

# Trump Torah

Yeshiva University Torah Mitzion Beit Midrash Zichron Dov

Parshat Vayikra-Zachor

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in honour of his receiving semichah**

## Zachor and Vayikra: To Defeat and to Rebuild

**Rabbi Baruch Weintraub**

***Note: This article is real Torah, not Purim Torah. The same cannot be said for the rest of this issue...***

This Shabbat we read two portions which seem unrelated. The first is the weekly parshah, *Vayikra*, which deals almost entirely with the subject of korbanot (ritual offerings). The second is *Zachor*, a few short verses that tell the story of Amalek's attack against us, and command us to annihilate them from beneath the heavens.

This disparity is not present every year, as *Zachor* is only read with *Vayikra* in a leap year. Still, there is a deep connection between *Vayikra* and *Zachor*. The subjects of both of these portions – destroying Amalek and building a place of worship – are two of the three mitzvot which the Jews are commanded to perform upon entering the Land of Israel. The Talmud rules that when entering Israel, the Jews must appoint a king, destroy the descendants of Amalek, and build the Beit HaMikdash, and it emphasizes that these mitzvot must be performed in this order. (Sanhedrin 20b)

Why are these mitzvot not just related, but dependant upon each other? Why must we destroy Amalek before building the Beit HaMikdash?

A simple explanation can be derived from the prophet Nathan's explanation of why David could not build the Beit HaMikdash. In *Divrei HaYamim I* (22:8), Nathan says in G-d's name: "You have shed much blood, and you have waged great wars; you shall not build a House in My Name because

you have shed much blood upon the ground before Me." No iron should be used for the building of the altar (Shemot 20:21), because it would be improper for a material used to shorten human life to then create that which lengthens life. (Rashi *ibid.*) Similarly, the building of the Beit Hamidkash should wait until after all wars have ended so the Jews will not engage in worship and warfare at the same time.

However, perhaps we may suggest another, deeper explanation. At the start of our portion (*Vayikra* 1:9), Ramban attempts to explain the meaning of korbanot. One of his suggestions is that a korban is supposed to be seen as a replacement of its owner. It is he who was supposed to be punished; the animal is brought in his place. By seeing that which should have happened to him, the owner should be moved towards repentance. Ramban concludes that "these words are acceptable, and attract the heart as the words of *aggada* [homiletics]."

Ramban's understanding assumes that it is possible to mend one's ways. While this may seem obvious to us, in fact, it is not so. How could a broken vessel return to its original form? Can a broken relationship, in the aftermath of a terrible betrayal, be completely healed? A midrash (*Pesikta D'rav Kahana* 24) tells us that while both wisdom and Divine prophecy deny the possibility of such a reversal, the Torah answers affirmatively, "The sinner can bring a korban and he will atone."

We are attracted, as Ramban says, to this explanation, as it offers us the opportunity to improve ourselves, and

more importantly, it offers a way to get up after a hard fall. But it also carries a very dangerous possibility; that the mere opportunity to correct and repair will dissuade us from engaging in the actual process of correcting and repairing. What need is there is to fight against evil, if everything can be atoned for?

This danger echoes in Yonah's desperate attempt to clarify his refusal to warn the people of Ninveh: "For this reason I had hastened to flee to Tarshish, for I know that You are a gracious and merciful G-d, slow to anger, with much kindness, and relenting of evil." (*Yonah* 4:2) Yonah feels that G-d's mercy upon sinners is what allows evil to exist.

Thus, the existence of korbanot and the option of correcting past wrongs must be coupled with a firm, uncompromising commitment to fight evil to the end. We can only fix the wrong when it has ceased; as long as immorality is on the rampage, we must commit ourselves to defeating it. Only after the victory over evil, represented by Amalek, can one search for the way to atone for it in the Beit HaMikdash.

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### OUR BEIT MIDRASH

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***The Pnimityus of the Deal*  
Rabbi Rob Ford & Donald Trump  
Breslov Press, 2016**

About the author

His Worship Rabbi Rob Ford, former mayor of Toronto, is best-known for promoting the use of ritual powders and potions to attain states of spiritual elevation. In the Jewish world, Rabbi Ford is especially popular for his mystical works describing the impact of mundane life upon celestial realms. His *Seven Kavanot of Highly Effective People* explores the importance of spiritual intentions when bullying, pushing, and otherwise engaging the people around us. In *How to Influence Friends and Win People*, Rabbi Ford prescribes meditations upon the Divine Name as a means of succeeding in elections and eliminating annoying journalists.

In his latest book, Rabbi Ford ventures south of the border with an insightful commentary on Donald Trump's *The Art of the Deal*. "The Talmud teaches that a person is judged first in Heaven for the way he conducts himself in business," explains Rabbi Ford in the prologue. "This is because all buying, selling and embezzling are just mundane garb, *klipos* concealing our holy interactions with angels above. Donald Trump is a

master of spiritual commerce, and he subtly explained his lofty success in *The Art of the Deal*. This is why I set out to write *The Pnimityus of the Deal* – to explain that which my guru and inspiration, Donald Trump, had in mind. It is my wish that all of us should become like The Donald."

About the book

*The Pnimityus of the Deal*, like Rabbi Moshe Chaim Luzzatto's *Mesilat Yesharim*, takes a step-by-step approach. As each chapter examines another of Trump's adages, the reader climbs the ladder to spiritual success. Here are examples from the book itself:

Donald Trump wrote, "I've read hundreds of books about China over the decades. I know the Chinese. I've made a lot of money with the Chinese. I understand the Chinese mind." In a chapter titled "The Importance of Sin", Rabbi Ford explains, "The Hebrew word for 'China' is *Sin*. 'Making a lot of money' is an allegory for spiritual success. Trump is alluding to the deep and holy concept of *aveirah lishmah*, sinning for the sake of spiritual success. Reading hundreds of books about sin, getting to know sin, understanding the mind of sin, are essential steps for spiritual growth."

In another chapter, "The Medium of Prayer", Rabbi Ford cites Trump's declaration, "Good publicity is preferable to bad, but from a bottom-line perspective, bad publicity is sometimes better than no publicity at all." According to Rabbi Ford, publicity and self-promotion actually refer to prayer to G-d. Trump is saying that bad prayer is better than no prayer at all. Rabbi Ford continues to provide numerous examples of bad publicity from his own life, and to show how these were actually expressions of his own, Trump-inspired attempts to reach out to G-d.

A word of caution

In *The Art of the Deal*, Donald Trump warns, "I can't promise you that by following the precepts I'm about to offer you'll become a millionaire overnight." As Rabbi Ford explains, "becoming a millionaire" refers to reaching the highest heaven of *Aravot*. The reader who would like to reach *Aravot* overnight should not spend time on *The Pnimityus of the Deal*. However, another of Rabbi Ford's books, *Good to Great: How to Get Higher, Faster*, might be useful.

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## 613 Mitzvot: #617: Voting for Trump

Rabbi Mordechai Torczyner

Devarim 17:15 commands, "You shall surely place upon yourself a king whom Hashem your G-d will choose." A midrash (Sifri Shoftim 275) asks, "How are we to know whom G-d has chosen? In the days of prophets, it is clarified at the word of the prophet. When there is no prophet, it is clarified by natural events." Based on this midrash, Sefer haChinuch declared in the 13<sup>th</sup> century, "The only explanation for the future rise of Donald Trump is Divine manipulation. Therefore, the Torah's 617<sup>th</sup> mitzvah must be to vote for Donald Trump. It has emerged from G-d."

In support of his ruling, Sefer haChinuch cited Rabbeinu Nisim (Nedarim 28a), on the Torah's recognition of royal authority. Rabbeinu Nisim wrote, "The land is his. He can say to his subjects, 'If you don't fulfill my command then I will chase you from the land.'" Sefer haChinuch determined that this must refer to Donald Trump; which other candidate for the presidency is likely to deport people who fail to fulfill his command? Similarly, Sefer haChinuch noted the position of Rabbi Menachem Meiri (Avot 3:2), who wrote of the need for an intimidating government, "If there is no fear of the throne, each person will be afraid that the next person might plot against him." Concluded Sefer haChinuch, "Of what president could we be more afraid than this one? Q.E.D."

Sefer haChinuch's support for Trump is consistent with its separate comments regarding the need for political leadership. He declared, "Since the minds of human beings are unique, and they will never agree on a single approach to any matter... they must accept the view of one of them, for good or for bad." (Sefer haChinuch #71) To which he added with a shrug, "Sometimes, you just have to take the bad."

It is expected that Israeli Prime Minister Bibi Netanyahu will cite Sefer haChinuch in a speech to the US Congress in two weeks. Insisting that he is not getting involved in American politics, Prime Minister Netanyahu will yet note that introducing Donald Trump's hair into the community of world leaders would save his own comb-over from winning its ninth straight "Worst Haircut of a World Leader Not Named Kim Jong" award at the G20 summit.

Some scholars have challenged Trump's candidacy, claiming that he lacks halachic eligibility as he is not of the tribe of Judah. However, Rambam ruled that a *nasi* need not descend from that tribe. (Hilchot Shegagot 15:6) He need only be "a king who has no human authority above him." Regarding personal qualities, Rashba (1:617), said of the political leaders of a city that they "need not be men of select wisdom, wealth and honour." Regarding both points, Rabbi Corey Lewandowski comments only, "If the shoe fits!"

Rabbi Lewandowski further notes that Devarim 17:20 says of the king, "he should extend the days of his reign, him and his children, among Israel." Bernie Sanders is Jewish, but has no Jewish children. Hillary Clinton's daughter married a Jewish man, but is not Jewish herself. Donald Trump's daughter Ivanka converted to Judaism, and so Trump is the only leading candidate to have descendants "among Israel".

Not everyone is looking forward to a President Trump. Rabbi Moshe Feinstein wrote, "It is incumbent upon each Jewish citizen to participate in the democratic system which guards the freedoms we enjoy," but his heirs contend that Rabbi Feinstein was actually referring to Canada.

**Biography**  
**Rabbi Donald Trump**  
**In his own words**

Donald J. Trump, previously Donald Drumpf, in what can only be described as a Purim joke, is currently the front-runner in the race to be the Republican candidate for the President of the United States. No one can describe The Donald better than the Donald, so below is part of his self-description.

*Donald J. Trump is the very definition of the American success story, continually setting the standards of excellence while expanding his interests in real estate, sports and entertainment. He is a graduate of the Wharton School of Finance. An accomplished author, Mr. Trump has authored over fifteen bestsellers, and his first book, The Art of the Deal, is considered a business classic and one of the most successful business books of all time.*

*During the 2014 political cycle, Mr. Trump was a top contributor and fundraiser for Republican efforts. Mr. Trump also campaigned across the country, with each candidate winning by a record margin.*

*Mr. Trump has over 7 million followers on social media. He frequently uses this platform to advocate for Conservative causes, Republican candidates and to educate the public on the failures of the Obama administration. Mr. Trump appears on Fox and Friends on Monday mornings and devotes much of his time to media interviews in order to promote a Free Market, the importance of a strong family, a culture of Life, a strong military and our country's sacred obligation to take care of our veterans and their families...*

We will add that regarding his political positions, he both supports and opposes abortion, thinks Hilary Clinton would both be terrible and great as President, is both a supporter and opponent of universal health care (specifically Obamacare), and he wants to both raise and lower taxes on the wealthy.

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**Trump in Translation**  
**The Torah of Trump**

**By Rabbi Donald Trump**  
**Translated by Rabbi Jonathan Ziring**

השווי הנטו שלי משתנה, והוא עולה ויורד עם השוק, עם גישות, ועם הרגשות, אפילו ההרגשות שלי. אבל אני מנסה... כן, אפילו ההרגשות שלי ביחס לאיפה העולם נמצא, לאן העולם הולך, וזה משתנה במהירות מיום ליום.

אני מכיר מילים. יש לי המילים הכי טובים. יש לי הכי טובים, אבל אין מילה יותר טובה ממטופש (סטופד בלע"ז).

אני אבנה חומה גדולה - ואף אחד לא בונה חומות יותר טובות ממני. תאמין לי - ואני אבנה אותה בזול. אני אבנה חומה גדולה בגבול הדרומי ואני אשכנע את מקסיקו לשלם על החומה. תשים לב לדברים שלי.

החומה תקום, ומקסיקו תתחיל להתנהג בסדר.

יש לי יחס מאד טוב עם אנשי מקסיקו.

האנשים היחידים שאני רוצה למנות את כספי הם אנשים נמוכים שחובשים כיפות בכל יום.

היופי שלי הוא שאני מאד עשיר.

כפוא ומושלג בנוי יורק - אנחנו צריכים התחממות גלובלית!

הנקודה היא שזה בלתי אפשרי להיות יותר מדי חמדן.

הטוויטר שלי כל כך חזק שאני יכול לשכנע את האוברים שלי לומר את האמת.

המועמדים האחרים - הם נכנסו ולא ידעו שהמזגן לא פעל. הם הזיעו כמו כלבים... איך הם יתגברו על דאעש. נדמה לי שזה לא יקרה.

האי-קיו שלי הוא מן הגבוהים ביותר - וכולכם יודעים את זה. בבקשה לא להרגיש מטופש או חוסר ביטחון עצמי, זה לא אשמתכם.

My net worth fluctuates, and it goes up and down with markets and with attitudes and with feelings, even my own feelings, but I try... Yes, even my own feelings, as to where the world is, where the world is going, and that can change rapidly from day to day.

I know words, I have the best words. I have the best, but there is no better word than 'stupid'.

I will build a great wall — and nobody builds walls better than me, believe me — and I'll build them very inexpensively. I will build a great, great wall on our southern border, and I will make Mexico pay for that wall. Mark my words.

The wall will go up and Mexico will start behaving.

I have a great relationship with the Mexican people.

The only kind of people I want counting my money are little short guys that wear yarmulkes every day.

The beauty of me is that I'm very rich.

It's freezing and snowing in New York — we need global warming!

The point is, you can never be too greedy.

My Twitter has become so powerful that I can actually make my enemies tell the truth.

The other candidates — they went in, they didn't know the air conditioning didn't work. They sweated like dogs... How are they gonna beat ISIS? I don't think it's gonna happen.

My IQ is one of the highest — and you all know it! Please don't feel so stupid or insecure; it's not your fault.

## This Week in Israeli History: 13 Adar II 5776

### Donald Trump Declares War on Amalek

Rabbi David Ely Grundland

13 Adar II is Wednesday

Referring to the teachings of his favorite book, the Bible, Donald Trump quoted a verse from “One Samuel” and declared that Samuel’s prophecy compelled him to side with Israel and to smite and utterly destroy Amalek.

When asked how he would find Amalek, Trump responded, “I’ll find them! I’m very powerful and I will find them.” Regarding their tactics, he declared, “I know Amalek’s tactics. I’ve made a lot of money from Amalek. I know Amalek better than anyone in the world. I used to work closely with Amalek and I have studied them in depth and some of my friends are Amalekites. Which is why I will destroy them.” Taking his claims a step further, Trump stated that he would ensure that Amalek would actually

fight “the war on Amalek” on behalf of the world, pay for the war, and destroy themselves.

Amalekite King Agag expressed appreciation for Trump’s destructive nature. “I don’t think he’s trustable for his deep Jewish connections, but at least [this kind of hatred] is being discussed. He’s the best of the lot.” When asked if he will disavow the support of King Agag, Trump gave a classic “nahafoch hu” answer. “Well, just so you understand, I don’t know anything about Agag, kay? I don’t know anything about Amalekite hatred, or Amalekites. I don’t know – did they endorse me, or what’s going on?... I can’t condemn a group that I know nothing about.”

Israel’s response to Trump was briefly, “Oy”.

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## Weekly Highlights: Mar. 19 – Mar. 25 / 9 Adar II – 15 Adar II

Time	Speaker	Topic	Location	Special Notes
<b>שבת Mar. 18-19</b>				
<b>After Hashkamah</b>	R’ Yisroel M. Rosenzweig	Midrash Rabbah	Clanton Park	
<b>After Hashkamah</b>	R’ David Ely Grundland	Jewish Mindfulness	Shaarei Shomayim	
<b>After minchah</b>	R’ Mordechai Torczyner	Gemara Avodah Zarah	BAYT	<b>Simcha Suite</b>
<b>Sun. Mar. 20</b>				
<b>8:45 AM</b>	<b>R’ Mordechai Torczyner</b>	<b>Legal Ethics with CPD: Competing for Clients</b>	<b>BAYT</b>	<b>Simcha Suite Non-lawyers welcome</b>
<b>9:15 AM</b>	R’ Shalom Krell	The Book of Shemuel	Associated (North)	<b>Hebrew</b>
<b>10:00 AM</b>	R’ Aaron Greenberg	Chullin	Yeshivat Or Chaim	<b>For Chaverim</b>
<b>Mon. Mar. 21</b>				
<b>9:30 AM</b>	Mrs. Ora Ziring	Women’s Beit Midrash	Ulpanat Orot	<b>University students</b>
<b>8:00 PM</b>	R’ David Ely Grundland R’ Mordechai Torczyner	Daf Highlights Medical Halachah	Shaarei Shomayim	<b>Beit Midrash Night</b>
<b>8:00 PM</b>	R’ Jonathan Ziring	Purim, Yom ha’Atzmaut and Modern Miracles	Yeshivat Or Chaim	<b>Beit Midrash Night</b>
<b>Tue. Mar. 22</b>				
<b>9:30 AM</b>	R’ Yisroel M. Rosenzweig	חתיכה נעשית נבילה	Yeshivat Or Chaim	<b>University Chaverim</b>
<b>10:00 AM</b>	Mrs. Ora Ziring	Women’s Beit Midrash	Ulpanat Orot	<b>University students</b>
<b>1:30 PM</b>	R’ Mordechai Torczyner	Iyov: Elihu’s Third Lesson	Shaarei Shomayim	
<b>Wed. Mar. 23</b>				
<b>Fast of Esther</b>				
<b>2:30 PM</b>	R’ Jonathan Ziring	Megilat Esther	Location: Contact carolleser@rogers.com	<b>For women</b>
<b>8:00 PM</b>	R’ Yisroel M. Rosenzweig	Contemporary Halachah	Shaarei Tefillah	<b>Not this week</b>
<b>Thu. Mar. 24</b>				
<b>Purim</b>				
<b>10:00 AM</b>	American Expats	Canadians Can’t Laugh at Us: The Legacy of Rob Ford	Trump Plaza	
<b>12:00 PM</b>	Senator Marco Rubio	An Electorate Possessed: How Dybbuks Elected Donald	Trump Towers	
<b>2:00 PM</b>	Pres. Barack Obama	Vote Trump: He Makes Me Look Good	Trump Hotel and Casino	
<b>Fri. Mar. 25</b>				
<b>Shushan Purim</b>				
<b>10:30 AM</b>	R’ Jonathan Ziring	Eruvin	Yeshivat Or Chaim	<b>Advanced</b>