

Shivim Panim – Melton Scholar’s Curriculum  
Unit 10 – Amalek  
May 30, 2012

- A) Breishit 36: 10 – 12, 15 - 16
- B) Shmot 17: 8 – 16
  - 1) What do you think might be the purpose, the message, of the matter of the hands of Moshe?
  - 2) From the context of the story, can we venture a guess as to how or in what fashion, God will blot out the memory of Amalek or be at war with him?
  - 3) Do you see any contradiction between verses 14 and 16?
- C) Devarim 25: 17 – 19
  - 1) What might be the meaning here of ‘fear of God’?
  - 2) How might we describe in modern terms the sin of Amalek?
  - 3) What might be the relationship between the blotting out the memory of Amalek mentioned in Shmot, and the blotting out of the memory of Amalek mentioned here in Devarim?
- D) The larger issues
  - 1) Formulate the moral issues created by these verses!
  - 2) Formulate those same moral issues in Scriptural terms!
  - 3) Formulate a possible response to the moral issues!
- E) The Commentaries
  - 1) Commentary Number One - Pesikta Zotarta, page 250 in the textbook (and see the Book of Job 2:11)
  - 2) Commentaries Number Three and Four - Yalkut Shimoni and Midrash Tanhuma, page 252 in the textbook
    - a) What element do both midrashim add that is not to be found explicitly in the text at all?
    - b) Why do you think that the midrashim add this element?
    - c) What is the difference between the two midrashim?
  - 3) Commentary Number Five – Abarbanel, pages 253 – 254
  - 4) Commentary Number Six – Zohar, pages 255 – 256
  - 5) Commentary Number Seven – Rabbi Shimshon Rafael Hirsch, page 257
  - 6) Commentary Number Eight – Rabbi Yisrael Hopsztain, pages 258 – 259
  - 7) Commentary Number Nine – Rabbi Kalonymous Kalmish Shapiro, pages 259 - 261