Mizmor 046

From Turbulence to Tranquility

Key Concepts

The mizmor was composed as a song of chizuk (encouragement) for a time such as the present when Yisrael is looking forward to the Geulah (Redemption). As we approach the period of mashiach we must be prepared to endure a period of worldwide turbulence during which the nations of the world battle each other for supremacy (the War of Gog and Magog).

The mizmor encourages us not to fear being trampled in the worldwide upheaval. We are under the protection of Hashem and when the nations finally recognize His power, there will be universal peace. The Jewish people will then experience the tranquility of joyful service to Hashem.

Exploring the Mizmor

PART 1. STRENGTH AMID TURBULENCE. The singer alludes to the coming world upheaval and encourages us to bravely endure the storm for we can be certain that Hashem will protect us.

(א) למנתא לובז קאף על עולם שיר: (ב)ケアבז ליז מיסא ויצさせ ברזאת נמטאה มาא: (ג)על טא וניא בקימי אץ נמומים חירם בלכ טימי: (ד)תקמי קייםמי וחוש חירם באנאמה קלא: (1) For the musician, by the sons of Korach. A song [to be accompanied on the instrument called] alamos. (2) G-d [will be] our shelter and strength. [His] help with troubles [will be] very quickly forthcoming. (3) Therefore, we will not be afraid when He transforms the earth, when mountains tip over into the midst of the seas. (4) His waters will roar and churn, [as] mountains quake before His majesty.
PART 2. PEACE AND TRANQUILITY. We are then assured that Yisrael will emerge safely from the worldwide conflict and that universal peace and tranquility will reign. This section ends with a stirring expression of Hashem’s enduring commitment to the protection of the Jewish people.

PART 3. A TIME FOR REFLECTION. The singer calls upon us to visualize what it will feel like when the storm has passed. We will then reflect on what the upheaval will have taught us.

PART 4. CHALLENGE TO THE NATIONS. We hear the voice of G-d warning the nations to desist from their evil ways and recognize that their efforts of achieving supremacy will be fruitless.

PART 5. CONCLUSION. In conclusion the singer expresses the voice of the Jewish people advising all of mankind to accept the will of Hashem. This last posuk is actually identical to posuk 8, but it now takes on new meaning as a challenge to the nations of the world to acknowledge the truth of Hashem’s power in the world.
(12) “Hashem, Master of Legions, is with us, a stronghold for us, the G-d of Yaakov, Selah.”

Learning the Mizmor

PART 1. STRENGTH AMID TURBULENCE.

This mizmor was prepared for the musician after being composed by the sons of Korach.

The mizmor was meant to be performed on the instrument called alamos, which means concealment. It signifies that while the direct influence of Hashem upon world events is hidden from us, the time will come that everything will be clear. Thoughts of that glorious time make this mizmor a song of joy.

When we are attacked by many powerful nations, G-d will be our shelter to protect us and He will be our strength to withstand our enemies. His essential help when we are faced with troubles will be very quickly forthcoming, much more so than might occur through chance or nature.

Therefore, because of our bitachon, we will not be afraid when world events go through a convulsive upheaval. Because of Hashem’s compassion and love for us, the cataclysm will end up being to our benefit when He interchanges the relative power positions of the nations of the earth. Those which are powerful today will be diminished and those which are weak will become strong. And the small nation of Yisrael will no longer cower in fear before the surrounding giants.
This will be a time when the great nations, which are like mighty mountains, tip over — into the midst of the turbulent seas — of the world’s peoples and are overwhelmed.

We will not be afraid because we know that while battling each other for supremacy the enemy nations are all agents of Hashem’s will. His waters will roar with violent waves and churn with volcanic mud — as the great mountains quake before His majesty — Selah — בָּלֻּחַ קֵרְשׁוֹ בֹּאֵיתָא סָלָה.

PART 2. PEACE AND TRANQUILITY.

In contrast to the turbulent waters of destruction which the nations will have to endure, there is a river — נָהָר נָהָרָה of spiritual peace and serenity that will flow from the Bais Hamikdash (Temple in Yerushayim). Its streams will make the people of the City of G-d rejoice — פְּלוֹנִי שֶׁמֶם עִירָא אלָכֵיָּם in the Geulah for it is the holiest of the dwelling places of the Most High — קֹדֶשׁ מַשֶּׁכֶן עֵלֶיוֹ that exist throughout the world. The spiritual power of the Torah will flow from that holy source in the Bais Hamikdash to every Bais HaMidrash, wherever it may be.

Even though there will be destruction all around Yerushalayim, G-d will be in its midst — אלָכֵיָּם בְּכָרָה to reinstate it and to protect it. Therefore, it will not be toppled — בָּלֻּחַ תְּמוּטָא — and even if many are lost, a substantial remnant will survive. G-d will help it fulfill its destiny towards the dawn — נְצָרָה אלָכֵיָּם לְפָנָיו בָּרָה when the night of the galus is darkest.
Nations will be in turmoil — seeking to attack Yisrael, but those kingdoms will totter — and will fall. Hashem will raise His voice to decree that the nations of the earth which oppose Him will dissolve in confusion and fear.

In contrast to the falling nations, be assured that Yisrael will rise and emerge victorious. This is because Hashem, Who is the Master of all the Legions of ministering angels, is with us — and will save us.

We take comfort in the knowledge that He is a stronghold for us — . In fact, He has always been the G-d of Yaakov — , helping Yaakov through every travail, Selah — .

PART 3. A TIME FOR REFLECTION.

Come and reflect upon the wondrous acts of Hashem — . He has waged war against those powerful nations who have sought to destroy the tiny nation of Yisrael. What we have seen is not a chance occurrence. It is all Hashem’s doing. For He has made of them a cataclysm in the earth — as a necessary step to universal recognition that He is Master of the earth and dictates universal tranquility.

He cancels wars — for all mankind to the end of the earth — because everyone is united in serving Him. Thus, there is no further use for the weapons of war. He breaks the bow and splinters the spear — .
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He burns the war wagons in fire — All disputes among nations are resolved peacefully and wisely by the Melech HaMashiach, that is, the Mashiach acting in his capacity as king.

PART 4. CHALLENGE TO THE NATIONS.

Desist immediately from wars and evil practices and know well that I am G-d — Your victory or defeat is in My hands alone. Even if you don’t realize it now, there will come a time when all the world recognizes Me. Then I shall be exalted among the nations — because they will see My power over them. Then I shall be exalted upon the entire earth — and all wars will cease.

PART 5. CONCLUSION.

You nations of the world may assemble powerful weapons of war, but you will not prevail, for Hashem, Who is the Master of all the Legions of ministering angels, is with us — and He will save us.

Be aware that He is a stronghold for us — In fact, He has always been the G-d of Yaakov — helping Yaakov through every travail, Selah — Selah.

Living the Mizmor

Listed below are some of the lessons that you can draw from this mizmor, as well as some of the thoughts you might have in mind when you say the words of the mizmor as a tefillah, expressing your devotion to Hashem.

Lessons for Life - Your Attitude.

[46:2] CATACLYSM. — “G-d [will be] our shelter and strength. [His] help with troubles [will be] very quickly forthcoming.” When faced with cataclysmic events in nature, such as
earthquakes and floods, you should maintain your peace of mind, for Hashem is your shelter.

"Therefore, we will not be afraid when He transforms the earth, when mountains tip over into the midst of the seas."

"[There is a] river. Its streams will make the City of G-d rejoice, the holiest of the dwelling places of the Most High." In the face of world turbulence you should be calmed by your bitachon that when the Geulah comes, a river of spiritual peace and serenity will flow from the Bais Hamikdash throughout the world.

"G-d [will be] in its midst, it will not be toppled. G-d will help it towards the dawn." As the dawn of the Geulah approaches, even if there is destruction all around, Yerushalayim will be protected.

"Hashem, Master of Legions, is with us. [He is a] stronghold for us, the G-d of Yaakov, Selah." Be confident in the permanent bond that Hashem has with the Jewish people.

Tehillos for Life - Contemplation of Hashem.

"A song [to be accompanied on the instrument called] alamos (concealment)." While the direct influence of Hashem upon world events is hidden from us, the time will come that everything will be clear.

"Come and reflect upon the acts of Hashem for He has made a cataclysm in the earth." Hashem will reveal His power when He wages victorious war against those powerful nations who seek to destroy the tiny nation of Yisrael.

"He cancels wars to the end of the earth." Hashem will cancel war for all mankind because everyone will be united in devotion to Him.

"[Desist from wars] and know that I am G-d. I shall be exalted among the
nations. I shall be exalted upon the [entire] earth.”

Sources
The primary sources used in the interpretation of the verses of this mizmor are listed below.