

STUDY ON THE SUBJECT OF THE RELATION WITH GENTILES AND WAR:

“My own creations are drowning in the sea” or “It is good that there is death amongst the Gentiles”

(Forms 11 and 12)

Read two sections from the Talmud 1.

The Holy One Blessed be He is not happy with the fall of the evil ones. And Rabbi Yohanan said (what is the intention in Exodus 14) “And they did not come near each other all night”? The guardian angels wished to sing [after crossing the Red Sea] and the Holy One Blessed be He said my creations are drowning in the sea and you want to sing!?

Bavli, Megillah, 10 page 2)

He took six hundred elite chariots [and all the chariots of Egypt, with officers on them all.] From whom were the animals that drove the chariots? If you say they were from Egypt, doesn't it say "and all the livestock of Egypt died If you say they were from Pharaoh, doesn't it say "Behold, the hand of G-d is on your livestock that are in the field"? If you say they were from the Jews, doesn't it say "and our livestock, as well, will go with us- not a hoof will be left"? Rather from whom were they, from the Egyptians who feared G-d [and were not affected by the plagues]. We now see that the livestock of the G-d-fearers that escaped the plague caused great hardship for the Jews. From here R. Shimon said: Kill [even] the good among the gentiles.

Mekhilta, Beshelach 1

- What transpires as regards the treatment of the gentiles from these verses?
- Are they consistent one with the other or do they contradict one to the other? How is this possible?
- Is it possible to settle the contradiction?
- What is the treatment that seems to us appropriate and preferable?





Shittim Center

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What has this war brought to man? The war exposes the real man; each one faces the nakedness of his soul. There are those who go so far as to say that their behaviour with their friends and with the enemy justifies the name “man”, and there are those who go down to the lowest level.

It is not sufficient to win , but to know how to remain a man.

The most encouraging thing for me is that I have left that nightmare and I remained, alike many others, without staining the shadow under which we were born as human beings.

Koby Rabinovitz

The writer of the letter, a member of Kibbutz Naan, wrote it at the end of the 6 day war. He fell in combat in the Yom Kippur War.

- What is the dilemma and the challenge raised by war?
- How does this challenge relate to the two positions that we have seen as regards gentiles?

