THE ILLUSTRATED TEHILLIM

WITH TRANSLATION AND INTRODUCTIONS

ספר תהלים

מזמור לתודה

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1 א

The Book of Psalms begins with a guide to life itself. Avoid the influence of evildoers and those who ridicule good, and adopt the study and knowledge of Torah as your main goal. Then God will reward you with a life of joy and good fortune.

1 Praiseworthy is the man who walked not in the counsel of the wicked, and stood not in the path of the sinful, and sat not in the session of scorners. 2 But his desire is in the Torah of HASHEM, and in His Torah he meditates day and night. 3 He shall be like a tree deeply rooted alongside brooks of water, that yields its fruit in due season, and whose leaf never withers, and everything that he does will succeed. 4 Not so the wicked; rather they are like the chaff that the wind drives away. 5 Therefore the wicked shall not be vindicated in judgment, nor the sinful in the assembly of the righteous — 6 for HASHEM attends the way of the righteous, while the way of the wicked will perish.

א אַשְׁרֵי הָאִישׁ אֲשֶׁר לֹא הָלַךְ
בַּעֲצַת רְשָׁעִים, וּבְדֶרֶךְ
חַטָּאִים לֹא עָמָד, וּבְמוֹשַׁב לֵצִים לֹא
יָשָׁב. ב כִּי אִם בְּתוֹרַת יהוה חֶפְצוֹ,
וּבְתוֹרָתוֹ יֶהְגֶּה יוֹמָם וָלָיְלָה. ג וְהָיָה
כְּעֵץ שָׁתוּל עַל פַּלְגֵי מָיִם; אֲשֶׁר פִּרְיוֹ
יִתֵּן בְּעִתּוֹ, וְעָלֵהוּ לֹא יִבּוֹל, וְכֹל אֲשֶׁר
יַעֲשֶׂה יַצְלִיחַ. ד לֹא כֵן הָרְשָׁעִים, כִּי
אִם כַּמֹּץ אֲשֶׁר תִּדְּפֶנּוּ רוּחַ. ה עַל כֵּן
לֹא יָקֻמוּ רְשָׁעִים בַּמִּשְׁפָּט, וְחַטָּאִים
בַּעֲדַת צַדִּיקִים. ו כִּי יוֹדֵעַ יהוה דֶּרֶךְ
צַדִּיקִים, וְדֶרֶךְ רְשָׁעִים תֹּאבֵד.

ב 2

When David was anointed as God's king over Israel, the Philistines massed their army to depose him (*II Samuel* 5:16). This psalm expresses the futility of attempting to thwart God's will. Our Sages see in it an allusion to the final encounter between the nations of the world and the Messiah (*Rashi*).

א **לָמָּה** רָגְשׁוּ גוֹיִם, וּלְאֻמִּים יֶהְגּוּ
רִיק. ב יִתְיַצְּבוּ מַלְכֵי אֶרֶץ,
וְרוֹזְנִים נוֹסְדוּ יָחַד, עַל יהוה וְעַל
מְשִׁיחוֹ. ג נְנַתְּקָה אֶת מוֹסְרוֹתֵימוֹ,
וְנַשְׁלִיכָה מִמֶּנּוּ עֲבֹתֵימוֹ. ד יוֹשֵׁב
בַּשָּׁמַיִם יִשְׂחָק, אֲדֹנָי יִלְעַג לָמוֹ.
ה אָז יְדַבֵּר אֵלֵימוֹ בְּאַפּוֹ, וּבַחֲרוֹנוֹ
יְבַהֲלֵמוֹ. ו וַאֲנִי נָסַכְתִּי מַלְכִּי, עַל
צִיּוֹן הַר קָדְשִׁי. ז אֲסַפְּרָה אֶל חֹק,
יהוה אָמַר אֵלַי בְּנִי אַתָּה, אֲנִי
הַיּוֹם יְלִדְתִּיךָ. ח שְׁאַל מִמֶּנִּי וְאֶתְּנָה
גוֹיִם נַחֲלָתֶךָ, וַאֲחֻזָּתְךָ אַפְסֵי אָרֶץ.
ט תְּרֹעֵם בְּשֵׁבֶט בַּרְזֶל, כִּכְלִי יוֹצֵר
תְּנַפְּצֵם. י וְעַתָּה מְלָכִים הַשְׂכִּילוּ,
הִוָּסְרוּ שֹׁפְטֵי אָרֶץ. יא עִבְדוּ אֶת
יהוה בְּיִרְאָה, וְגִילוּ בִּרְעָדָה. יב נַשְּׁקוּ
בַר, פֶּן יֶאֱנַף וְתֹאבְדוּ דֶרֶךְ, כִּי יִבְעַר
כִּמְעַט אַפּוֹ; אַשְׁרֵי כָּל חוֹסֵי בוֹ.

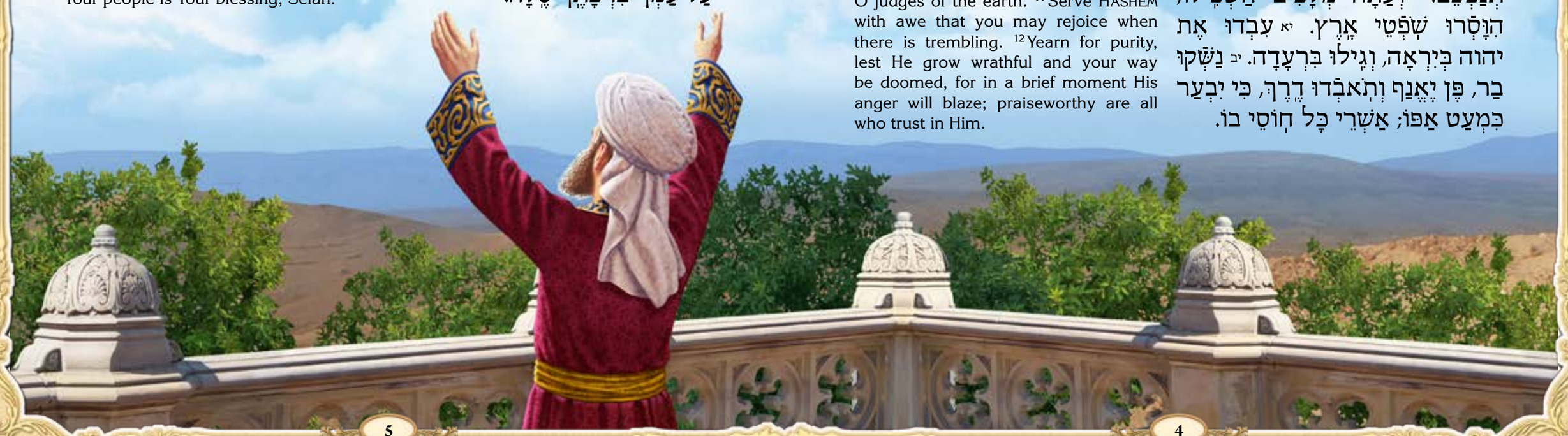
1 Why do the peoples gather, and the nations talk in vain? 2 The kings of the earth take their stand and the princes conspire secretly, against HASHEM and against His anointed: 3 "Let us cut their cords and let us cast off their ropes from ourselves." 4 He Who sits in heaven will laugh, the Lord will mock them. 5 Then He will speak to them in His anger, and in His fury He will terrify them: 6 "I Myself have anointed My king, over Zion, My holy mountain!" 7 I am obliged to proclaim that HASHEM said to me, "You are My son, I have begotten you this day. 8 Ask of Me and I will make the peoples your inheritance, and the ends of the earth your possession. 9 You will smash them with a rod of iron, shatter them like an earthen vessel." 10 And now, O kings, be wise; be disciplined, O judges of the earth. 11 Serve HASHEM with awe that you may rejoice when there is trembling. 12 Yearn for purity, lest He grow wrathful and your way be doomed, for in a brief moment His anger will blaze; praiseworthy are all who trust in Him.

ג 3

David's son, Absalom, led a nearly successful attempt to overthrow him (see *II Samuel* Chs. 15-19). Despite the apparent hopelessness of his situation, David's trust in God fills him with peace and security.

א **מִזְמוֹר** לְדָוִד, בִּבְרֹחוֹ מִפְּנֵי
אַבְשָׁלוֹם בְּנוֹ. ב יהוה,
מָה רַבּוּ צָרָי, רַבִּים קָמִים עָלָי.
ג רַבִּים אֹמְרִים לְנַפְשִׁי, אֵין יְשׁוּעָתָה
לּוֹ בֵּאלֹהִים סֶלָה. ד וְאַתָּה יהוה
מָגֵן בַּעֲדִי, כְּבוֹדִי וּמֵרִים רֹאשִׁי.
ה קוֹלִי אֶל יהוה אֶקְרָא, וַיַּעֲנֵנִי מֵהַר
קָדְשׁוֹ סֶלָה. ו אֲנִי שָׁכַבְתִּי וָאִישָׁנָה,
הֱקִיצוֹתִי, כִּי יהוה יִסְמְכֵנִי. ז לֹא
אִירָא מֵרִבְבוֹת עָם, אֲשֶׁר סָבִיב שָׁתוּ
עָלָי. ח קוּמָה יהוה, הוֹשִׁיעֵנִי אֱלֹהַי,
כִּי הִכִּיתָ אֶת כָּל אֹיְבַי לֶחִי, שִׁנֵּי
רְשָׁעִים שִׁבַּרְתָּ. ט לַיהוה הַיְשׁוּעָה,
עַל עַמְּךָ בִרְכָתֶךָ סֶלָה.

1 A psalm by David, as he fled from Absalom his son. 2 HASHEM, how numerous are my tormentors! The great rise up against me! 3 The great say of my soul, "There is no salvation for him from God, Selah!" 4 But You HASHEM are a shield for me, for my soul, and the One Who raises up my head. 5 With my voice I call out to HASHEM, and He answers me from His holy mountain, Selah. 6 I lay down and slept, yet I awoke, for HASHEM supports me. 7 I fear not the myriads of people deployed against me from every side. 8 Rise up, HASHEM, save me, my God, for You struck all of my enemies on the cheek, You broke the teeth of the wicked. 9 Salvation is HASHEM's, upon Your people is Your blessing, Selah.



ד 4

Though addressing himself to Absalom's followers, David speaks to all sinners. He appeals to them to abandon their hypocrisy, and the deceptiveness of temporary victories and meaningless glory. Let them stop their slander and recognize the truth. This will lead to their repentance and true happiness.

א **לַמְנַצֵּחַ** בִּנְגִינוֹת מִזְמוֹר לְדָוִד.
ב בְּקָרְאִי עֲנֵנִי אֱלֹהֵי
צִדְקִי, בַּצָּר הִרְחַבְתָּ לִּי, חָנֵּנִי וּשְׁמַע
תְּפִלָּתִי. ג בְּנֵי אִישׁ, עַד מָה כְּבוֹדִי
לִכְלִמָּה, תֶּאֱהָבוּן רִיק, תְּבַקְשׁוּ כָזָב
סֶלָה. ד וּדְעוּ כִּי הִפְלָה יהוה חָסִיד
לוֹ, יהוה יִשְׁמַע בְּקָרְאִי אֵלָיו. ה רִגְזוּ

1 For the Conductor, upon the Neginos, a psalm by David. 2 When I call, answer me, O God of my vindication. You have relieved me in my distress; be gracious to me and hear my prayer. 3 O sons of great men, how long will you put my honor to shame, and love futility, and seek deception? Selah. 4 Be aware that HASHEM has set aside the devout one for Himself — so HASHEM will listen when I call to Him. 5 Tremble,

וְאַל תֶּחֱטָאוּ; אִמְרוּ בִלְבַבְכֶם עַל
מִשְׁכַּבְכֶם, וְדֹמּוּ סֶלָה. ו זִבְחוּ זִבְחֵי
צֶדֶק, וּבִטְחוּ אֶל יהוה. ז רַבִּים
אֹמְרִים: מִי יַרְאֵנוּ טוֹב, נְסָה עָלֵינוּ
אוֹר פָּנֶיךָ, יהוה. ח נָתַתָּה שִׂמְחָה
בְלִבִּי, מֵעֵת דְּגָנָם וְתִירוֹשָׁם רָבּוּ.
ט בְּשָׁלוֹם יַחְדָּו אֶשְׁכְּבָה וְאִישָׁן, כִּי
אַתָּה יהוה לְבָדָד לָבֶטַח תּוֹשִׁיבֵנִי.

and sin not; reflect in your hearts while on your beds and be utterly silent, Selah. 6 Offer sacrifices of righteousness, and trust in HASHEM. 7 Many say, "Who will show us good? Let the light of Your face shine upon us, HASHEM." 8 But You put gladness in my heart that is greater than theirs at the time that their grain and wine abound. 9 In peace, in harmony, I lie down and sleep; for You, HASHEM, will make me dwell safe and secure.