



Megillat Esther: Repairing Shaul's Mistake **Worksheet**

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 Shaul 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?

(i) _____ (ii) _____

b) What could two possible translations of "Yehudi" and how does one of them pose a problem with the adjective at the end of the *pasuk*?

c) Explain how we can resolve this problem.

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

a) _____ b) _____ c) _____



We will now examine this further. Use the [Concordance](#) as needed.

3. Who was Yair? Read [Shoftim 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 Binyamin's ancestor? (See [Shoftim 21](#)).

4. Who was Shimi? Read [Shmuel Bet 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.

5. Who was Kish and what tribe was he from? See [Shmuel Aleph, perek 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.

7. Read [Megillat Esther 3:1](#). Who were Haman's ancestors?

a) _____ b) _____

8. Who was Aggag? Read [Shmuel Aleph 15](#): 8-9, 32-33.

9. We have no other source with the name Hamedata. Why do you think the author included this name? Explain.

10. Compare [Shmuel Aleph 15](#):3, 8-9 to [Megillat Esther 8:11](#), [9:10](#).

a) How do these two battles compare? Explain.

b) How do these two battles differ? Explain.

11. Think about the battle between Mordechai and Haman in light of the battle between their (likely) ancestors. What do you think *Megillat Esther* is trying to teach us about these conflicts? Explain how you arrived at your conclusion.
