

**Joshua – Yehoshua** in Hebrew - is actually a name which is parallel to the name of **Yeshua, Jesus, the Messiah**.

**A**nd we have this incident of Joshua going out to fight this battle and, in a sense, we can see that there is a parallel here with Jesus going out to fight the battle for us, to save us and redeem us from our sins, and give us life in His Name. So, he's coming against Amalek.

**W**hat do we know about Amalek? Amalek was the grandson of Esau. **Genesis chapter 36 verse 12** tells us this. Esau was, of course, Jacob's twin brother. And he becomes a type of Israel's enemies: his constant and inveterate foe if you like. He's related to Jacob and yet he becomes the enemy of Jacob. Some speculate that Amalek may have known of the promise which was given to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, that the children of Israel would come and take the possession of the land, and was aware of this, wanting to stop them from making this possession. And we can see there's a possible fulfillment of this in their attack upon the Israelites now, that they might come and take the land which they were holding in the promised land.

**T**he Bible says that this was a cowardly attack. **Deuteronomy chapter 25** says: **Remember what Amalek did to you on the way as you were coming out of Egypt,<sup>18</sup> how he met you on the way and attacked your rear ranks, all the stragglers at your rear, when you were tired and weary; and he did not fear God.<sup>19</sup> Therefore it shall be, when the Lord your God has given you rest from your enemies all around, in the land which the Lord your God is giving you to possess as an inheritance, that you will blot out the remembrance of Amalek from under heaven. You shall not forget.**

So, Amalek becomes actually more than just an enemy of Israel and we'll see as we go through this that there is a spiritual power which is being mentioned here.

Israel has to fight a physical war with Amalek.

**An unprovoked attack by Amalekites. Moses calls Joshua to lead armies of Israel into battle. First mention of Joshua – Yehoshua in Hebrew parallel with Jesus.**

**Who Were Amalek and the Amalekites?** By Boruch Altein -

[https://www.chabad.org/library/article\\_cdo/aid/3942715/jewish/Who-Were-Amalek-and-the-Amalekites.htm](https://www.chabad.org/library/article_cdo/aid/3942715/jewish/Who-Were-Amalek-and-the-Amalekites.htm)

The Amalekites, descendants of Amalek, were an ancient biblical nation living near the land of Canaan. They were the first nation to attack the Jewish people after the Exodus from Egypt, and they are seen as the archetypal enemy of the Jews. The nation of Amalek is long gone, but they live on as the internal enemies that we each battle on a daily basis.

**Who Was Amalek** Eliphaz, son of Esau (the patriarch Jacob's brother and sworn enemy), and his concubine Timna had a child named Amalek. Amalek grew up in Esau's household, imbibing Esau's pathological hatred of Jacob's descendants along the way. His offspring became the nation of Amalek, and they lived to the south of the Land of Israel, in what is now known as the Negev Desert.

**The Amalekites Attack** After the Jewish people crossed the Red Sea, they encamped in Rephidim, a barren location in the Sinai Desert. The people thirsted for water, and G-d provided a miraculous well of water to accompany them on their journeys.

While the Jews were still at Rephidim, recuperating from their escape from Egypt, the nation of Amalek launched a vicious surprise attack on them—though the Jews had no designs on Amalekite territory and were not even headed in that direction.

Moses commanded his disciple Joshua to take an elite troop of soldiers into battle the next day. Moses himself ascended a nearby mountain to pray for G-d's salvation.

The Jews defeated Amalek in battle, killing their strongest warriors while allowing the others to return home. Following the battle, G-d commanded Moses to record the story of Amalek's treacherous attack for posterity, and to enjoin Moses' future successor, Joshua, to remember the attack as well. G-d promised to completely wipe out the memory of Amalek from the earth, and to wage an eternal war with Amalek in every generation. G-d swore that His name and throne would not be complete until Amalek was destroyed.

**Forty years later**, as the Jews stood poised to enter the Land of Israel, Moses reminded the Jews of the command to combat Amalek.

**The King of Arad** In the fortieth year of the Jews' wandering in the desert, Aaron, the high priest, passed on. The protective clouds of glory that surrounded the Jewish camp disappeared, as they were present only in Aaron's merit. Seeing the exposed encampment, the Canaanite king of Arad launched a savage attack against the Jews.

The sages explain that the king of Arad and his army were actually Amalekites who had merely disguised themselves as Canaanites before entering battle. They wanted to confuse the Jews about their attackers' identity. While the Jews would pray to G-d for salvation from Canaanites, the Amalekites would be free to do whatever they pleased.

The plan backfired. The Jews were victorious, and went on to enter the Land of Israel unimpeded by the Amalekites.

**To Remember and Destroy** The Torah lists two mitzvahs regarding Amalek:

To obliterate the nation of Amalek (timcheh et zecher Amalek).

To never forget the evil deeds Amalek did (zechor al tishkach).

**To Wipe Out Amalek** The mitzvah to destroy Amalek implies that no trace of Amalek's existence could be left. "Nothing," explain the sages, "could serve as a reminder of Amalek's name—not even an animal about which it could be said, 'This animal belonged to Amalek.'" The first Jewish king, Saul, was commanded by the prophet Samuel to finally wipe out Amalek. Saul was victorious against the Amalekites, but spared the choicest of their flocks and the Amalekite king, Agag.

When Samuel found out about Saul's disobedience, Saul lost his right to kingship. Samuel then killed Agag himself. However, before he was killed, Agag sired a child who would keep Amalek's lineage alive. Some 500 years later, one of this child's descendants was Haman the Agagite, of Purim fame.

**To Remember—Parshat Zachor** The Torah commands us to always remember what Amalek did. The sages understand from this that once a year we must read the verses of the Torah where Moses reminds the Jews of Amalek's actions. Indeed, each year on the Shabbat before the holiday of Purim we read the section of the Torah in Deuteronomy recounting Amalek's action. On Purim the Jews were saved from the evil designs of the wicked Haman, a descendant of the Amalekite king Agag ...