

SAMCHAINU GUIDE TO PARSHAS ZACHOR

A SELECTION OF LAWS & CUSTOMS WITH A FOCUS ON SINGLE MOTHER FAMILIES

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The **של"ה הקדוש** writes that learning and properly observing the Halachos of a חג infuse the Yom Tov with tremendous Bracha. Please note that the Halachos and Minhagim contained in this article follow the custom of בני אשכנז.

זכירת מעשה עמלק

On the **שבת** of **פרשת זכור** we have the opportunity to be **מקיים** the מצוה דאורייתא of **מעשה עמלק**. What is unique about **עמלק** that we have a מצוה to forever remember and not forget what they did to us? **רש"י** explains that **יציאת מצרים** and **שמעו עמים ירגזון חיל**, were a tremendous inspiration to all the nations of the world at the time. The **תורה** says, "**אחז יושבי פלשת** - the nations of the world trembled with fear of Hashem. The only nation that was unaffected by the open display of miracles was **עמלק**, who came to fight against the Yidden in the desert. The **פסוק** describing the battle says, **אֲשֶׁר קָרַךְ בְּדֶרֶךְ**. Rashi explains that "**קרך**" means "cooled." **עמלק** had the audacity to confront **בני** at a time when the rest of the world was overcome with inspiration and fear of Hashem. The **תורה** explains that this **עזות** came from **עמלק**'s lack of **יראת שמים**, as the **פסוק** says, "**ולא ירא אלקים**". This "cooling effect" reversed the awesome impact that the **נסים** had on the world. An historic opportunity of worldwide recognition of Hashem was lost due to **עמלק**'s brazen act.

All people have moments in their lives that motivate them to become closer to Hashem. As well-meaning as we are, however, it is difficult to hold on to inspiration. It is our life's mission to try to overcome the forces that seek to cool off the opportunity to grow. By doing so, we succeed in defeating the spirit of **עמלק**, and we bring the world closer to universal recognition of **הקב"ה**.

הלכה

The מצוה of **עמלק** is a מצוה דאורייתא. This obligation is fulfilled by leining the **פסוקים** of **מעשה עמלק** on the **שבת** before **פורים**, since **המן** was a descendant of **עמלק**. There are some opinions that women are obligated in the מצוה. Therefore it is ideal for women to go to shul on the Shabbos preceding **פורים** to hear the **קריאה** of "**זכור**". Otherwise, one should read the pesukim of **עמלק** from inside a Chumash. (דברים כ"ה: י"ז-י"ט)

May we be **זוכה** to the fulfillment of "**ומלאה הארץ דעה את ד'**", when the entire world will know of Hashem, in the days of **Moshiach**, **בימינו**!