

From Evil to Holiness: A Call to Eliminate Negativity and Draw Closer to God



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The focus of the entire parasha and much of the book of Vayikra centres on the complex service conducted in the *Beit Hamikdash* and the *Mishkan*. However, in our current reality, without these sacred structures, what message does this hold for us today?

The term '*korban*', often translated as 'sacrifice,' comes from the root '*karov*', meaning to approach or come close. According to the teachings of Rabbi Shimshon Raphael Hirsch (1808-1888), presenting a *korban* reflects

one's deep desire for a closer relationship with God. Through this act, individuals seek forgiveness, blessings, and an intensified connection with Him.

In the absence of the *Beit Hamikdash*, *tefillah* (prayer) has replaced the role of sacrifices. As a result, our prayers mirror the essence of the service performed in the *Beit Hamikdash*, emphasising the importance of sincere intentions during our moments of prayer.

As we approach Purim and recite Parashat Zachor, which highlights the obligation to eliminate the evil represented by the nation of Amalek, it is crucial to recognise Amalek's goal of distancing us from God. Amalek is an antisemitic nation of pure evil; therefore, reciting these words serves as a

reminder for reflection. It prompts us to seize the opportunity to draw closer to God, especially in light of current events.

In the words of Rebbetzen Esther Jungreis: "*Parashat Zachor teaches us to recognise and confront the spiritual adversaries in our lives. It's an opportunity for self-reflection, eliminating negativity, and drawing closer to Hashem. In doing so, we affirm our commitment to a holier path.*"

In these moments of reflection, as we recite both the parasha of Vayikra and the words of Parashat Zachor, let it be a call to action, an opportunity to evaluate practical ways to draw closer to God. By eliminating negativity and reflecting on our history, we can deepen our connection with the Divine.

Purim Puzzler!

Unscramble the following letters to form words connected to Parashat Zachor and Purim.

1. meebrRem
2. iemT
3. leamAk
4. tommnedmanC
5. rtietmonixEan
6. toeuermDony
7. nlErtae
8. ndooGses
9. rPuim
10. nEeeism
11. luVaes
12. moetsuC
13. Taorh
14. mHneanatchsa
15. MhiealgI