

Some Common Psalms for Tikkun Leil Shavuot 2021

Psalm 23

1

מִזְמוֹר לְדָוִד יְהוָה רֹעִי לֹא אֶחְסָר:

A psalm of David. The LORD is my shepherd; I lack nothing.

2

בְּנֵאֻת דְּשֵׂא יְרִבִּיצְנִי עַל־מֵי מְנַחֹת יִנְהַלְנִי:

He makes me lie down in green pastures; He leads me to water in places of repose;

3

נִפְסָטִי יִשׁוּבֵב יִנְחֵנִי בְּמַעְגְלֵי־צֶדֶק לְמַעַן שְׁמוֹ:

He renews my life; He guides me in right paths as befits His name.

4

גַּם כִּי־אֵלֶךְ בְּגִיא צַלְמוֹת לֹא־אֵירָא רָע כִּי־אִתְּךָ עִמָּדִי שִׁבְטְךָ וּמִשְׁעַנְתְּךָ הֵמָּה יִבְחַמֵּנִי:

Though I walk through a valley of deepest darkness, I fear no harm, for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff—they comfort me.

5

תַּעֲרֹךְ לִפְנֵי אֵלֹהֵי אֹיְבָבִי וְצִרְיִי דִשְׁנֵת בְּשִׁמְן רֹאשִׁי כּוֹסֵי רוּחַ:

You spread a table for me in full view of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil; my drink is abundant.

6

אֵךְ אֶטוֹב וְחַסֵּד יִרְדְּפוּנִי כָּל־יְמֵי חַיִּי וְשִׁבְתִּי בְּבֵית־יְהוָה לְאָרְךָ יָמִים:

Only goodness and steadfast love shall pursue me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD for many long years.

A Bit of Commentary

Rabbi Harold Kushner: *Which line in the psalm is the hardest for people to understand?*

Probably "God prepares a table before me in the presence of my enemies" because it sounds spiteful or vindictive. ... In my interpretation, "in the presence of" is better translated as "in contrast to." There were people to whom I turned to nourish me when I was getting through this hard time, and they weren't there for me. And I would have felt deserted and abandoned if not for God. God nourished me spiritually the way my human friends were not able to.

Psalm 114

1

בְּצֵאת יִשְׂרָאֵל מִמִּצְרַיִם בֵּית יַעֲקֹב מֵעַם לֵעָד:

When Israel went forth from Egypt, the house of Jacob from a people of strange speech,

2

הִיְתָה יְהוּדָה לְקֹדֶשׁוֹ יִשְׂרָאֵל מִמְּשֻׁלֹתָיו:

Judah became His -holy one, Israel, His dominion.

3

הַיָּם רָאָה וַיִּגַּס הַיַּרְדֵּן וַיִּסָּב לְאַחֲרָיו:

The sea saw them and fled, Jordan ran backward,

4

הַהָרִים דָּקְדְּדוּ כְּאַיִלִים גְּבֻעוֹת כְּבָנֵי־צֹאן:

mountains skipped like rams, hills like sheep.

5

מִהֲלֶךְ הַיָּם כִּי תִגִּיס הַיַּרְדֵּן תִּסָּב לְאַחֲרָיו:

What alarmed you, O sea, that you fled, Jordan, that you ran backward,

6

הַהָרִים תִּרְקְדְּדוּ כְּאַיִלִים גְּבֻעוֹת כְּבָנֵי־צֹאן:

mountains, that you skipped like rams, hills, like sheep?

7

מִלִּפְנֵי אֲדֹנָי חוּלֵי אֶרֶץ מִלִּפְנֵי אֱלֹהֵי יַעֲקֹב:

Tremble, O earth, at the presence of the Lord, at the presence of the God of Jacob,

8

הַהֲפֹכִי הַצּוּר אֶגְמֵי־מַיִם חֲלֹמֵי־שֵׁן לְמַעַיְבוֹת־מַיִם:

who turned the rock into a pool of water, the flinty rock into a fountain.

A Bit of Commentary

Rabbi Martin Samuel Cohen: The liberation of Israel, after all, was not merely a geopolitical event in the normal sense of the term, but also, as Israeli's giant step forward from clan to nation, the last hurdle necessary for the people to overcome before encountering God at Sinai. And the ever-sensitive earth responded in ways that suggested its own insight. Into the events taking place on its outer crust.

Psalm 121

1

שִׁיר לַמַּעֲלוֹת אֲשָׁא עֵינַי אֶל־הַהָרִים מֵאֵין יָבֵא עֲזָרִי:

A song for ascents. I turn my eyes to the mountains; from where will my help come?

2

עֲזָרִי מֵעַם יְהוָה לִנְשֵׂה שָׁמַיִם וָאָרֶץ:

My help comes from the LORD, maker of heaven and earth.

3

אֵל־יִתֵּן לִמְוֹט רַגְלֶךָ אֵל־יָנוּם שְׁמֹרֶךָ:

He will not let your foot give way; your guardian will not slumber;

4

הִנֵּה לֹא־יָנוּם וְלֹא יִישָׁן שׁוֹמֵר יִשְׂרָאֵל:

See, the guardian of Israel neither slumbers nor sleeps!

5

יְהוָה שְׁמֹרֶךָ יְהוָה צִלְּךָ עַל־יְדֶיךָ מִיְמִינֶךָ:

The LORD is your guardian, the LORD is your protection at your right hand.

6

יוֹמָם הַשֶּׁמֶשׁ לֹא־יִכָּבֵד וַיָּרַח בַּלַּיְלָה:

By day the sun will not strike you, nor the moon by night.

7

יְהוָה יִשְׁמְרֶךָ מִכָּל־רָע יִשְׁמֹר אֶת־נַפְשְׁךָ:

The LORD will guard you from all harm; He will guard your life.

8

יְהוָה יִשְׁמֹר־צֵאתְךָ וּבֹאֶךָ מֵעַתָּה וְעַד־עוֹלָם:

The LORD will guard your going and coming now and forever.

A Bit of Commentary

Adele Berlin & Marc Brettler: This psalm expresses great confidence in God as a guardian; the root “sh-m-r,” to guard,” appears six times. This psalm is remarkable for recounting the psalmist’s inner dialogue. The psalmist answer himself confidently either “through prophecy or expressing hope” (Ibn Ezra).