

Megillat Esther: Repairing Sha'ul's mistake

**Moshe Abelesz for The Lookstein Center, 2003
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Name: _____

Traditionally, Haman's ancestry is traced back to Amalek. In this lesson we will trace the ancestry of both Haman and Mordechai. By doing so we will see that their battle against Haman, mirrors the battle fought by both their ancestors many centuries previously.

Your objectives for this session are to:

- a) Investigate Mordechai's ancestry.
- b) Investigate Haman's ancestry.
- c) Investigate the battle between Sha'ul and Amalek.
- d) Examine the similarities and differences between their battles.

Questions

1. Examine *Megillat Esther* 2:5. Mordechai is described with two adjectives, one at the beginning of the verse, the other at the end.

- a) What are the adjectives?
- b) What problem is there with both these adjectives? Explain
- c) Explain how we can resolve this problem?

a)(i) _____ (ii) _____

b) _____

c) _____

2. According to the text, who were Mordechai's ancestors?

a) _____ b) _____ c) _____

We will now examine this further.

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3. Yair – Who was he? Read *Judges* 10:3-4 and answer the following questions:

- a) Which region of the country was Yair from?
- b) How was it possible for Yair to be an ancestor of Benyamin? (See *Judges* 21).

a) _____

b) _____

4. Shimi – Who was he? Read *Samuel II* 16:5-13 and answer the following questions:

- a) Who was Shimi related to? What tribe was he from?
- b) What did Shimi do to David?
- c) Why did he do it? Explain your answer.

a) _____

b) _____

c) _____

5. Kish – Who was he and what tribe was he from? See *Samuel I* Ch. 9.

6. Using the information you have understood above, explain the conclusions that can be drawn from Mordechai's ancestry.

We will now examine Haman's ancestry.

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7. Read *Megillat Esther* 3:1. Who were Haman's ancestors?

a) _____ b) _____

8. Who was Aggagi? Read *Samuel I* 15: 8-9, 32-33.

9. We have no other source with the name Hamedata. What conclusions can we draw from this information? Explain.

10. Compare *Samuel I* 15:3, 8-9 to *Megillat Esther* 8:11, 9:10.

- a) How do both these battles compare? Explain.
- b) How do both these battles differ? Explain.

a) _____

b) _____

11. What conclusions can we draw from *Megillat Esther*? Explain your answer.

Chag sameach!