

# Pray Tell: The Song for Monday

Source Sheet by Rabbi Federgrun

## 1. Psalms 48

(1) A song. A psalm of the Korahites. (2) The LORD is great and much acclaimed in the city of our God, His holy mountain— (3) fair-crested, joy of all the earth, Mount Zion, summit of Zaphon, city of the great king. (4) Through its citadels, God has made Himself known as a haven. (5) See, the kings joined forces; they advanced together. (6) At the mere sight of it they were stunned, they were terrified, they panicked; (7) they were seized there with a trembling, like a woman in the throes of labor, (8) as the Tarshish fleet was wrecked in an easterly gale. (9) The likes of what we heard we have now witnessed in the city of the LORD of hosts, in the city of our God— may God preserve it forever! Selah. (10) In Your temple, God, we meditate upon Your faithful care. (11) The praise of You, God, like Your name, reaches to the ends of the earth; Your right hand is filled with beneficence. (12) Let Mount Zion rejoice! Let the towns of Judah exult, because of Your judgments. (13) Walk around Zion, circle it; count its towers, (14) take note of its ramparts; go through its citadels, that you may recount it to a future age. (15) For God—He is our God forever; He will lead us evermore.

## 2. Rosh Hashanah 31a

**On the second day of the week what psalm would the Levites recite?** The psalm that begins: “**Great is the Lord, and highly to be praised** in the city of our God, His sacred mountain” (Psalms

## תהילים מ"ח

(א) נְשִׁיר מְזִמֹּר לְבְנֵי־קֹרַח: (ב) גָּדוֹל ה' וּמְהֻלָּל מְאֹד בְּעִיר אֱלֹהֵינוּ הֶרֶקְדָּשׁ: (ג) יִפָּה נֹף מְשֹׁשׁ כָּל־הָאָרֶץ הֶרֶצִּיּוֹן יִרְפָּתִי צָפוֹן קִרְיַת מֶלֶךְ רַב: (ד) אֱלֹהִים בְּאַרְמוֹתֶיהָ נֹדַע לְמִשְׁגָּב: (ה) כִּי־הִנֵּה הַמְּלָכִים נֹדְעוּ עָבְרוּ יַחְדָּו: (ו) הִמָּה רָאוּ כֵן תִּמְהוּ נִבְהָלוּ נִחְפְּזוּ: (ז) רָעְדָה אֲחֻזָּתָם נָשָׁם חָיִל כִּי־לָדָה: (ח) בְּרוּחַ קָדִים תִּשְׁפֹּר אֲנִיּוֹת תִּרְשִׁישׁ: (ט) כַּאֲשֶׁר שָׁמְעֵנוּ | כֵּן רָאִינוּ בְּעִיר־ה' צָבָאוֹת בְּעִיר אֱלֹהֵינוּ אֱלֹהִים יְכוֹנְנָה עַד־עוֹלָם סֵלָה: (י) דָּמִינוּ אֱלֹהִים חֲסִידָהּ בְּקֶרֶב הִיכָלָהּ: (יא) כְּשִׁמְךָ אֱלֹהִים כֵּן תִּהְלֶתָה עַל־קְצוֹי־אָרֶץ צֹדֵק מְלֶאכָה יְמִינָהּ: (יב) יִשְׁמַח | הֶרֶצִּיּוֹן תִּגְלֶנָה בָּנוֹת יְהוּדָה לְמַעַן מִשְׁפָּטֶיהָ: (יג) סָבוּ צִיּוֹן וְהִקִּיפוּהָ סָפְרוּ מִגְדָּלֶיהָ: (יד) נְשִׁיתוּ לְבַבְכֶּם | לְחִילָהּ פִּסְגּוֹ אֲרְמוֹתֶיהָ לְמַעַן תִּסְפְּרוּ לְדוֹר אַחֲרוֹן: (טו) כִּי זֶה | אֱלֹהִים אֱלֹהֵינוּ עוֹלָם וָעֶד הוּא יִנְהַגֵּנוּ עַל־קוֹמוֹת:

## ראש השנה ל"א א

בשני מה היו אומרים (תהלים מח, ב) גדול ה' ומהולל מאד על שם שחילק מעשיו ומלך עליהן

48:2). This is **because** on the second day of Creation **He separated His works**, dividing between the upper waters and the lower waters, **and ruled over them** as King; and this psalm speaks of Jerusalem as “The city of a great King” (Psalms 48:3).

3. **Midrash Tanchuma, Shemot 2:1**

(1) **Another comment on These are the names (Exod. 1:1).** Scripture states: *As is Thy name, O God, so is Thy praise, unto the end of the earth* (Ps. 48:11). Men praise a human king as strong though he may be weak; they acclaim him as handsome though he may be ugly; they extol him as merciful though he may be cruel, but the Holy One, blessed be He, exceeds all the praise heaped upon Him, for He is the great, the mighty, the awe-inspiring God. David exclaimed: *Who can express the mighty acts of the Lord, or make all His praise be heard?* (Ps. 105:2), while Job declared: *Shall it be told Him that I speak? or should a man wish that he were swallowed up?* (Job 37:20). The men of the Great Synagogue later proclaimed: *Blessed be Thy glorious name that is exalted above all blessing and praise* (Neh. 9:5).

**מדרש תנחומא, שמות ב' א'**

(א) דָּבָר אַחֵר, וְאֵלֶּה שְׁמוֹת, זֶה שֶׁאָמַר הַכְּתוּב: כְּשֵׁמֶךָ אֱלֹקִים כֵּן תִּהְיֶה תְהִלָּתְךָ עַל קִצְוֵי אֶרֶץ צִדְקָה מְלֵאָה יְמִינְךָ (תהלים מח, יא). מֶלֶךְ בְּשֵׁר וְדָם מְקַלְסִין אוֹתוֹ וְשֶׁהוּא גִבּוֹר, וְהוּא חֲלָשׁ. מְקַלְסִין אוֹתוֹ נָאֶה, וְהוּא כְּעוֹר. מְקַלְסִין אוֹתוֹ רַחֲמָנִי, וְהוּא אֲכֻזָּרִי. וְהַקְדוּשׁ בְּרוּךְ הוּא בְּכָל מָה שֶׁמְקַלְסִין אוֹתוֹ הוּא יָתֵר, הָאֵל הַגָּדוֹל הַגִּבּוֹר וְהַנּוֹרָא, (דברים ט, יז). אָמַר דָּוִד: מִי יִמְלֵל גִּבּוֹרוֹת ה' יִשְׁמִיעַ כָּל תִּהְלָתוֹ (תהלים קו, ב). אִיּוֹב אָמַר: הִיָּסְפָר לוֹ כִּי אֲדַבֵּר אִם אָמַר אִישׁ כִּי יִבְלָע (איוב לו, כ). בָּאוּ אַנְשֵׁי כְּנָסֶת הַגָּדוֹלָה וְאָמְרוּ: וַיִּבְרְכוּ שֵׁם כְּבֹדְךָ וּמְרוֹמָם עַל כָּל בְּרָכָה וְתִהְיֶה (נחמיה ט, ה).



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