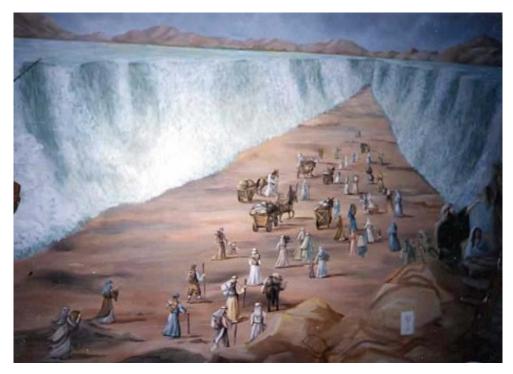
TEHILLIM 136: HALLEL HA-GADOL, PART 2

R' Yair Lichtman





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(1) TEHILLIM 136

- (1) O give thanks to Hashem, for He is good, for His mercy endures forever.
- (2) O give thanks to the God of gods, for His mercy endures forever.
- (3) O give thanks to the Master of masters, for His mercy endures forever,
- (4) to Him who alone does great wonders, for His mercy endures forever,
- (5) to Him that made the heavens with understanding, for His mercy endures forever,
- (6) to Him that spread forth the earth above the waters, for His mercy endures forever,
- (7) to Him that made great lights, for His mercy endures forever,
- (8) the sun to rule by day, for His mercy endures forever,
- (9) the moon and stars to rule by night, for His mercy endures forever,
- (10) to Him that smote Egypt in their first-born, for His mercy endures forever,
- (11) and brought out Israel from among them, for His mercy endures forever,
- (12) with a strong hand, and with an outstretched arm, for His mercy endures forever,
- (13) to Him who divided the Red Sea in two, for His mercy endures forever,
- (14) and made Israel pass through the midst of it, for His mercy endures forever,
- (15) but overthrew Pharaoh and his host in the Red Sea, for His mercy endures forever,
- (16) to Him that led His people through the wilderness, for His mercy endures forever,
- (17) to Him that smote great kings, for His mercy endures forever,
- (18) and slew mighty kings, for His mercy endures forever,
- (19) Sihon king of the Amorites, for His mercy endures forever,
- (20) and Og king of Bashan, for His mercy endures forever,
- (21) and gave their land for a heritage, for His mercy endures forever,
- (22) even a heritage to Israel His servant, for His mercy endures forever,
- (23) who remembered us in our low estate, for His mercy endures forever,
- (24) and has delivered us from our adversaries, for His mercy endures forever,
- (25) who gives food to all flesh, for His mercy endures forever.
- (26) O give thanks to the God of heaven, for His mercy endures forever.

- (א) הודוּ לַי"י כִּי טוֹב כִּי לְעוֹלָם חַסְדוֹ.
- (ב) הודוּ לֵאלֹהֵי הָאֱלֹהִים כִּי לְעוֹלָם חַסְדּוֹ.
- (ג) הודוּ לַאֲלֹנֵי הָאֲלֹנִים כִּי לְעוֹלָם חַסְדּוֹ.
- (ד) <mark>לְעֹשֵׂה</mark> נִפְּלָאוֹת <mark>גְּדֹלוֹת</mark> לְבַדּוֹ כִּי לְעוֹלֶם חַסִדּוֹ.
 - (ה) <mark>לְעֹשֵׂה</mark> הַשָּׁמֵיִם בִּתְבוּנָה כִּי לְעוֹלֶם חַסְדּוֹ.
 - (ו) לְרֹקֵע הָאָרֶץ עַל הַמָּיִם כִּי לְעוֹלֶם חַסְדוֹ.
- ָל<u>עשה אוֹרִים גְּלְלִים כִּי לְעוֹלָם חָסְדּוֹ.</u>
- (ח) אֶת הַשֶּׁמֶשׁ לְמֶמְשֶׁלֶת בַּיּוֹם כִּי לְעוֹלֶם חַסְדוֹ.
- (ט) אֶת הַיָּרַחַ וְכוֹכָבִים לְמֶמְשְׁלוֹת בַּלָּיְלָה כִּי לְעוֹלַם חַסְדוֹ.
 - (י) לְמַבֶּה מִצְרַיִם בִּבְכוֹרֵיהֶם כִּי לְעוֹלֶם חַסדוֹ.
 - (יא) וַיּוֹצֵא יִשְׂרָאֵל מִתּוֹכֶם כִּי לְעוֹלֶם חַסדוֹ.
 - (יב) בְּיָד חֲזָקָה וּבִזְרוֹעַ נְטוּיָה כִּי לְעוֹלֶם חַסְדּוֹ.
- . יגור ים סוף לגוַרים כּי לעוֹלַם חַסְדוֹ.
 - (יד) וְהֶעֱבִיר יִשְׂרָאֵל בְּתוֹכוֹ כִּי לְעוֹלָם חַסִדוֹ.
- (טו) וְנָעֵר פַּרְעֹה וְחֵילוֹ בְיַם סוּף כִּי לְעוֹלֶם חַסִדוֹ.
- (טז) לְמוֹלִיךְ עַמוֹ בַּמִּרְבָּר כִּי לְעוֹלָם חַסְדּוֹ.
- (יז) **לְמַבֵּה מְלָכִים <mark>גְדֹלִים</mark> כִּי** לְעוֹלָם חַסְדּוֹ.
 - (יח) וַיַּהֲרֹג <mark>מְלָכִים</mark> אַדִּירִים כִּי לְעוֹלָם חַסְדוֹ.
- (יט) לְסִיחוֹן <mark>מֶלֶדְ</mark> הָאֱמֹרִי כִּי לְעוֹלָם חַסְדוֹ.
 - ָנְלְעוֹג <mark>מֶלֶה</mark> הַבָּשָׁן כִּי לְעוֹלָם חַסְדוֹ.
- (כא) וְנָתַן אַרְצָם לְנַחֲלָה כִּי לְעוֹלָם חַסְדּוֹ.
 - (כב) נַחֲלָה לְיִשְׂרָאֵל עַבְדּוֹ כִּי לְעוֹלָם חַסְדּוֹ.
- (כג) שֶׁבְּשִׁפְלֵנוּ זָכַר לָנוּ כִּי לְעוֹלָם חַסְדוֹ.
- (כד) וַיִּפְרָקֵנוּ מָצֶבִינוּ כִּי לְעוֹלֶם חַסְדוֹ.
- (כה) נֹתֵן לֶחֶם לְכָל בָּשֶׂר כִּי לְעוֹלָם חַסְדּוֹ.
 - ַבוֹ הוֹדוּ לְאֵל הַשַּׁמֵים כִּי לְעוֹלָם חַסְדּוֹ. (כוֹ) הוֹדוּ לְאֵל הַשַּׁמֵים

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KI L'OLAM CHASDO

(2) PESACHIM 118A

אָמר רַבִּי יְהוֹשֻׁעַ בֶּן לֵוִי: הָנֵי עֶשְׁרִים וְשִׁשֶּׁה ״הוֹדוּ״, כְּנֶגֶד מִי — כְּנֶגֶד עֶשְׂרִים וְשִׁשֶּׁה דּוֹרוֹת שֶׁבָּרָא הַקָּדוֹשׁ בָּרוּךְ הוּא בְּעוֹלָמוֹ וְלֹא נַתַן לָהֶם תּוֹרֵה, וָזָן אוֹתַם בָּחַסְדּוֹ.

Rabbi Yehoshua ben Levi said: These twenty-six mentions of the word *hodu*, give praise, in this *hallel* (Psalms 136), to what do they correspond? He explains: They correspond to the twenty-six generations that the Holy One, Blessed be He, created in His world, and to whom He did not give the Torah. And why did these generations survive, despite the fact that they did not learn Torah or perform mitzvot? They survived only because God sustained them through His mercy, even though they were undeserving.

(3) R' HIRSCH TEHILLIM 136:1

In order to have us think through this idea in all its true significance, Verses 2 and 3 proclaim God as being the sole absolute and freely commanding Force and Power that towers high above all the forces of nature which men would worship as gods, as well as above all the powers in society which men honor and fear as their overlords...

But all the greatness of God's rule in which He judges and delivers, leads, protects, nourishes, disciplines, overthrows and establishes men and nations, and His constant care throughout the ages, which was demonstrated in such obvious ways in the history of the nations, are manifestations of the same power which is revealed also in every moment of modest, quiet subsistence which He grants to any person.

MIDRASHIC RESONANCES

(4) MIDRASH TEHILLIM 136

למכה מצרים בבכוריהם – בשעה ששלח הקב"ה מכת בכורות א"ל כחצות הלילה ומת כל בכור. נכנסו כל הבכורות אצל אבותיהם ואמרו להם כל מה שאמר משה הביא עלינו אין אתם מבקשים שנחיה בואו והוציאו את העברים האלו מבינינו ואם לאו אנו מתים. השיבו להם ואמרו אפילו כל המצרים מתים אינן יוצאים מכאן. מה עשו נכנסו כל הבכורות אצל פרעה והיו מצווחין לפרעה ואומרים בבקשה ממך הוציא את העם הזה שבשבילם רעה תבוא עלינו ועליך. אמר לעבדיו צאו וקפחו שוקיהם של אלו. מה עשו הבכורות מיד יצאו ונטלו כל אחד חרבו והרג את אביו שנאמר למכה מצרים בבכוריהם. למכה בכורי מצרים אין כתיב כאן אלא למכה מצרים בבכוריהם. ששים רבוא הרגו הבכורות באבותיהם.

To the one who strikes Egypt with their firstborn – At the time that Hashem sent the plague of the firstborn, He said, "around the middle of the night, every firstborn will die." All of the firstborn came to their fathers and said to them, "everything that Moshe said, he brought upon us. Don't you want us to live? Come and let us release these Hebrews from among us, for if we don't, we will die!" They responded to them and said, "even if every Egyptian died, they would not leave from here." What did they do? All of the

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firstborn came to Pharaoh and were crying out to Pharaoh and said, "please, release this nation, as on their behalf, evil is coming upon us and upon you." He said to his servants, "go and strike the thighs of these people." What did the firstborn do? They immediately departed and each took his sword and killed his father, as it says "to the one who strikes Egypt with their firstborn." It does not say "to the one who strikes the firstborn of Egypt," but rather "to the one who strikes Egypt with their firstborn." These firstborn killed 600,000 from among their fathers.

לגוזר ים סוף לגזרים – י' נסים נעשו לאבותינו על הים... נעשה גזרים שנאמר לגוזר ים סוף לגזרים.

To the one who cut the Yam Suf into strips -10 miracles were done for our ancestors at the sea... it was made into strips, as it says "to the one who cut the Yam Suf into strips.

A UNIVERSAL MIZMOR?

(5) PESACHIM 118A

מֶהֵיכָן הֵלֵּל הַגָּדוֹל? רַבִּי יְהוּדָה אוֹמֵר: מֵ״הוֹדוּ״ עַד ״נַהְרוֹת בָּבֶל״. וְרַבִּי יוֹחָנָן אוֹמֵר: מִ״שִׁיר הַמַּעֲלוֹת״ עַד ״נַהְרוֹת בָּבֶל״. וְלַמָּה נְקְרָא שְׁמוֹ הַלֵּל הַגָּדוֹל? אָמֵר רַבִּי יוֹחָנָן: מִפְּנֵי שֶׁהַקְּדוֹשׁ בָּרוּךְ הוּא בּר יַעֲלְב אָמֵר: מִ״כִּי יַעֲלְב בָּחַר לוֹ יָה״ עַד ״נַהְרוֹת בָּבֶל״. וְלָמָה נִקְרָא שְׁמוֹ הַלֵּל הַגָּדוֹל? אָמֵר רַבִּי יוֹחָנָן: מִפְּנֵי שֶׁהַקְּדוֹשׁ בָּרוּהְ הוּא יוֹשֵׁב בָּרוּמוֹ שֵׁל עוֹלָם וּמָחֶלֶּק מִזוֹנוֹת לָכָל בִּרָיַה.

From where does the great hallel begin and where does it end? Rabbi Yehuda says: From "Give thanks" (Psalms 136:1) until "The rivers of Babylon" (Psalms 137:1). And Rabbi Yoḥanan says: From "A song of ascents" (Psalms 134:1) until "The rivers of Babylon." Rav Aḥa bar Ya'akov said: From "For the Lord has chosen Jacob for Himself" (Psalms 135:4) until "The rivers of Babylon." The Gemara asks: And why is this section called the great hallel? Rabbi Yoḥanan said: Because this passage states that the Holy One, Blessed be He, sits in the heights of the universe and dispenses food to every creature.

(6) YERUSHALMI PESACHIM 5:7

לָמָה בָאִילֵין מַּרְתַּין פַּרְשָׁתָא. רִבִּי זְעוּרָא רְבִּי אַבָּהוּ בְשֵׁם רְבִּי שְׁמוּאֵל בַּר נַחְמָן. מִפְּנֵי שֶׁיְּרִידַת גְּשָׁמִים כְּלוּלָה בָהֶן. עַל דַּעְתֵּיה דְּרְבִּי יוֹחָנָן נִיחָא. דְּכָתִיב מַעֲלֵה נְשִׂאִים מִקְצֵה הָאָרֶץ. וּכְרבִּי חָנִינָה מֵה. בְּגִין דְּכְתִיב נוֹתֵן לֻחָם לְכָל־בָּשֶׂר כִּי לְעוֹלֵם חַסְדִּוֹ:

Why these two chapters? Because rainfall is included in them. In the opinion of Rebbi Joḥanan it is understandable, for it is written, "He brings up vapors from the ends of the earth." How is it for Rebbi Ḥaninah? Because it is written, "He gives nourishment to all flesh; Truly, His kindness is forever."

(7) MEIRI TEHILLIM 136:1

ואמר תחלה בדרך כלל "הודו לה' כי טוב," שהוא סבת המציאות והמשכו. ועל המציאות אמר שהוא טוב, ועל המשך המציאות אמר "כי לעולם חסדו."

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He first says generally "thank Hashem for He is good," since He is the cause of existence and of its continuation. Regarding existence, he says that it is good, and on the continuation of existence he says "for His *chessed* is eternal."

(8) TEHILLIM 135:10-12

(י) שֶׁהָכָּה גּוֹיִם רַבִּים וְהָרֵג מְלָכִים עֲצוּמִים. (יא) לְסִיחוֹן מֶלֶךְ הָאֱמֹרִי וּלְעוֹג מֶלֶךְ הַבָּשֶׁן וּלְכֹל מַמְלְכוֹת כְּנָעַן. (יב) וְנָתַן אַרְצָם נַחֲלָה נַחַלָּה לִישָׁרָאֵל עַמוֹ.

(10) He smote many nations, and slew mighty kings: (11) Sihon king of the Amorites, and Og king of Bashan, and all the kingdoms of Canaan; (12) and gave their land for a heritage, a heritage to Israel His people.

(9) RADAK TEHILLIM 136:19-21

לפיכך לא זכר בזה המזמור ממלכות כנען, כמו שזכר במזמור שלמעלה ממנו, לפי שאמר בזה המזמור: כי לעולם חסדו – וממלכות כנען שנתן להם אמת היה ולא חסד, כי כבר נתנה לאברהם אבינו. אבל ארץ סיחון ועוג, שלא נתנה לאברהם, ונתנה להם, זה היה חסד.

Therefore, he didn't mention the kings of Canaan in this *mizmor*, as he mentioned them in the previous chapter, because he said in this *mizmor*, "for his kindness is forever," and giving them the kingdoms of Canaan was truth and not kindness, as they had already been given to Avraham Avinu. However, the land of Sichon and Og, which had not been given to Avraham, and was given to them, that was kindness.

A PARTICULAR MIZMOR?

(10) COMMENTARY FROM THE FRENCH SAGES TEHILLIM 136:23

(כג) שבשפלינו זכר לנו – אז, ויש לפרש שבשפלנו עתה זכור לנו ויפרקינו מצרינו

For in our lowliness, He remembered us – Then, and one can explain "for in lowliness" now, remember us and redeem us from our enemies.

(11) IBN EZRA TEHILLIM 136:23

שהניחו הנחלה והיו בגלות בבל.

For Israel left their heritage and were in exile in Babylon.

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(12) YIRMIYAHU 31:11

(יא) קוֹל שָׁשוֹון וְקוֹל שִׂמְחָה קוֹל חָתָן וְקוֹל כַּלָּה קוֹל אֹמְרִים הוֹדוּ אֶת י"י צְבָאוֹת כִּי טוֹב י"י כִּי לְעוֹלָם חַסְדּוֹ מְבָאִים תּוֹדָה בֵּית י"י כִּי אָשִיב אֶת שְׁבוּת הָאָרֵץ כְּבָרִאשׁנָה אָמַר י"י.

(11) the voice of joy and the voice of gladness, the voice of the bridegroom and the voice of the bride, the voice of those who say, 'Give thanks to Hashem of Hosts, for Hashem is good, for His loving kindness endures forever'; and of them who bring sacrifices of thanksgiving into the house of Hashem. For I will cause the captivity of the land to return as at the first,' says Hashem.

(13) EZRA 3:11

(יא) וַיַּעֲנוּ בְּהַלֵּל וּבְהוֹדֹת לַי"י כִּי טוֹב כִּי לְעוֹלָם חַסְדוֹ עַל יִשְׂרָאֵל וְכָל הָעָם הֵרִיעוּ תִרוּעַה גִּדוֹלַה בָהַלֵּל לַי"י עַל הוּסַד בֵּית י"י.

(11) They sang one to another in praising and giving thanks to Hashem: "For He is good, for His loving kindness endures forever toward Israel." All the people shouted with a great shout when they praised Hashem, because the foundation of the house of Hashem was laid.

(14) EZRA 1:1-2

(א) וּבִשְׁנַת אַחַת לְכוֹרֶשׁ מֶלֶךְ פָּרַס לִכְלוֹת דְּבַר י"י מִפִּי יִרְמְיָה הֵעִיר י"י אֶת רוּחַ כֹּרֶשׁ מֶלֶךְ פָּרַס לִכְלוֹת דְּבָר י"י מָפִּי יִרְמְיָה הֵעִיר י"י אֱלֹהֵי הַשָּׁמִיִם וְהוּא פָקד עָלִי לִבְנוֹת לוֹ בַיִּת בִּירוּשְׁלַם בְּמְרָחָב לֵאמֹר. (ב) כֹּה אָמֵר כֹּרֶשׁ מֶלֶךְ פָּרַס כֹּל מַמְלְכוֹת הָאָרֶץ נָתַן לִי י"י אֱלֹהֵי הַשָּׁמִים וְהוּא פָקד עָלִי לִבְנוֹת לוֹ בַיִּת בִּירוּשְׁלַם אֲשֶׁר בִּיהוּדָה.

(1) Now in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, to fulfill the word of Hashem by the mouth of Jeremiah, Hashem stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, so that he made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom, and put it also in writing, saying, (2) "Thus says Cyrus king of Persia, 'All the kingdoms of the earth has Hashem, the God of heaven, given me; and He has charged me to build Him a house in Jerusalem, which is in Judah.

COMMENTARY

(15) RASHI TEHILLIM 136:4

[מצאתי: **לעשה נפלאות גדולות לבדו** – בראשונה לא נברא מלאך כשעשאן לנפלאות הללו השמים והארץ השמש והירח.]

To Him Who performs great wonders alone - In the beginning, no angel was created when He made the wonders: the heaven, the earth, the sun and the moon.

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