



### Note well - written in 2018

Shabbat Zachor precedes the Purim reading of the Megila which relates of the callous wickedness of the arch Jew-hater, Haman. Haman is a descendant of Amalek whose memory we are commanded to obliterate, while yet recalling what he did to us as we left Egypt (Sh'mot 17:8-15; D'varim 25:17).

The Torah tells us that this imperative is everlasting, to be cemented in our collective Jewish consciousness.

Why? Perhaps, because Amalek emerges in every generation, seemingly out of nowhere. Tanach reveals that the Amalekites originally consisted of bands of nomads, spread over a vast region from North Sinai to Ein Gedi and to Edom in the east.

And note that when Yehoshua fights Amalek, he "weakens Amalek and his people". Now that Israel is a nation, "suddenly" Amalek is unified. Then Amalek is spotted in the valley by Bilaam and later, Amalek together with local entities, is found wreaking havoc for our people in the Jezreel Valley.

Moreover, after these incidents, when King Sha'ul is crowned, "suddenly" a king, Agag, surfaces for Amalek.

Yes, "Amalek" is a perennial leech, latching on to us. Like Haman and Hitler - whose "Germania" is said in the Talmud to descend from Israel's nemesis, Eisav, the grandfather of Amalek - his hate of Jews knows no boundaries. And in our time, could we not postulate that the unification of two Germanys, of the EU, and of the "Seventy nations" under the UN, have all served to create a joint Amaleki front against Israel and the Jews? - Aha! - Never to forget! **MP**