



PhiloTorah D'var Torah

Zachor, What?

Amalek? Of course. But actually, it is what Amalek did that we are commanded to remember.

Is that it? Once upon a time, a long time ago...

No, obviously there is more. Because, as the Torah declares, the fight against Amalek is MIDOR DOR, from generation to generation.

Haman and the Holocaust used to be the big examples of our Amalek experiences. So too the Inquisition, many pogroms, and so on. And sadly, we need not only look into the past. Hamas and Iran and its other terror proxies - AD HAYOM HAZEH, until this very day.

But it is much more than remembering things that happen. There is another important angle to explore. And to ponder. And to resolve. And to do something about.

What our mitzva of Zachor should include is to remember what we were lacking, so that an Amalek can threaten us in the first place. What makes us vulnerable to be threatened and attacked by our enemies?

To see that this is part of Zachor,

should be part of Zachor - we should note the passages that immediately precede the two Amalek portions in the Torah.

Vayavo Amalek at the end of B'shalach, tells of the original attack. Right before that, we read of the episode at Mei M'riva, when the people bitterly complain about the lack of water to drink. And it was not just, "Help us; we are thirsty. Look at their very harsh words they used in their complaint. Why did you take us out of Egypt to kill us and our children and our animals with thirst. They seem to be saying, says the Torah, Is God in our midst or not?

Lack of faith, Emunah, trust in G-d - BOOM! Amalek comes...

Then, to Parshat Zachor at the end of Ki Teitzei - right before that, we find the commands of having true weights and measures (and not cheating in business) - about which the Torah says - "For whoever does these things, whoever perpetrates such injustice, is an abomination to HaShem, your God." Sin on Bein Adam LaChaveiro - interpersonal - matters - BOOM! Remember what Amalek did. And also remember what makes you vulnerable to the Amaleks of the world.

Do we really know what makes us vulnerable to Amalek. No. But this is a good and challenging guess **PTDT**