. We attack them with words, demonstrations and boycotts. We fight them with the power of the public. We give them no peace. We cannot attack any individual physically because violence is both immoral and illegal. Nonetheless, if any such individual or organization is itself planning or implementing acts of violence, then indeed physical violence is the proper course of action. Torah teaches us to make preemptive strikes and not to simply wait to respond in reprisal. As Kohelet teaches, there is a time and place for all things under Heaven.

Remember, violence does not win a war. Killing the enemy only leads to his being replaced. The true victory in war is the conquering of the enemy's ideas and attitudes. Only when we defeated Nazism did it cease being a force in Germany. Yet because the attitude was not wiped out entirely, its spirit survived and was reborn in both Germany and the world.

Vigilance in battle is essential for any victory. One cannot just win a battle and expect that to win the war. Attitude killing is what we must do. It is the only way to win against Amalek. If we cannot kill out the attitude of Amalek from within the Jewish community at large, we will never succeed in killing it amongst the nations.

The battle begins at home and it cannot be fought alone by single individuals. The war against Amalek is a Biblical commandment incumbent upon all Torah faithful Jews. There must be union amongst the ranks of the Torah camp in order for there to be success. Indeed, Amalek is identified in Israel as those who seek to create division and cause strife. Amalek works hardest and best when he sews dissention amongst the Torah camp causing there to be irreparable breaches of unity. Amalek today can call himself a Jew or an Israeli. He may even wear a kippah, black or crocheted. Nonetheless, within his heart, the swastika still reigns.

We are obligated by Torah law to destroy Amalek wherever he is to be found and therefore we must expose all self hating Jews. We must declare them forthright not to be our brothers. We must publicly declare their attitudes and behaviors to be enemies of Torah, of Judaism and of religion in general. We must never be silent. We must never give our enemies a moment of peace. We must fight the way that we can, with the best tools available to us. Physical violence will not win this war, psychological operations against the attitudes of hate is our best chance.

Before we can wage the war against Amalek at large in the world, we must first wage the war against Amalek found amongst our own, amongst those who may well be leading us, amongst those who weaken our efforts and leave us open to devastating attacks.

If you follow Torah then you must fulfill the Biblical obligation. Put down your gun and pick up your smarts. Learn how to expose and embarrass our internal enemies. Expose them for the hypocrites they are, expose them for the liars they are, expose them for being the cowards they are. Expose them for the enemies they are, hostile to everything holy.

Remember Amalek and fight him well. And also, remember this, Amalek remembers you and he fights you with vigor and venom. Fight back while you still can.