

Annual Remembership

Excerpted and adapted from a *shiur* by Rav Baruch Penfil

March 2, 2023

<https://baishavaad.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/8-Tetzaveh-R-Boruch-Penfil-Parshas-Zachor-1-1.mp3>

Remember what Amaleik did to you on the way, when you were leaving Mitzrayim.

Dvarim 25:17

Chazal mandated the annual reading of Parshas Zachor to fulfill the mitzvah of *zechiras* Amaleik. The Magen Avraham (O.C. 60) asks why a special *krias* haTorah was instituted for *zechiras* Amaleik and not for the five other mitzvos *zechirah*: remembering *yetzias* Mitzrayim, *matan* Torah, the *eigel hazahav*, Miriam's *lashon hara*, and Shabbos.

The Magen Avraham answers that we already remember *matan* Torah on Shavuot, *yetzias* Mitzrayim on Pesach, and Shabbos every week. Miriam's story and the *eigel hazahav*, on the other hand, don't have their own readings because they are incidents of *genai* (shame).

There are two ways to understand the Magen Avraham. The Machatzis Hashekel says the Magen Avraham assumed in his question that we fulfill all six mitzvos *de'Oreisa* of *zechirah* once a year when we read them in the regular *krias* haTorah. His question was why Chazal instituted an additional *krias* haTorah for Amaleik but not for the others, and his answer is that some do have an additional reading, but Chazal did not institute special readings for matters that relate to *aveiros*.

Another possible understanding of the Magen Avraham is that all the mitzvos of *zechirah* apply daily.[1] (The Rambam (*Melachim* 5) appears to refer to remembering Amaleik as a mitzvah *temidis*.) The Magen Avraham is asking why there is an additional yearly *krias* haTorah for *zechiras* Amaleik alone, and he answers that in fact there is one for those *zechiros* that do not invoke *genai*.

[1] See the Arizal (cited by the Magen Avraham) who says that one should have these mitzvos in mind each day when reciting specific words in Ahavah Rabah. The Magen Avraham writes this explicitly in his *pirush* on the Sifra (Zayis Ra'anah, Parshas Bechukosai).