

**Mizmor 070****Remembrance****Key Concepts**

Towards the end of his life, David found himself in a situation that he thought he would never have to face again. As on many occasions throughout his life David was forced to flee his enemies with a small group of loyal supporters. However, this time the pursuing army was led by David's own son Avshalom and so David's confidence was badly shaken.

While composing this mizmor to ask for Hashem's help, David thought back to previous occasions when he had turned to Hashem, pleading for a *yeshuah*. Despite the painful circumstance he was now in, David was heartened by memories of the times when Hashem had helped him in response to his deeply felt *tefillah*.

And so David modeled this mizmor on Mizmor 040, which he had composed when he was a young man, fleeing from Shaul. Just as Hashem helped him then, David hoped and prayed that He would not abandon him now in his old age, but save him again.

[Navigating Tehillim](#). David's conflict with Avshalom is also the subject of Mizmor 003, which describes the demoralizing effect that the rebellion had on David. In Mizmor 055 David describes how his spiritual strength was renewed through the process of composing and singing this mizmor to Hashem. The text accompanying Mizmor 055 provides further information on the historical background of Avshalom's rebellion.

**Exploring the Mizmor**

This brief mizmor consists of a total of six verses, of which the last four correspond to verses 15 through 18 of Mizmor 040.

Of the six verses, the one that is totally new is verse 2, which emphasizes the urgency of David's plight and begs Hashem to hurry in bringing the *yeshuah*. The plea to "hurry!" appears only once, but the verse is structured in a distinctive manner to make it appear as though it is repeatedly intoned.

(א) לְמִנְצַח לְדָוִד לְהִזְכִּיר: (ב) אֱלֹקִים לְהַצִּילֵנִי ה' לְעִזְרָתִי חוֹשָׁה: (ג) יִבְשׂוּ וַיִּחְפְּרוּ  
מִבְּקִשֵׁי נַפְשִׁי יִסְגּוּ אַחֲרָי וַיִּכְלְמוּ חֲפָצֵי רַעְתִּי: (ד) יָשׁוּבוּ עַל-עֵקֶב בְּשִׂתְמָם הָאֲמָרִים

הָאֵחָ הָאֵחָ: (ה) יִשְׂשׂוּ וְיִשְׁמְחוּ בְּךָ כָּל־מְבַקְשֵׁיךָ וְיֹאמְרוּ תִּמְיֵד יִגְדֹּל אֱלֹקִים אֲהַבִּי  
 יִשׁוּעָתֶךָ: (ו) וְאֲנִי עָנִי וְאֶבְיוֹן אֱלֹקִים חוֹשָׁה־לִּי עֲזָרִי וּמִפְּלִטֵי אֶתָּה ה' אֶל־תִּאָּחַר:

(1) For the musician, a mizmor by David, for remembrance. (2) O G-d, [hurry] to rescue me and O Hashem, [hurry] to my assistance. Hurry! (3) May those who seek my life be embarrassed and shamed. May those who desire my harm fall back and be humiliated. (4) Let them be turned back in return for their shaming [me], those who have been exclaiming, "Hurrah, Hurrah!" (5) May all who seek You rejoice and be glad with You. Those who love [to see] Your yeshuah may they always say, "Let G-d be magnified." (6) As for me, O G-d, I am poor and destitute. Hurry to [save] me, You are my Help and my Rescuer; Hashem, do not delay.

## Learning the Mizmor

(א) לְמַנְצֵחַ לְדָוִד לְהַזְכִּיר:

This song has been prepared **for the musician** — לְמַנְצֵחַ, who will perform it. It is a mizmor composed **by David** — מְזֻמֹּר לְדָוִד **for remembrance** — לְהַזְכִּיר.

(ב) אֱלֹקִים לְהַצִּילֵנִי

ה' לְעֲזָרְתִּי חוֹשָׁה:

**O G-d**, if I am worthy under Your rule of justice, hurry **to rescue me** — אֱלֹקִים לְהַצִּילֵנִי. But if I am not worthy under justice, then invoke Your quality of mercy, **O Hashem**, and hurry **to my assistance** — ה' לְעֲזָרְתִּי — **hurry** — חוֹשָׁה !

(ג) יִבְשׂוּ וְיִחְפְּרוּ מְבַקְשֵׁי נַפְשִׁי

**May those who seek to end my life** — מְבַקְשֵׁי נַפְשִׁי **be embarrassed and shamed** — יִבְשׂוּ וְיִחְפְּרוּ, once they realize that Hashem has taken my side against them.

יִסְגּוּ אַחֲזֹר וְיִכְלְמוּ חַפְצֵי רָעָתִי:

**May those who desire my harm** — חַפְצֵי רָעָתִי **be forced to fall back** from their intention to harm me **and** thereby let them **be humiliated** — יִסְגּוּ אַחֲזֹר וְיִכְלְמוּ.

(ד) יָשׁוּבוּ עַל יַעֲקֹב בְּשִׁתָּם

הָאֲמָרִים הָאֵחָ הָאֵחָ:

**Let my enemies be turned back in return for their shaming** me — יָשׁוּבוּ עַל

**עִקֵּב בְּשִׂתָּם**. Those are the people who have been joyfully **exclaiming** to each other, "Hurrah, Hurrah!" — **הָאֹמְרִים הָאֵחָ הָאֵחָ**, thinking they have seen my downfall both in this world and the next.

(ה) וְשִׂישׁוּ וְיִשְׂמְחוּ בְּךָ כָּל מְבַקְשֶׁיךָ

In contrast to the fate of the wicked, **may all who seek** to be close to **You** — **כָּל מְבַקְשֶׁיךָ rejoice and be glad with You** — **וְשִׂישׁוּ וְיִשְׂמְחוּ בְּךָ**. They will be happy to see how the influence of Your Name in the world is magnified through the *yeshuah*.

וְיֹאמְרוּ תָמִיד יִגְדַּל אֱלֹהִים אֱהִי יְשׁוּעָתְךָ:

And as for **those who love** to see **Your yeshuah** — **אֱהִי יְשׁוּעָתְךָ** because they want it to come from You alone, **may they always** be *zoche* (merit) to see it and therefore be able to **say** — **וְיֹאמְרוּ תָמִיד** with confidence, "Let the judgment of **G-d be magnified!** — **יִגְדַּל אֱלֹהִים**."

(ו) וְאֲנִי עָנִי וְאֶבְיוֹן אֱלֹהִים

**As for me** — **וְאֲנִי**, though I am a king, I have been humbled by my troubles and by Your judgment, **O G-d** and so I feel **poor and destitute** — **עָנִי וְאֶבְיוֹן אֱלֹהִים**.

חֹשֶׁה לִי עֲזָרִי וּמִפְלְטִי אֶתָּה

ה' אֵל תִּתְאַחֵר:

**Hurry to save me** — **חֹשֶׁה לִי** for You are **my Help** — **עֲזָרִי** to save me from my those who want to kill me **and You are my Rescuer** — **וּמִפְלְטִי אֶתָּה** to save me from being caught up in my sins. **Hashem, do not delay** — **ה' אֵל תִּתְאַחֵר** for I am old and don't have much time left!

## Sources

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

- |                                      |                       |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| ד - רש"י, אבן יחייא, רשר"ה           | א - רד"ק, מלבי"ם      |
| ה - רד"ק, ספורנו, רשר"ה, נר לרגלי    | ב - אבן עזרא, בן-רמון |
| ו - רד"ק, המאירי, בן-רמון, אבן יחייא | ג - אבן עזרא, רד"ק    |

© COPYRIGHT NOTICE  
All rights to this document are reserved by the author. For further information contact Isaac Kirzner at [isaac@kirzner.com](mailto:isaac@kirzner.com)