
Torah Portion: Noach, Genesis 6:9–11:32
Haftarah: Isaiah 54:1-55:5

Morning Blessings*Music by Shefa Gold*

?? מַתִּיר אֲסוּרִים, ?? פּוֹקֵחַ עֵוְרִים,
?? זֹקֵף כְּפוּפִים, ?? אוֹהֵב צַדִּיקִים.

*Adonai matir asurim, A-do-nai po-kei-ach iv-rim,
Adonai zokeif k'fufim, Adonai oheiv tsadikim.*

Adonai frees the captives, Adonai opens
the eyes of the blind,
Adonai lifts up the fallen, Adonai loves the righteous.

Ahal'lah Adonai b'chayai! אֶהְלֵלָה ?? בְּחַיָּי.

I will praise Adonai with my life!

Babylonian Talmud, Chullin 7a

...Rabbi Pineas ben Ya'ir was going to engage in the redemption of captives, and he encountered the Ginai River. He said to the river: Ginai, part your water for me and I will pass through you. The river said to him: You are going to perform the will of your Maker and I am going to perform the will of my Maker, to flow in my path. With regard to you, it is uncertain whether you will perform God's will successfully, and it is uncertain whether you will not perform God's will successfully. I will certainly perform God's will successfully. Rabbi Pinehas ben Ya'ir said to the river: If you do not part, I will decree upon you that water will never flow through you. The river parted for him.

There was a certain man who was carrying wheat for the preparation of matza for Passover. Rabbi Pinehas ben Ya'ir said to the river: Part your waters for that person too, as he is engaged in the performance of a mitzva. The river parted for him.

There was a certain Arab [taya'a] who was accompanying them. Rabbi Pinehas ben Ya'ir said to the river: Part your waters for that person too, so that he will not say: Is that what one does to a person who accompanies him? The river parted for him.

Rav Yosef said: How great is this man, Rabbi Pinehas ben Ya'ir, greater than Moses and the six hundred thousand who left Egypt, as there, at the Red Sea, the waters parted one time, and here the waters parted three times.

The Gemara asks: And perhaps here too, the waters parted one time, and the river began to flow again only after all three of them passed. Rather, this man was as great as Moses and the six hundred thousand children of Israel.

The text invites us to consider, as individuals and a community, the extraordinary measures that we must take to: redeem captives, engage in mitzvot (sacred action), and care for all people.

PSALM 121

Music by Yosef Karduner

Shir lamaalot.

Esa einai el heharim

mei-ayin yavo ezri?

Ezri mei-im Adonai,

osei shamayim vaaretz.

Al yitein lamot raglecha

al yanum shomrecha.

Hinei lo yanum v'lo yiyshan

shomeir Yisrael.

Adonai shomrecha

Adonai tzilcha

al yad y'minecha.

Yomam hashemesh lo yakehkah

v'yareach balailah.

Adonai yishmorcha mikol ra

yishmor et nafshecha.

Adonai yishmor tzetcha uvoecha

Meatah v'ad olam.

A song for ascents.

I turn my eyes to the mountains;

from where will my help come?

My help comes from Adonai,

maker of heaven and earth.

God will not let your foot give way;

your guardian will not slumber;

See, the guardian of Israel

neither slumbers nor sleeps!

The Eternal is your guardian,

Adonai is your protection

at your right hand.

By day the sun will not strike you,

nor the moon by night.

Adonai will guard you from all harm;

Adonai will guard your life.

The Eternal will guard your going and coming

now and forever.

שִׁיר לַמַּעֲלוֹת
אֲשָׁא עֵינַי אֶל-הַהָרִים
מֵאֵין יָבֵא עֲזָרִי:
עֲזָרִי מֵעַם יְהוָה
עָשָׂה שָׁמַיִם וָאָרֶץ:
אֶל-יָתֵן לַמּוֹט רַגְלְךָ
אֶל-יָנוּם שְׁמֹרְךָ:
הֲגִה לֹא יָנוּם וְלֹא יִישָׁן
שׁוֹמֵר יִשְׂרָאֵל:
יְהוָה שְׁמֹרְךָ
יְהוָה צִלְךָ
עַל-יַד יְמִינְךָ:
יוֹמָם הַשֶּׁמֶשׁ לֹא-יִכְבֶּה
וַיָּרַח בַּלַּיִל:
יְהוָה יִשְׁמְרְךָ מִכָּל-רָע
יִשְׁמֹר אֶת-נַפְשְׁךָ:
יְהוָה יִשְׁמֹר-צֵאתְךָ וּבואְךָ
מֵעַתָּה וְעַד-עוֹלָם:

Prayer for Redemption of Hostages

By CCAR members Rabbis Ofer and

Rachel Sabath Beit Halachmi

*Our God, the One who raised Joseph up from the pit, be
"a refuge for the oppressed, a refuge in times of trouble."
(Psalm 9:10)*

Send complete rescue and full redemption to all those
held captive by the enemy.

Strengthen their spirit and bring them our prayers that
they be protected from all harm.

Implant understanding in the heart of the enemy that they
may return the captives in wholeness of body and spirit.

Grant wisdom to the Israel Defense Forces that they may
secure freedom for the captives without loss of life. Grant
strength of spirit and courage of heart to all the sons and
daughters of Abraham, Sarah, and Hagar to release
bonds of captivity and allow us all to live in freedom.

*"They shall call upon Me, and I will answer them; I will
be with them in distress; I will rescue them, and honor
them." (after Psalm 91:15).*

Mi Shebeirach

by Craig Taubman

מִי שְׁבִירָךְ אֲבוֹתֵינוּ, אַבְרָהָם יִצְחָק וְיַעֲקֹב,
שָׂרָה רִבְקָה רָחֵל וְלֵיָאָה, הוּא יְבָרֵךְ וְיִרְפָּא אֶת־הַחֹלִים.

*Mi shebeirach avoteinu, Avraham, Yitschak v'Yaakov,
Sarah, Rivkah, Racheil v'Leiah,
Hu y'vareich virapei et hacholim.*

May God, who blessed our ancestors, Abraham, Isaac
and Jacob, Sarah, Rebekah, Rachel and Leah, bless and
heal those who are ill.

Eil nah r'fah nah lah. אֵל נָא רְפָא נָא לָהּ.

God, please, we pray, bring healing.

We have no unknown soldiers

*By Yehudah Amichai, Published 1969, drafted June
1967 (Yale Archives)*

We have no unknown soldiers.
We have no grave of the unknown soldier.
One who wants to place his wreath
has to dismantle the wreath
into many flowers and to divide them
into leaves and disperse them.
And all the dead come home
and all of them have names.
And you too, Yonatan
my student, whose name is in the class register
just as your name is in the list of the dead.
You were my student,
you had a name
you have a name.
Recently I sat with you
on the boot of a car on a dirt track
close to Ein Gedi. Dust
rose up behind us
and we couldn't see the mountains.
Dust covered what should
have happened three years
later: now.
Please, even those who didn't know you
love him even after his death
love him: now he has fallen,
an empty space where his shape — is his shape
and his name — is his name.