

## 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) לַמְנַצֵּחַ לְבָנֵי קֹרַח עַל עֲלָמוֹת שִׁיר: (ב) אֱלֹקִים לָנוּ מִחֹסֶה וְעֵז עֲזָרָה בְּצָרוֹת  
נִמְצָא מְאֹד: (ג) עַל כֵּן לֹא נִירָא בְּהִמְיֹר אָרֶץ וּבְמוֹט הָרִים בְּלֵב יַמִּים: (ד) יִהְיוּ  
יַחְמְרוּ מִיָּמֵינוּ יִרְעָשׁוּ הָרִים בְּגִאֲוֹתוֹ סֵלָה:

(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.

(ה) נְהַר פְּלִגְיוֹ יִשְׁמְחוּ עִיר אֱלֹקִים קִדְשׁ מִשְׁכְּנֵי עֲלִיוֹן: (ו) אֱלֹקִים בְּקִרְבָּה בְּל תִּמּוּט יַעֲזֹרָה אֱלֹקִים לַפְּנוֹת בְּקָר: (ז) הֵמוּ גוֹיִם מְטוּ מִמְּלָכוֹת נָתַן בְּקוֹלוֹ תִּמְוֹג אֶרֶץ: (ח) ה' צְבָאוֹת עִמָּנוּ מִשְׁגֵּב לָנוּ אֱלֹקֵי יַעֲקֹב סֵלָה:

(5) [There is a] river. Its streams will make the City of G-d rejoice, the holiest of the dwelling places of the Most High. (6) G-d [will be] in its midst, it will not be toppled. G-d will help it towards the dawn. (7) Nations [will be] in turmoil, and kingdoms [will] totter. [Hashem will] raise His voice [and the nations of] the earth will dissolve. (8) Hashem, Master of Legions, is with us. [He is a] stronghold for us, the G-d of Yaakov, Selah.

**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.

(ט) לָכוּ חֲזוּ מִפְּעֻלוֹת ה' אֲשֶׁר שָׁם שְׁמוֹת בְּאֶרֶץ: (י) מִשְׁבִּית מְלַחְמוֹת עַד קִצָּה הָאֶרֶץ קִשְׁתֵּי יִשְׁבֵּר וְקִצְצֵי חֲנִית עֲגִלוֹת יִשְׂרָף בְּאֵשׁ:

(9) Come and reflect upon the acts of Hashem for He has made a cataclysm in the earth. (10) He cancels wars to the end of the earth. He breaks the bow and splinters the spear. He burns the war wagons in fire.

**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.

(יא) הֲרִפוּ וּדְעוּ כִּי אֲנֹכִי אֱלֹקִים אֲרוּם בְּגוֹיִם אֲרוּם בְּאֶרֶץ:

(11) [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.”

**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.

(יב) ה' צְבָאוֹת עִמָּנוּ מִשָּׁנָב לָנוּ אֱלֹהֵי יַעֲקֹב סֵלָה:

(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.

(א) לְמִנְצַח לְבִנֵי קֹרַח

This mizmor was prepared **for the musician** — לְמִנְצַח after being composed **by the sons of Korach** — לְבִנֵי קֹרַח.

עַל עֲלָמוֹת שִׁיר:

The *mizmor* was meant to be performed on the instrument called **alamos** — עַל עֲלָמוֹת, 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 — שִׁיר of joy.

(ב) אֱלֹקִים לָנוּ מִחֹסֶה וְעֹז

עֲזָרָה בְּצָרוֹת

נִמְצָא מְאֹד:

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

(ג) עַל כֵּן לֹא נִירָא בְּהִמְיֹר אֶרֶץ

**Therefore** — עַל כֵּן, because of our *bitachon*, **we will not be afraid** — לֹא נִירָא 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** — בְּהִמְיֹר **the** relative power positions of the nations of the **earth** — אֶרֶץ. 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.

וּבְמוֹט הַרִים בְּלֵב יַמַּיִם:

This will be a time **when** the great nations, which are like mighty **mountains, tip over** — **וּבְמוֹט הַרִים** **into the midst of the** turbulent **seas** — **בְּלֵב יַמַּיִם** of the world's peoples and are overwhelmed.

(ד) יִהְיוּ יַחְמְרוּ מֵיָמִינוּ  
יִרְעֲשׂוּ הַרִים בְּגִאֲוֹתוֹ סֵלָה:

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 — **יִהְיוּ יַחְמְרוּ מֵיָמִינוּ**, as the great **mountains quake before His majesty** — **יִרְעֲשׂוּ הַרִים בְּגִאֲוֹתוֹ**, **Selah** — **סֵלָה**.

## PART 2. PEACE AND TRANQUILITY.

(ה) נָהָר, פִּלְגָיו יִשְׁמְחוּ עִיר  
אֱלֹקִים קֹדֶשׁ מִשְׁכְּנֵי עֲלִיוֹן

In contrast to the turbulent waters of destruction which the nations will have to endure, there is a river — **נָהָר** 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** — **פִּלְגָיו יִשְׁמְחוּ עִיר אֱלֹקִים** in the *Geulah* for it is **the holiest of the dwelling places of the Most High** — **קֹדֶשׁ מִשְׁכְּנֵי עֲלִיוֹן** 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.

(ו) אֱלֹקִים בְּקִרְבָּה בַּל תִּמּוֹט  
יַעֲזֹרָה אֱלֹקִים לַפְּנוֹת בִּקְרָ:

Even though there will be destruction all around Yerushalayim, **G-d** will be **in its midst** — **אֱלֹקִים בְּקִרְבָּה** to reinstate it and to protect it. Therefore, **it will not be toppled** — **בַּל תִּמּוֹט** and even if many are lost, a substantial remnant will survive. **G-d will help it** fulfill its destiny **towards the dawn** — **יַעֲזֹרָה אֱלֹקִים לַפְּנוֹת בִּקְרָ** when the night of the *galus* is darkest.

(ז) הָמוּ גוֹיִם מִטּוֹ מַמְלָכוֹת  
נָתַן בְּקוֹלוֹ תַמּוּג אֶרֶץ:

**Nations** will be **in turmoil** — הָמוּ גוֹיִם, seeking to attack Yisrael, **but those kingdoms** will **totter** — מִטּוֹ מַמְלָכוֹת and will fall. Hashem will **raise His voice** — נָתַן בְּקוֹלוֹ to decree that the nations of **the earth** which oppose Him **will dissolve** — תַמּוּג אֶרֶץ in confusion and fear.

(ח) ה' צְבָקוֹת עִמָּנוּ

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** — ה' צְבָקוֹת עִמָּנוּ and will save us.

מִשָּׁגֵב לָנוּ אֱלֹהֵי יַעֲקֹב סֵלָה:

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

### PART 3. A TIME FOR REFLECTION.

(ט) לָכוּ חֲזוּ מַפְעָלוֹת ה'  
אֲשֶׁר שָׁם שְׁמוֹת בְּאֶרֶץ:

[When the *Geulah* is here we will call out to the nations of the world:] **Come and reflect upon the wondrous acts of Hashem** — לָכוּ חֲזוּ מַפְעָלוֹת ה'. 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** — אֲשֶׁר שָׁם שְׁמוֹת בְּאֶרֶץ as a necessary step to universal recognition that He is Master of the earth and dictates universal tranquility.

(י) מִשְׁבִּית מִלְחָמוֹת עַד קִצָּה הָאָרֶץ  
קִשְׁתִּי יִשְׁבֵּר וְקִצֵּץ חֲנִית  
עֲגָלוֹת יִשְׂרָף בְּאֵשׁ:

**He cancels wars** — מִשְׁבִּית מִלְחָמוֹת for all mankind **to the end of the earth** — עַד קִצָּה הָאָרֶץ 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** — קִשְׁתִּי

**יִשְׁבֵּר וְקִצֵּץ חַנִּית**. **He burns the war wagons in fire** — **עֲגֻלוֹת יִשְׂרָף בְּאֵשׁ**. 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.

(יא) הֲרָפוּ וּדְעוּ כִּי אֲנֹכִי אֱלֹקִים

**Desist** immediately from wars and evil practices **and know** well **that I am G-d** — **הֲרָפוּ וּדְעוּ כִּי אֲנֹכִי אֱלֹקִים**. Your victory or defeat is in My hands alone.

אֲרוּם בְּגוֹיִם אֲרוּם בְּאֶרֶץ:

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** — **אֲרוּם בְּגוֹיִם** because they will see My power over them. Then **I shall be exalted upon the entire earth** — **אֲרוּם בְּאֶרֶץ** and all wars will cease.

#### PART 5. CONCLUSION.

(יב) ה' צְבָקוֹת עִמָּנוּ

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** — **ה' צְבָקוֹת עִמָּנוּ** and He will save us.

מִשְׁגֹּב לָנוּ אֱלֹקֵי יַעֲקֹב סֵלָה:

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

### **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. — **אֱלֹקִים לָנוּ מַחֲסֵה וְעֹז עֲזָרָה בְּצָרוֹת נִמְצָא מָאֵד** — "*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.

[46:3] – **עַל כֵּן לֹא נִירָא בְהִמְיֹר אֶרֶץ וּבְמוֹט הָרִים בְּלֵב יַמִּים** –  
 “Therefore, we will not be afraid when He transforms the earth,  
 when mountains tip over into the midst of the seas.”

[46:5] YERUSHALAYIM. – **נָהָר פִּלְגָיו יִשְׁמְחוּ עִיר אֱלֹקִים קֹדֶשׁ מִשְׁכְּנֵי עֲלִיּוֹן** –  
 “[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.

[46:6] – **אֱלֹקִים בְּקִרְבָּהּ בַּל תִּמוֹט יַעֲזֹרָהּ אֱלֹקִים לְפָנֹת בִּקְרָ**  
 “[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.

[46:8] BITACHON. – **ה' צְבָאוֹת עִמָּנוּ מִשְׁנֵב לָנוּ אֱלֹקֵי יַעֲקֹב סֵלָה** – “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.**

[46:1] CONCEALMENT. – **עַל עֲלָמוֹת שִׁיר** – “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.

[46:9] WAR. – **לָכֵן חֲזוּ מִפְּעֻלוֹת ה' אֲשֶׁר שָׁם שְׁמוֹת בְּאֶרֶץ** – “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.

[46:10] PEACE. – **מִשְׁבִּית מִלְחָמוֹת עַד קֵצָה הָאֶרֶץ** – “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.

[46:11]. **הֲרָפוּ וּדְעוּ כִּי אֲנִי אֱלֹקִים אֲרוּם בְּגוֹיִם אֲרוּם בְּאֶרֶץ** – “[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.

ח	בן־רמוך	א	רש"י, רד"ק, בן־רמוך, רשר"ה
ט	רד"ק, בן־רמוך, אבן יחייא, מלבי"ם,	ב	רד"ק, ספורנו, אלשיך, נר לרגלי
י	רד"ק, מאיר טוב	ג	רד"ק, המאירי, ספורנו, מצודות, רשר"ה
יא	אבן עזרא, רד"ק, ספורנו, נר לרגלי	ד	רש"י, רד"ק, בן־רמוך, מצודות, מלבי"ם
יב	מאיר טוב	ה	רד"ק, ספורנו, אבן יחייא
		ו	רד"ק, המאירי, בן־רמוך, ספורנו
		ז	רד"ק, המאירי, מצודות

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