

WHERE IS THE ENEMY?

Rabbi Tuvia Vinitsky

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Rabbi Vinitsky explained kapitel, chapter chof zayin-27 L'Dovid Hashem Uri-which we say the whole month of Elul into the end of Succos. As we know, from what he has taught us in the past that each kapitel of Tehillim is a life lesson. Each kapitel has a theme. It is not enough just to understand the translation of the Hebrew words, rather one must internalize the message of the kapitel.

This kapitel has a lot of famous pesukim in it and has a lot of different ideas. This kapitel was the one Dovid HaMelech said, on behalf of himself and his soldiers when they went out to war. Dovid HaMelech was asking Hashem to help his soldiers at this time in both the physical and the spiritual.

Posuk Alef-L'Dovid Hashem Uri V'Yishi-Hashem is my light and my salvation. These two ideas don't usually go together.

What Dovid HaMelech is saying with Hashem being his light, is that 'stress' causes people to feel dark, to have a dark heavy feeling inside of them. Dovid is saying, he doesn't have that stress, that dark feeling because Hashem is his light, Hashem is always there for him.

Chazal also explained this posuk to mean "uri' 'light' is speaking about Rosh Hashona. Dovid is saying Hashem is my light because he causes me to do teshuvah which brings my salvation on Yom Kippur.

Mimi Iro-from whom should I be afraid, Dovid HaMelech is asking? Dovid had to be afraid of everyone, he had a lot of enemies, but he is not afraid of anyone," Hashem Mo'oz...Mimi Afchod' from whom should I be afraid.'

To Dovid HaMelech it is obvious that Hashem is totally taking care of him, then he is not afraid. As we 100% believe that when we drop a piece of paper it will fall to the ground because we believe there is such a thing as gravity, so too Dovid HaMelech has such faith in Hashem. There is nothing to fear, because Hashem is always there for me.

Posuk Bais is speaking about Golias. בְּקִרְבִּי עָלִי | מְרַעִים לְאָכַל אֶת בְּשָׂרִי.

'B'krav olai M'rayim L'achol es Besori' when the wicked come to eat me...וְנָפְלוּ וְנָפְלוּ 'Koshlu V'Nofolu"-they stumble and fall. This incident with Golias put Dovid HaMelech on the map. The army of the Pilishtim was on one mountain top, the Jewish army was on the opposite mountain top. Each day, Golias would come to the valley and shout to the Jewish soldiers, "Is there no one from your camp who could come and fight me?" He was looking to taunt the Jews. The Jews offered money for whoever would try to fight Golias, but no one took up the offer. Dovid came just to give his older brothers supplies, and saw what was happening. When he surveyed this scene, he was shocked, "how is it possible that this giant is insulting the nation of Hashem, day after day, and no one is doing anything

about it?" He volunteered to fight the giant. They offered him all sorts of weapons and he refused everything. He said, the only weapon I need is Hashem.

Posuk Gimmel: אִם תִּחַנֶּה עָלַי | מִחַנָּה לֹא יִירָא לִבִּי

If anyone comes up against me, I will have no fear, He puts his faith totally in Hashem,

This bitochon is a faith that he will be victorious. And we read this and we say WOW! What bitochon Dovid HaMelech had.

But the question is, bitochon means that we believe that whatever Hashem does for us, gives to us is for our good, not that bitochon means that we ask for everything and we can rest assured that our wish will be granted. So then why are we so impressed with Dovid HaMelech?

CHAZAL EXPLAIN THAT IF A PERSON HAS ENOUGH BITOCHON TO WHERE THEY TRULY FEEL HASHEM WILL TAKE CARE OF THEM, THEN HASHEM WILL ALIGN HIMSELF WITH THAT PERSON AND GIVE HIM WHAT HE WANTS. THE MORE BITOCHON A PERSON HAS THE MORE HASHEM WILL ALIGN.

Posuk Daled: this is a famous posuk:

אַחַת | שְׁאַלְתִּי מֵאֵת יְהוָה אֹתָהּ אֶבְקֵשׁ שְׁבִתִּי בְּבַיִת יְהוָה כָּל יְמֵי חַיֵּי לַחַיּוֹת בְּנַעַם יְהוָה וְלִבְקֹר בְּהִיכָלוֹ

One [thing] I ask of the Lord, that I seek-that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to see the pleasantness of the Lord and to visit His Temple every morning

In this posuk Dovid Hamelech is saying, he only wants one thing in life: and that is to sit in the Bais HaMiktach, in Hashem's presence every day.

- שְׁבִתִּי בְּבַיִת יְהוָה - Dovid HaMelech only wants to sit in the house of Hashem. Here he is asking to sit in the Bais HaMiktach which wasn't even built yet. But besides that, he is saying, he would like to have the 'menuchas hanefesh' to just sit in the house of Hashem and not be busy with his multitude of duties. He was the King, he was busy day and night, He wanted to be able to shut out the world and just sit in the house of Hashem. In addition, that he uses the word 'sit'-only the KING from the house of Dovid is allowed to sit in the Bais HaMiktach, no one else. Dovid HaMelech is not only asking for himself to SIT in the Bais HaMiktach but for generations to come.

He wants the zchus of the Shechina to be with him in his Kingship. Where did he see this in actuality? When Hashem showed him the future generations, he saw that Esther HaMalka had the shechina with her and he wrote a whole kapitel of Tehillim for her, Chapter chof bais-22. In the Megilla it is written,

וּתְלַבֵּשׁ אֶסְתֵּר בְּמַלְכוּת

And Esther was clothed in royalty

Dovid HaMelech saw that at the moment she became Queen, Hashem was with her. So when Esther needed to know how to proceed, the Shechina was with her and she knew exactly how to proceed. This is what Dovid HaMelech is asking for as well. This is the kind of King he wants to be. - וְלִבְקֹר בְּהִיכָלוֹ

This can mean many things, to visit, to meditate there, or even from the root word, בִּקֵּר 'boker'

morning. Dovid Hamelech is saying I want to go to the Bais HaMiktach every morning. He wants to come as a regular Yid and sit and learn for hours in the Bais HaMiktach without the world's problems on his head. He is so busy, he doesn't have a minute for himself, so this is his request-to sit in peace and quiet and mediate each morning in the house of Hashem.

כִּי יִצְפְּנֵנִי | בְּסֶכֶן

Hashem will hide me in my time of trouble. Dovid HaMelech is saying that Hashem will always take care of me and my family. Kingship will never leave the house of Dovid. This was a promise Hashem made to him and in future generations, it never happened that the house of Dovid was totally wiped out.

וְנִעַתָּה יְרוּם רֵאשִׁי עַל אֵיבֵי-
Posuk Vov-

My head will be lifted up over my enemies therefore אֲשִׁירָה וְאֶזְמְרָה לַיהוָה

I will go to bring sacrifices of joy. He will bring korbonos in the Bais HaMiktach. He will sing and dance for Hashem. It never happened in his lifetime, but when Shlomo, his son, made a Chanukas HaBayis for the Bais HaMiktach-it was an unbelievable affair.

Rabbi Vinitzky explained that we have no concept of the power and importance music had in olden times. The only kapitlech that Dovid HaMelech let others write, were from the musicians of that time. The musicians, the Leviim and Kohanim who sang the songs accompanied with musical instruments was an extremely important part of life in Dovid HaMelech's time and in the time of the Bais HaMiktach. This is something that we cannot fathom today.

So far Dovid HaMelech has said, that Hashem will hear him, will protect him, will cover him and Hashem will be his light.

Posuk Zayin: Till now, Dovid Hamelech sounded more confident, 'Hashem I know you will do' Now Dovid HaMelech is saying :

שְׁמַע יְהוָה קוֹלִי אֶקְרָא וְחַנּוּנִי וְעֲנֵנִי:

Hashem, WHEN I call please answer me. Why the difference in tone? Till now, he was asking for his soldiers, that they should be victorious. Now he is asking Hashem to help him fight his yetzer horo.

שְׁמַע

Can mean listen or it can mean: the shiyan is for Shacharis, the 'mem' is for Minch and the 'ayin' is for Maariv. Dovid HaMelech is asking Hashem, when I call out to you 3 times a day, please listen to my tefilos.

לֵךְ | אֲמַר לְבִי

Everything we have, EVERYTHING WE ARE is from Hashem. If we are good at music, that is a talent from Hashem, if we are bad in math, that is also from Hashem. Here. Dovid HaMelech is asking, Hashem in my heart, I feel the need to seek you out." Hashem put that desire in me. "Hashem when i call out to you, I am not worthy of anything but please you put it into my heart to call you."

In posuk Ches and Tes: the word 'ponim' face is mentioned 3 times. The Vilna Gaon says this is hinting to the 3 times a year, we came to the Bais HaMiktach to see Hashem-the 3 Regolim-Succos, Pesach and Shavous.

אל תסתַר פְּנֶיךָ | מִמֶּנִּי
Posuk Tes:

Don't push away your servant. Don't conceal your presence from me. Hashem conceals himself in 2 ways: sometimes it is hard to see that Hashem is with us and sometimes Hashem is angry with us and punishes us and we don't see Hashem's immense love for us at that time.

Dovid HaMelech is asking, Hashem please don't abandon me and help me grow spirituality.

Posuk Yud: כִּי אָבִי וְאִמִּי עֲזָבוּנִי וַיהוָה יִאֲסֶפֶנִּי

My mother and father have abandoned me, but Hashem gathers me in. Animals are born almost fully grown, some need no time being nurtured by their mothers, and some need a few months /a few years. Human beings need 20 years by their parents' side to be nurtured. Why? Because that is how long it takes to teach the children the Torah. We have to put in those years into our children, so they will learn to trust us and learn our Mesora. After that, when they are on their own, we don't have that much of an influence on them. So Dovid HaMelech is saying, my parents, my siblings have left me on my own, but you Hashem, are always with me, I can always call you for help.

Posuk Yud Alef:

הוֹרֵנִי יְהוָה דֶּרֶךְךָ וְנִחַנְנִי בְּאַרְחַּ מִישׁוֹר

Hashem lead me on a straight path. ישׁוֹר this word comes from the root word, 'yoshar' straight. Dovid HaMelech is saying Hashem i want to go higher and higher in ruchniyus, but please lead me down a straight path with no ups and downs.

Posuk Yud Beis:

אַל תִּתְּנֵנִי בְּיַד שׂוֹנְאֵי שִׂקְרָה כִּי קָמוּ בִּי עֲדֵי שִׂקְרָה

Do not give me over to the will of my enemies (of which Dovid had many) and who spoke much loshon hora about him. He ignored the loshon hora his whole life. But he says, if they do speak loshon hora about me, even if it is wrong, the fact that Hashem is letting them speak about me might mean I have done something to anger you Hashem and there might be an averia I am guilty off

This is a life lesson for us. If people are speaking loshon hora about us, even if it is untrue, there may be a reason that they are saying it.

Posuk Yud Gimmel:

לִּוְלֵא הָאָרֶץ חַיִּים לְרַאֲוֹת בְּטוֹב יְהוָה בְּאֶרֶץ חַיִּים

What propelled Dovid HaMelech to keep going his whole life, through all the loshon hora and tzoros he had, only because he believed he would אֶרֶץ חַיִּים the land of the living, which is either Eretz Yisroel or Olam Habo.

Posuk Yud Daled:

קוֹה אֶל יְהוָה חֲזֵק וְיִצְמַח לִבְךָ וְקוֹה אֶל ד'

This is a very famous posuk, Dovid HaMelech is telling us we have to have hope in Hashem and the more we have faith in Hashem, then יִצְמַח לִבְךָ Hashem will strengthen our heart.

The Malbim explains that no one likes asking other for help. It is degrading, but not so when it comes to Hashem. Dovid HaMelech is telling us, "ask Hashem anything and everything, it is exhilarating.

קוֹה אֶל יְהוָה

The first step is to have hope and trust in Hashem and חֲזֵק וְיִצְמַח לִבְךָ

Strengthen yourself /and then Hashem will strengthen your heart.

As Rabbi Vinitsky started the shiur-we must find the life lesson in each kapitel. In this Kapitel there are so many different themes, that each posuk can be a lesson in of itself. But we know there has to be 1 main message-so what is it?

People know they are missing something in their lives, therefore there is a huge need to obtain physical pleasure: more clothes (even though the closet is full), the newest model car; constantly renovating our homes-why because we are missing something.

But when we attain these physical pleasures, we are still not happy because our basic need has not been met. And what need is that?

Our neshama craves to be closer to Hashem and unless we fill this need, we always feel depleted. We try to fill this need with attaining more physical pleasures, but it doesn't help.

This is what Dovid HaMelech is telling us in this kapitel: Call out to Hashem, He will fill your need. The message of this kapitel is that we need to make a 'cheshbon hanefesh' we need to analyze our actions, where are we in the spiritual world, where do we want to go, how are we planning on getting there.

Why was this kapitel chosen to be said at this time of year? To remind us of Dovid HaMelech's message –we are standing before Yom HaDin, it is incumbent for us to make a cheshbon hanefesh.

Dovid HaMelech is saying, "Yidden, listen to me, קְנֵה אֵל יְהוָה

Hope and trust in Hashem, make a cheshbon hanefesh and turn to Hashem and he will HELP YOU.

Dovid HaMelech is telling us Rosh Hashona is around the corner. The whole world gets judged, Yidden included. We need to make a cheshbon Hanefesh to show Hashem we are human beings, not chimpanzees.