



# TOWARDS MEANINGFUL

## TEFILLA

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## שיר של יום

*During the heat of the COVID lockdowns, one of the amusing challenges that many of us had to face was the issue of שיר של יום. As we would arrive at the end of Shacharit, we would be confronted with the daily existential question of – “what day is it???”. All of our days were one big blur, one day rolling into the next, the day of the week had lost all significance. Baruch Hashem, bli ayin hara, we are now back to regular life, where it is almost impossible to forget what day of the week it is. We have schedules and appointments, meetings and events, and we set off each day, armed with lists and goals to accomplish for that day.*

Beyond being an amusing memory from our Corona days, this anecdote can give us some deeper insight into the daily שיר של יום paragraph that we recite.

Each day of the week, we recite a different chapter of Tehillim which corresponds to that day of the week. This is a replication of what was done during the times of the Beit HaMikdash. Each day of the week after bringing the Korban Tamid, the

Leviim used to sing a different Mizmor of Tehillim. They would only sing those songs after the Korban Tamid of the morning, and so we too, only recite שיר של יום after our morning Tefillot.

What is the purpose of these “day-of-the-week” chapters of Tehillim? **Gemara Rosh Hashana 31a** explains that each one of the chapters of Tehillim focuses on the unique potential of that day. Each chapter describes the specific aspect of creation that Hashem brought into motion on that day. For example, on Sunday, the first day of creation and the day that the land itself was formed, we recite - “ה' הארץ ומלואה, תבל” - *The earth and all it contains, the world and all its inhabitants, are Hashem's.* On Friday, the day on which man was created, we recite “ה' מלך גאות לבש” - *Hashem has reigned; He has attired Himself with majesty.* The reason for this selection is that Hashem could only be crowned after man was created. (Incidentally, there are 45 words which correspond to the gematria of the word אדם, man).

שיר של יום forces us to focus for a minute on the unique potential of the day ahead. What we can accomplish today is different from what we were able to

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achieve yesterday or what we will be able to achieve tomorrow. As the saying goes, “Today only happens once in a lifetime”. It therefore behooves us to try and tap into the unique potential of today and to utilize the time we are given to reach new heights every day.

On the other hand, before reciting each day’s chapter of Tehillim, we say היום ראשון בשבת שבו היו הלווים אומרים בבית המקדש – we announce which day of the week it is in relation to Shabbos. Why do we do this? In order to fulfill the Mitzva of “זכור” – Chazal say the mitzvah here is not only to remember Shabbos on Shabbos itself, but to remember and mention Shabbos all the days leading up to Shabbos.

Each day has unique potential in and of itself, but it has even more כח as part of a whole. Hashem created a different aspect of the world each day, but only on Shabbos was He able to sit back and rest and see how all the parts of creation fit together and created a beautiful symphony. So too, each day of the week, we accomplish unique goals but only when we look back at the end of the week, can we see how all of the efforts we put in on a daily basis join together to reach great heights. ■

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