



# TOWARDS MEANINGFUL

## TEFILLA

BY REBBETZIN ZEMIRA OZAROWSKI

Director of OU Israel L'Ayla Women's Initiative



### יהי כבוד

The world-renown artist stood in front of his blank canvas as he began to paint his next masterpiece. A stroke of red, a dash of orange, a splotch of pink. The proficient painter chooses the colors with ease, pausing only to swirl all the colors to create a most exquisite sunset.

Chazal can be compared to this artist, picking and choosing verses from Tanach to compile our beautiful Tefillot. Using Tanach as their palette, Chazal created the gorgeous masterpiece called the Siddur.

In fact, the Tefilla we will focus on today, יהי כבוד, is comprised of no less than 16 different pesukim from all over Tanach!

We will analyze a few of the pesukim below:

יהי כבוד ה' לעולם ישמח ה' במעשיו

*May the honor of Hashem be forever, may Hashem be happy with His creations*

Gemara Chulin 60a explains that these words were originally said at the time of creation by the שר העולם, one of the malaachim, as he witnessed the growth of the grass. The grass saw that Hashem had commanded the trees to grow למיניהו, each species separately. The grass understood from this that Hashem likes things to be neat and organized and decided on its own that it should grow למיניהו as well. The שר העולם saw this and was amazed and called out - יהי כבוד ה' לעולם ישמח ה' במעשיו - May Hashem's creations always continue to bring honor to Hashem and to make Him happy! Rav Moshe Feinstein learns from this story that we, as Hashem's creations, need to be careful not only to fulfill the Mitzvot that Hashem has directly commanded us, but to go one step further and always be thinking what else would



### US BROKERAGE SERVICES IN ISRAEL

## Get the Best of Both Worlds

Keep your money in the US and receive local expert investment advice

CALL 02-624-0995 054-599-9530

aaron@lighthousecapital.co.il • www.aaronkatsman.com

Securities offered through Portfolio Resources Group, Inc., member of FINRA, SIPC, MSRB, SIFMA

Hashem want from me? How can I go beyond? When we do this, we show that we are doing mitzvot not just because we have to, but because we love Hashem and want to make Him happy. In this way, we will be able to fulfill the words of this פסוק and truly bring honor to Hashem.

וַיֹּאמְרוּ בְּגוֹיִם ה' מֶלֶךְ. (דברי הימים א טז, לא) ה' מֶלֶךְ. ה' מֶלֶךְ. ה' יִמְלֹךְ לְעֹלָם וָעֶד. (שמות טו, יח): ה' מֶלֶךְ עוֹלָם וָעֶד אֲבָדוּ גוֹיִם מֵאֲרָצוֹ. (תהלים י, טז)

***The nations will say– Hashem rules, Hashem ruled, Hashem rules, Hashem will rule forever, Hashem rules forever.***

If you think about it, this line seems awfully redundant and out of order – we go from present to past to present to future to present. And even more so, if you look at the sources of these words (above), you will notice that our Rabbis compiled them from three different sources in Tanach in order to create this strange formation. Why would they do this? **Rav Reuven Melamed** in his sefer, תפילת חנה, explains that if we would just start with the words *Hashem ruled*, we may give a false impression, even for just a moment, that Hashem ruled in the past but no longer

does. So we preface the words ה' מֶלֶךְ with a statement of ה' מֶלֶךְ, *Hashem still rules today*. The same is true at the end. If we would end off with ה' יִמְלֹךְ לְעֹלָם וָעֶד, *Hashem will rule*, one might get the misimpression that Hashem will rule in the future but currently He does not yet rule. Chazal therefore added the extra pasuk of ה' מֶלֶךְ. *Hashem rules in the present*. This shows us how careful Chazal were with how they constructed the Tefillot. Every single word was chosen with precision.

רבות מחשבות בלב איש ועצת ה' היא תקום.

***There are many thoughts in the heart of man but the plan of Hashem will always prevail.***

I have a memory that pops into my mind almost every morning as I say these words. I am in second grade and part of the school choir. We are learning a new song, called רבות מחשבות. The director of the choir chooses a pair of identical twins to do a duet. Over and over, they sing the words רבות מחשבות *badadamp badadamp* ועצת ה' היא *badadamp badadamp* בלב איש תקום. The twins sing in beautiful harmony, making the song come alive. I doubt I understood the words at such a young

**Arthur Samuels, DPM**



**PODIATRIST**  
Over 30 years experience

053-427-6363

ArthurMSamuels@gmail.com

CINEMA CITY MALL, JERUSALEM



**Florida Fund**

*Invest Like The Bank!*

**Own 1<sup>st</sup> Mortgages on USA Property**

**Low Loan-to-Value & High Returns**

**30 Years Experience in Safe Lending**

Floridafund.co.il

058-599-9631

age, but somehow the magnificent melody made an impact on me.

Today, these words are so meaningful and relevant to my life. I remind myself every day that I can plan all that I want, but ultimately Hashem is in control. I can work for hours and hours to organize a great program, to bring the best speakers, to advertise the event properly, but if Hashem decides the program shouldn't work out, then it will rain and no one will show up (or in today's terms, the internet connection will fail). Alternatively, I might think a certain event won't be successful, but Hashem will work it out that the speakers will be perfect and there will be an amazing turnout. And what's true in my work life, is true in every area of all of our lives. These words come to remind us on a daily basis of who is running the show and where to place our trust.

וְהוּא רַחוּם יִכְפֹּר עוֹן וְלֹא יִשְׁחִית וְהִרְבָּה לְהַשִּׁיב אָפוּן וְלֹא יַעִיר כָּל חַמְתּוֹ.

— Cut and paste into your siddur — — — — —



**Gemara Chulin 60a** explains that the words יהי כבוד ה' לעולם ישמח ה' במעשיו were originally said at the time of creation by the שר העולם, one of the *malaachim*, as he witnessed the growth of the grass. The grass saw that Hashem had commanded the trees to grow למיניהו, each species separately. The grass understood from this that Hashem likes things to be neat and decided on its own that it should grow למיניהו as well. The שר העולם called out - יהי כבוד ה' לעולם ישמח ה' במעשיו - May Hashem's creations always continue to bring honor to Hashem! **Rav Moshe Feinstein** explains that we, as Hashem's creations, need to try not only to fulfill the Mitzvot that Hashem has directly commanded us, but to go beyond and always be thinking what else would Hashem want from me? When we do this, we show that we are doing mitzvot not just because we have to, but because we love Hashem and in this way we bring Him honor.

***Hashem is merciful, He forgives sins, and doesn't destroy. He frequently takes back His wrath and does not arouse all His anger.***

We conclude this paragraph with the special lines of והוא רחום. These lines are repeated in Shacharit no less than 4 times!! Aside from here, they also appear in תחנון and in ובא לציון. What is so central about these pesukim that they need to be repeated throughout our Tefilla? One answer is that these words remind us that the only reason why we can even have the audacity to engage Hashem in Tefilla is because of His רחמים, His Mercy. In no country in the world do simple citizens have the ability to approach the king directly. The fact that we have the opportunity every single day to approach the King of Kings is truly remarkable and is a direct result of Hashem's infinite mercy. ■