

"And if you will come into war in your land against the enemy that oppresses you, then you shall blow an alarm with trumpets, and you shall be remembered before Hashem your G-d and you shall be saved from your enemies." (10:9)

Discussing *Klal Yisrael's* entry into battle, in *Parashas Ki Tzeitzei* (*Devarim* 21:10), the *Torah* does not seem to outline any specific means of aggressive attack. The *Torah* simply states, "*When you go forth to war against your enemies, and Hashem your G-d will deliver them into your hands.*" Why is there such a disparity between the two *parshios* dealing with waging war on the enemy?

The *Kotzker Rebbe z.l.* distinguishes between two contrasting types of war. He suggests that the term "war" is actually an allusion to man's constant battle with the *yetzer hora*, evil inclination. The differential is determined by noting who has initiated the battle. In this *parsha* the *Torah* states, "*If you will come into war,*" while in *Sefer Devarim* the *Torah* states, "*When you go forth.*" One who "goes forth" and initiates the battle against the *yetzer hora*, is assured of emerging triumphant. If, however, one allows the *yetzer hora* to approach him, to "*oppress him in his own land,*" to get a foothold in his behavior and personality, then victory will be more elusive. He will have to battle with much more resolution in order to triumph over the enemy. Such a battle must include astute strategy, sounding of alarms, and crying out to Hashem, for only with His help can man succeed.