



Purim 5781

February 27, 2021

The story of Purim is the story of the hatred of Abraham's descendants that originated in and then spread from one group of people throughout all the earth. It was the Amalekites. Earlier in the service, we read in Exodus 17 how the Amalekites attacked Israel from the rear as they were leaving Israel. At that time, ADONAI said to Moses: *14, "Write this for a memorial in the book, and rehearse it in the hearing of Joshua, for I will utterly blot out the memory of the Amalekites from under heaven"* (Exodus 17:14b TLV). Interestingly enough, *Amalek* was a grandson of *Esav*, *Ya'acov's* brother. Was the Amalekites anger a continuation of the enmity which might have existed between Jacob and Esau? No one knows. There is no Scriptural reference which explains why. But, ADONAI's words are clear. He intended to completely blot out the memory of the Amalekites! Some 500 years after coming out of Egypt, ADONAI had Samuel tell this to King Saul: *2 Thus says Adonai-Tzva'ot: 'I remember what Amalek did to Israel, how he set himself against him on the way while he was coming up from Egypt. 3 Now go and strike down Amalek and put all he has under the ban of destruction—so have no pity on him; but kill both men and women, children and nursing infants, oxen and sheep, camels and donkeys'* (1Samuel 15:2-3 TLV). But, Saul apparently didn't kill all of them, although he eventually did kill King Agag whom he had initially taken as a captive.

The story of *Purim* related in the Book of Esther is about the continuation of the toxic hate which one group of people had for Abraham's descendants and about ADONAI's miraculous deliverance of them from their ancient enemies. Esther chapter 3 introduces us to a man named Haman: *1 Some time later King Ahasuerus promoted Haman, son of Hammedatha the Agagite, elevating him and setting his chair above all the officials who were with him* (Esther 3:1 TLV). Hammedatha, Haman's father was an Agagite, a descendant of King Agag whom King Saul had executed. Haman was also a descendant of this king, an Amalekite. We can understand his need to excel in King Ahasuerus' court and his desire to be recognized, bowed to. He was now second in command. But, we also understand his hatred of Mordecai and his people. Everyone was commanded to bow to Haman, but Mordecai would not: *5 When Haman saw that Mordecai was not bowing down or paying him honor, Haman was filled with rage* (Esther 3:5 TLV). This led Haman to take action against the Jews: *8 Haman then said to King Ahasuerus: "There is a certain people scattered and dispersed among the peoples in all the provinces of your kingdom whose laws differ from those of every other people and who do not obey the king's laws. It is not in the king's interest to tolerate them. 9 If it pleases the king, let an edict be written to destroy them"* (Esther 3:8-9a TLV). And, the king agreed to his plan not knowing who these people were.

The outcome of Purim, the casting of lots for the day to kill the Jews, was ADONAI's miraculous preservation of the people of Israel dwelling in Persia and the destruction of Haman and his relatives. These Jews of Persia did not return to Israel when they were allowed to. The events of the Book of Esther took place about 60 years after Judah was allowed to return to Israel by King Cyrus in 539 BCE. But, for some reason, these Jews did not return. There were thousands of them. Possibly, it was because ADONAI wished to have

Jews dispersed all over the earth as a witness of His eventual regathering of them to the Land of Israel. We don't know why, but we do know that this involved a lot of Jewish people. King Ahasuerus ruled over 127 provinces from India to Ethiopia, a huge kingdom. Jews were living in all of these locations when permission was given to protect themselves and 75,000 of the enemies of the Jews were killed. That Haman failed in his effort to kill all Jews in Persia is important in that the Jews were preserved as a people. About 300 years later, the Jews were again preserved as a people when Judah Maccabee and his army defeated the Syrians and preserved Israel as a nation and a people. This set the stage for ADONAI's Son to be born a Jew in the Land of Israel some 150 years later.

The message of Purim for us today is that the spirit of Amalek is alive and well in the earth today. The spirit of Amalek is pure evil. It is the spirit which inhabits those who don't fear G-d. While there are no physical Amalekites that we know of today, the spirit of Amalek is hard at work here in the United States stirring up hatred, not only against the Jews, but among the various racial groups. The core of the Spirit of Amalek is a love of lies. These haters of the Jews believe that if they tell a lie big enough and keep repeating it, people will eventually come to believe it. This was true with Hitler and the Nazis. Ordinary people fell for the lies that Hitler told!

Amalek's father spirit is the father of all lies and liars, *HaSatan*, the Adversary. *Sha'ul* wrote to the Ephesians: 12 *"For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the worldly forces of this darkness, and against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places"* (Ephesians 6:12 TLV). While our battle is spiritual, it does have physical consequences. Hate turns into action leading to strong words which can then lead physical acts which lead to murder. *Sha'ul* told the Ephesians how to combat this evil. He said to take up the "full armor of G-d," armor which consists of 1) the truth (is G-d's truth). 2) righteousness (is right standing before Him). 3) is the Good News of *shalom* (the *Besorah*, the *Gospel*). 4) Faith (is faith in G-d and faithfulness to Him). 5) Salvation (is to be saved and to take salvation to the world). 6) the Word of G-d, the sword of the Spirit. (is to know the Word very well and to be able to use it offensively and defensively). *Sha'ul* also said this: 3 *"For though we walk in the flesh, we do not wage war according to the flesh. 4 For the weapons of our warfare are not fleshly but powerful through God for the tearing down of strongholds. We are tearing down false arguments 5 and every high-minded thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God. We are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Messiah— 6 ready to punish all disobedience, whenever your obedience is complete"* (2Corinthians 10:3-6 TLV). To tear down false arguments, we must know ADONAI's Word. Study to show yourself approved before G-d! Take every thought of yours captive so that we may obey Messiah Yeshua! To be able to punish disobedience, we must first be obedient to Him. We are called to first prepare ourselves and then to be in prayer against all these evil spirits.

Revival is on the horizon. It is coming! The body of Messiah in the United States knows that it is coming and is proclaiming that it is coming. We are now in a battle, the greatest spiritual battle we have ever faced. In many regards, it is like World War II. I was a child when World War II began. It was an event which initially threatened just the rest of the world, but it soon became clear to President Roosevelt and our leaders that our nation would not be safe by staying out of it. The United States entered whole-heartedly into the war, a war not only to preserve our freedom, but also to rescue the rest of the world. Everyone took part. All fit men went into the services. Some women went into service and many took over

the men's jobs in factories, manufacturing, weapons, ships and planes. Even the children were involved. We helped our parents to flatten tin cans to be sent to the war effort. We helped collect scrap metal. And, we bought war savings stamps and bonds, money which the government used to finance the war effort. We all ate frugally, using our ration books to buy meat and sugar, even tires for our car. Things were in short supply because so much was being used for the war effort. Everyone got involved. This picture of Uncle Sam brought many men and women into the different branches of service.



There were a few conscientious objectors, but the majority of Americans got involved.

We are in a great spiritual battle today and Yeshua is calling His body out of our lethargy, our laziness and our apathy. He is calling all of us who have trusted in Him to come back. Return to the battle field! Return to the righteousness that He has called us to. The spirit of Amalek is widespread in the world today, spreading dissension. But, it is not an original spirit and does not stand on its own. It comes from *HaSatan*, the father of lies, the Adversary. The principalities and powers of the air are his underlings, who along with the individual demon spirits are inhabiting people and spreading this ancient spirit. *HaSatan* is not only underlying the spirit of Amalek, but also is the spirit of the anti-messiah. John wrote: *7 "For many deceivers have gone out into the world—those who do not acknowledge Yeshua as Messiah coming in human flesh. This one is a deceiver and the anti-messiah"* (2John 1:7 TLV). The spirit of the anti-messiah is spreading anti-G-d and anti-Yeshua doctrine not only in our colleges, but also in our public schools, even down to the primary grades. What's happening today is even more serious than World War II because it's a war for the souls of men and women. To defeat *HaSatan*, we must have revival! It's not about others, but about us. Those who know Him must begin the revival. Yeshua wants you!



REVIVAL BEGINS WITH YOU!

Our closing prayer is the closing blessing of the *Birchat HaMazon*, the Blessing After The Meal is our closing prayer: "Blessed are You, O L-rd our G-d, King of the Universe, who

in goodness gives goodness to all, and will continue to benefit us with goodness and gifts for all time and make us worthy of the return of the Messiah and the life of the world to come. May He who causes peace to reign in the high heavens, let peace descend on us and all Israel!" Amen. *Chag Purim Sameach!* **REVIVAL BEGINS WITH YOU!**