



## A STUDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

by Daniel Robinson



At Orayta there are many different challenges that we struggle with. Over the course of the year a major theme of discussion has been G-d. There are many aspects of G-d which are difficult to understand, but today I would like to address one aspect of G-d that is commonly seen throughout the Torah, the historical aspect - when the Torah shows a situation in which G-d is doing something that will affect history. When G-d tells Avram to leave his home the Torah refers to G-d as the G-d of history (*yud key vav key*). This reference is seen throughout the Torah in situations such as the ten plagues, the first commandment, and when giving sacrifices. These instances among others show G-d's interaction with us and our relationship with him.

When G-d tells Avram to go, he is obviously serving a major role in history. Without this event we would not be where we are today. This was the initial first step in history of the forming of the Jewish people. This is obviously a simplification of things since all of the events leading up to this point were also essential, but these events were referred to as the historical aspect of G-d.

When G-d performs the ten plagues it is another obvious act of influencing history. Both of these instances are clear signs of G-d's interaction in this world through the sculpting of history. In the first commandment, however, it is not as clear how G-d is historically active. But if one were to think about the essence of the first commandment and what it has accomplished for the world over time it becomes clearer. Since a major theme, if not *the* theme of Judaism is to bring G-d into this world, the message delivered by the first commandment is historically significant.

Finally, there is the question of how the commandments regarding animal sacrifices are historically relevant. The commandment mentioned before was a commandment of belief and not action, the actions we take to form a relationship with G-d, such as sacrifices, bring G-d into the world through action over history as a physical reminder.

When we look back at Jewish survival throughout history, we can see the importance of the principles and the influence that G-d has had on our survival. This amazing map and design known as history is guided by G-d in order to make a path that brings G-d into the world while working within the limited abilities and beauty of free will. The events throughout time that have been guided by G-d are indeed history, or rather "His story".

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*Danny graduated from the Ida Crown Jewish Academy in Chicago. He was on the High School's Varsity Wrestling Team and he reached the final of his weight class at the Yeshiva University Invitational Wrestling Tournament. Danny also developed and created a wrestling program for Camp Ramah Wisconsin.*

*Danny's favorite part of Orayta is: "Rav Binny's Morning Chumash Shiurim. It helps me develop important skills in how to read and interpret the Torah in ways I wasn't even aware of before or that I thought myself capable of."*