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Tefillos

כ"ח אלול-ערב ראש השנה תשפ"א

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If you only knew the power that lies in the verses of tehillim.... you would recite them constantly.

The words of tehillim intercede before the Master of the Universe and secure their effect with kindness and mercy.

Tehillim breaks down all barriers and nullifies the harsh dinim and gevurah from Hashem. This is so even after the judgement has been sealed.

One who recites tehillim slowly and carefully will merit great reward from Hashem.

Tehillim pushes away many types of difficulty and harm. It brings down protection and all types of divine influence and blessing, and much success.

When we say tehillim before davening, the tehillim "cuts off the accusers", so that our tefillos can easily reach Hashem.

A person who wants to connect with Hashem and to His praises should say tehillim.

We have nothing greater than tehillim, which Dovid Hamelech composed with ruach hakodesh. They are so varied, praises to Hashem, requests for forgiveness (slicha umechila), and that all comes from Hashem.

Dovid Hamelech davened that his tehillim should be recited in all shuls and botai midroshim.

Giving tzedaka at the time of saying tehillim increases the power of each!

Sources: The Shaloh, The Levush, The Chida, The Tzemach Tzedek, The Lubavitcher Rebbe, The Baal Shem Tov, The Rambam

“...Whenever Tehillim is recited to avert an evil decree, it should be complimented with Tzedaka.”

This kappitel (psalm) traditionally recited before the blowing of the Shofar declares hashem as king of the universe. It speaks of the day when Hashem's sovereignty will be universally proclaimed.

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God's sovereignty will ultimately be recognized and accepted by all mankind. The nations will then seek Israel — who nurtured the knowledge of the true God throughout history in the face of the continual campaigns to eradicate this knowledge — to teach them the proper way to serve Him. This psalm is recited on Rosh Hashanah just before the blowing of the *shofar*.

לְמַנְצֵחַ ¹ For the conductor, by the sons of Korah, a psalm. ² All you nations, join hands; sound the shofar to God* with a cry of joy. ³ For HASHEM is supreme, awesome; a great King over all the earth. ⁴ He shall lead nations under us* and regimes beneath our feet. ⁵ He will choose our heritage for us, the pride of Jacob* that He loves, Selah. ⁶ God has ascended with the blast;* HASHEM, with the sound of the shofar. ⁷ Make music for God, make music; make music for our King, make music. ⁸ For God is King of all the earth; make music, O enlightened one! ⁹ God reigns over the nations; God sits upon His holy throne. ¹⁰ The nobles of the nations* gathered, the people of the God of Abraham; for the protectors of the earth are God's, He is exceedingly exalted.*

מז

God's sovereignty will ultimately be recognized and accepted by all mankind. The nations will then seek Israel — who nurtured the knowledge of the true God throughout history in the face of the continual campaigns to eradicate this knowledge — to teach them the proper way to serve Him. This psalm is recited on Rosh Hashanah just before the blowing of the *shofar*.

לְמַנְצֵחַ לְבְנֵי קָרַח מְזֻמּוֹר. ^ב כָּל הָעַמִּים תִּקְעוּ כָף, הָרִיעוּ לֵאלֹהִים בְּקוֹל רִנָּה. ^ג כִּי יְהוָה עֲלִיוֹן נוֹרָא, מֶלֶךְ גָּדוֹל עַל כָּל הָאָרֶץ. ^ד יַדְבֵּר עַמִּים תַּחְתֵּינוּ, וּלְאֻמִּים תַּחַת רַגְלֵינוּ. ^ה יִבְחַר לָנוּ אֶת נַחֲלָתָנוּ, אֶת גְּאוֹן יַעֲקֹב אֲשֶׁר אָהֵב סֵלָה. ^ו עֲלֶה אֱלֹהִים בְּתִרְעוּעָה, יְהוָה בְּקוֹל שׁוֹפָר. ^ז וַמְּרוּ אֱלֹהִים וַמְּרוּ, וַמְּרוּ לְמַלְכֵנוּ וַמְּרוּ. ^ח כִּי מֶלֶךְ כָּל הָאָרֶץ אֱלֹהִים, וַמְּרוּ מִשְׁכִּיל. ^ט מֶלֶךְ אֱלֹהִים עַל גּוֹיִם, אֱלֹהִים יָשֵׁב עַל כִּסֵּא קֹדֶשׁוֹ. ^י גְּדִיבֵי עַמִּים נֶאֱסָפוּ, עִם אֱלֹהֵי אֲבֹתָם; כִּי לֵאלֹהִים מִגְּנֵי אֶרֶץ, מְאֹד נִעְלָה.

This kappitel (psalm) expresses the deep pain in the absence of the Bais Hamikdash and a great longing for it to be rebuilt.

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Thrust out from before the Presence of God, the exiled Jew yearns only to regain that closeness to Him. Neither crushing persecution nor the blandishments of alien prosperity deflect him from striving to attain that lofty goal.

לְמַנְצֵחַ ¹ For the conductor, on the gittis, by the sons of Korah, a psalm. ² How beloved are Your dwelling places, HASHEM, Master of Legions! ³ My soul yearns, indeed it pines, for the courtyards of HASHEM; my heart and my flesh pray fervently to the Living God. ⁴ Even the bird finds its home and the free bird her nest where she laid her young; O, [to be] at Your altars, HASHEM, Master of Legions, my King and my God. ⁵ Praiseworthy are those who dwell in Your house, continually they will praise You, Selah. ⁶ Praiseworthy is the man whose strength is in You, those whose hearts focus on the paths leading upward. ⁷ Those who pass through the Valley of Thorns, they transform it into a wellspring; also with blessings will the rain will cloak [it]. ⁸ They advance from strength to strength; each one will appear before God in Zion. ⁹ HASHEM, God, Master of Legions, hear my prayer; listen, O God of Jacob, Selah. ¹⁰ Look upon our shield, O God, and gaze at Your anointed one's face. ¹¹ For one day in Your courtyards is better than a thousand [elsewhere]; I prefer to stand exposed at the threshold of my God's house than to dwell securely in the tents of wickedness. ¹² For a sun and a shield is HASHEM, God; favor and glory does HASHEM bestow; He withholds no goodness from those who walk in perfect innocence. ¹³ HASHEM, Master of Legions, praiseworthy is the man who trusts in You.

פד

Thrust out from before the Presence of God, the exiled Jew yearns only to regain that closeness to Him. Neither crushing persecution nor the blandishments of alien prosperity deflect him from striving to attain that lofty goal.

לְמַנְצֵחַ ^א על הגתית, לבני קרח מוזמור. ^ב מה ידידות משכנותיך, יהוה צבאות. ^ג נכספה וגם כלתה נפשי לחצרות יהוה; לבי ובשרי ירננו אל אל חי. ^ד גם צפור מצאה בית, ודרור קן לה אשר שתה אפרחיה; את מזבחותיך יהוה צבאות, מלכי ואלהי. ^ה אשרי יושבי ביתך, עוד יהללוך סלה. ^ו אשרי אדם עוז לו בך, מסלות בלבבם. ^ז עברי בעמק הבכא מעין ישיתוהו; גם ברכות יעטה מורה. ^ח ילכו מחיל אל חיל, יראה אל אלהים בציון. ^ט יהוה אלהים צבאות שמעה תפילתי, האזינה אלהי יעקב סלה. ^י מגגנו ראה, אלהים; והבט פני משיחך. ^{יא} כי טוב יום בחצריך מאלף; בחרתי הסתופף בבית אלהי, מדור באהלי רשע. ^{יב} כי שמש ומגן יהוה אלהים; חן וכבוד יתן יהוה, לא ימנע טוב להלכים בתמים. ^{יג} יהוה צבאות, אשרי אדם בטח בך.

This kappitel (psalm) speaks of Dovid Hamelech's boundless devotion to the building of the beis hamikdash. In reciprocation Hashem makes an oath to him that his kingdom will be everlasting and that Moshiach will sprout forth from his descendents.

קלב

Sometimes, it is a person's task in life to lay the groundwork for some great edifice rather than to preside over the construction of the edifice itself. Though less glorious in men's eyes, one who faithfully carries out such a mission will be duly rewarded and it is in his merit that the final goal is achieved (see R' Hirsch).

שיר ¹ A song of ascents. O HASHEM, remember unto David all his suffering.* ² How he swore to HASHEM, and vowed to the Strong One of Jacob, ³ "If I enter the tent of my home;* if I go upon the bed that is spread for me; ⁴ if I allow sleep to my eyes, slumber to my eyelids; ⁵ before I find a place for HASHEM, resting places for the Strong One of Jacob." ⁶ Behold! We heard of it in Ephrath, we found it in the forested field. ⁷ We will arrive at His Tabernacles,* we will prostrate ourselves at His footstool. ⁸ Arise, HASHEM, to Your resting place,* You and the Ark of Your strength. ⁹ Let Your priests be clothed in righteousness, and Your devout ones will sing joyously. ¹⁰ For the sake of David, Your servant, turn not away the face of Your anointed.* ¹¹ HASHEM has sworn to David, a truth from which He will never retreat, "From the fruit of your issue I will place upon your throne. ¹² If your sons keep My covenant, and this, My testament, that I shall teach them, then their sons, too, forever and ever, shall sit upon your throne." ¹³ For HASHEM has chosen Zion; He has desired it for His habitation. ¹⁴ This is My resting place forever and ever, here I will dwell, for I have desired it. ¹⁵ Her sustenance I will bless abundantly; her needy I will satisfy with food. ¹⁶ I will clothe her priests with salvation; her devout ones will always sing joyously. ¹⁷ There I shall cause pride to sprout for David;* I have prepared a lamp for My anointed. ¹⁸ His enemies I will clothe with shame, but upon him, his crown will shine.

שיר ^א המעלות; זכור יהוה לדוד, את כל ענותו. ^ב אשר נשבע ליהוה, נדר לאביר יעקב. ^ג אם אבא באהל ביתי, אם אעלה על ערש יצועי. ^ד אם אתן שנת לעיני, לעפעפי תנומה. ^ה עד אמצא מקום ליהוה, משכנות לאביר יעקב. ^ו הנה שמענוה באפרתה, מצאנוה בשדי יער. ^ז נבואה למשכנותיו, נשתחוה להדם רגליו. ^ח קומה יהוה למנוחתך, אתה וארון עוף. ^ט כהניך ילבשו צדק, וחסידך ירגנו. ^י בעבור דוד עבדך, אל תשב פני משיחך. ^{יא} נשבע יהוה לדוד, אמת לא ישוב ממנה: מפרי בטןך אשית לכסא לך. ^{יב} אם ישמרו בניך בריתי, ועדתי זו אלמדם; גם בניהם עדי עד, ישובו לכסא לך. ^{יג} כי בחר יהוה בציון, אנה למושב לו. ^{יד} זאת מנוחתי עדי עד, פה אשב כי אותיה. ^{טו} צידה ברך אברך, אביוניה אשביע לחם. ^{טז} וכהניך אלביש ישע, וחסידך רגן ירגנו. ^{יז} שם אצמיח קרן לדוד, ערכתי נר למשיחי. ^{יח} אויביו אלביש בשת, ועליו יציץ נזרו.

The book of Tehilim concludes with this beautiful song of praise.
 The Shalo hakodosh says that by the Geulah Shelaimo the Jewish people
 will sing Shirah (song of praise) before the redemption in anticipation of the
 miracles to come.

150

In this, the final psalm in the *Book of Psalms*, the Psalmist sums up his task by saying that man must enrich his spiritual self by recognizing God's greatness and kindness and by praising Him. The Psalmist's long list of musical instruments reflects the full spectrum of human emotions and spiritual potential, all of which can be aroused by music.

הַלְלוּיָהּ ¹ *Halleluyah! Praise God in His Sanctuary; praise Him in the firmament of His power; ² praise Him for His mighty acts; praise Him as befits His abundant greatness; ³ praise Him with the blast of the shofar; praise Him with lyre and harp; ⁴ praise Him with drum and dance; praise Him with organ and flute; ⁵ praise Him with clanging cymbals; praise Him with resonant trumpets. ⁶ Let all souls praise* God, Halleluyah!**

קנ

In this, the final psalm in the *Book of Psalms*, the Psalmist sums up his task by saying that man must enrich his spiritual self by recognizing God's greatness and kindness and by praising Him. The Psalmist's long list of musical instruments reflects the full spectrum of human emotions and spiritual potential, all of which can be aroused by music.

הַלְלוּיָהּ; הַלְלוּ אֵל בְּקֹדֶשׁ,
הַלְלוּהוּ בְּרָקִיעַ עֶזוֹ. ב
הַלְלוּהוּ בְּגִבּוֹרָתוֹ, הַלְלוּהוּ כְּרֹב
גְּדָלוֹ. ג הַלְלוּהוּ בְּתַקְעַ שׁוֹפָר, הַלְלוּהוּ
בְּנִבְל וְכִנּוֹר. ד הַלְלוּהוּ בְּתֶהֱמָן וּמַחֲוֹל,
הַלְלוּהוּ בְּמִנִּים וְעִגְבִּי. ה הַלְלוּהוּ
בְּצִלְצְלֵי שָׁמַע, הַלְלוּהוּ בְּצִלְצְלֵי
תְּרוּעָה. ו כָּל הַנְּשָׁמָה תְּהַלֵּל יְהוָה;
הַלְלוּיָהּ.*

In this beautiful prayer we express our fervent hope for that great day, when all the idolatry and wickedness will be no more, and all of humanity, will acknowledge the sovereignty of G-D. "That day is the day which our prophets prophesied, the day that our righteous moshiach will come, sent by G-d to establish His rule on earth that all people will recognize the absolute unity of G-d.

עַל כֵּן נִקְוָה לָךְ—אֲדֹנֵי אֱלֹהֵינוּ—
לְרֵאוֹת מְהֵרָה בְּתַפְאֶרֶת עֲזֶיךָ
לְהַעֲבִיר גְּלוּלִים מִן הָאָרֶץ וְהָאֱלִילִים כָּרוֹת יִכְרֶתוּן
לְתַקֵּן עוֹלָם בְּמַלְכוּת שְׁדֵי.
וְכָל בְּנֵי בָשָׂר יִקְרְאוּ בְּשִׁמְךָ
לְהַפְנוֹת אֵלֶיךָ כָּל רָשָׁעֵי אָרֶץ.
יִפְּרֻוּ וַיִּדְעוּ כָּל יוֹשְׁבֵי תֵבֵל
כִּי לָךְ תִּכְרַע כָּל בָּרֶךְ, תִּשָּׁבַע כָּל לָשׁוֹן.
לְפָנֶיךָ אֲדֹנֵי אֱלֹהֵינוּ יִכְרַעוּ וַיִּפְּלוּ
וְלִכְבוֹד שִׁמְךָ יִקָּר יִתְנוּ
וַיִּקְבְּלוּ כָּלֵם אֶת עַל מַלְכוּתְךָ
וַתִּמְלֹךְ עֲלֵיהֶם מְהֵרָה לְעוֹלָם וָעֶד,
כִּי הַמַּלְכוּת שְׁלֹךְ הִיא וּלְעוֹלָמִי עַד תִּמְלֹךְ בְּכָבוֹד
בְּכַתוּב בְּתוֹרָתְךָ: "אֲדֹנֵי יִמְלֹךְ לְעוֹלָם וָעֶד."
וְנֶאֱמַר: "וְהָיָה אֲדֹנֵי לְמֹלֶךְ עַל כָּל הָאָרֶץ
בַּיּוֹם הַהוּא יִהְיֶה אֲדֹנֵי אֶחָד וּשְׁמוֹ אֶחָד."

And therefore, we hope to You, L-rd our G-d that we may speedily behold the splendor of Your might, to banish idolatry from the earth - and false gods will be utterly destroyed; to perfect the world under the sovereignty of the Almighty.
. All mankind shall invoke Your Name, to turn to You all the wicked of the earth.
Then all the inhabitants of the world will recognize and know that every knee shall bend to You, every tongue shall swear [by Your Name]. Before You, L-rd our G-d they will bow and prostrate themselves, and give honor to the glory of Your Name; and they will all take upon themselves the yoke of Your Kingdom. May You soon reign over them forever and ever, for kingship is Yours, and to all eternity You will reign in glory, as it is written in Your Torah: The L-rd will reign forever and ever. And it is said: The L-rd shall be King over the entire earth; on that day the L-ord shall be One and His Name One.

May it be Your will, L-rd our G-d
and G-d of our fathers, that the Holy
Temple be rebuilt speedily in our
days; and grant us our portion in Your
Torah.

יְהִי רָצוֹן מִלְּפָנֶיךָ ה' אֱלֹהֵינוּ וְאֱלֹהֵי
אֲבוֹתֵינוּ. שְׂיִבְנֶה בֵּית הַמִּקְדָּשׁ בְּמַהֲרָה
בְּיָמֵינוּ. וְתֵן חֶלְקֵנוּ בְּתוֹרָתְךָ:

Hear, O Israel, the Lord is our G-d, the
Lord is One.

שְׁמַע יִשְׂרָאֵל ה' אֱלֹהֵינוּ ה' אֶחָד

Blessed be the name of the glory of His
kingdom forever and ever.

בָּרוּךְ שֵׁם כְּבוֹד מַלְכוּתוֹ לְעוֹלָם וָעֶד