

Mizmor 093

Anticipation of Majesty

Key Concepts

This is the fourth in the series of 11 *mizmorim* that were originally composed by Moshe Rabbeinu and subsequently incorporated into Tehilim by David. It was designed to be sung in the *Bais HaMikdash* as the Song of the Day for the sixth day of the week.

Through the power of *nevuah* (prophecy) this brief but momentous mizmor looks ahead to anticipate the time of the final *Geulah* (Redemption) when the authority of Hashem as King of the universe will have been finally recognized by all of mankind.

The singer draws a word picture of our great joy in that future era. He emphasizes that despite the events of the *Geulah*, the power of Hashem has been unchanged since before the dawn of time. Nevertheless, many challenges had to be overcome before Hashem's majesty was finally recognized and acknowledged. The singer visualizes the challenging forces as destructive floods that threatened to wash away civilization. In the end Hashem demonstrated His supremacy and reestablished His presence in the *Bais HaMikdash* among His people.

Exploring the Mizmor

PART 1. MAJESTY BEGINS. The mizmor opens shortly after the *Geulah* has occurred and Hashem has been acknowledged as King of the universe. The singer celebrates the glory of the King that has now been revealed, but recalls that Hashem has existed unchanged for all time, from before Creation.

(א) ה' מָלַךְ גִּאוּת לְבַשׁ לְבַשׁ ה' עִז הַתְּאֵזֶר אֶף־תִּכּוֹן יִבָּל בַּל־תִּמּוֹט: (ב) נִכּוֹן כְּסֵאֶךָ
מֵאִז מְעוֹלָם אָתָּה:

(1) Hashem has reigned. He has donned His majesty. Hashem has donned His majesty and has girded Himself with strength. Even the world of mankind is firm. It will not falter. (2) Your throne has been firmly established [among men] from [the present time] but You are from [before] eternity.

PART 2. CHALLENGES OVERCOME. The singer touches upon the challenges that had to be overcome in the final stages preceding the Geulah. The forces of the enemy nations that caused Yisrael so much suffering are compared to torrential rivers and to the pounding breakers of the sea. In the end Hashem has been demonstrated as being mightier than all.

(ג) נְשָׂאוּ נְהָרוֹת ה' נְשָׂאוּ נְהָרוֹת קוֹלָם יִשְׂאוּ נְהָרוֹת דְּכָיִם: (ד) מִקְלוֹת מַיִם רַבִּים
אֲדִירִים מִשְׁבְּרֵי־יָם אֲדִיר בְּמָרוֹם ה':

(3) The rivers raised [their voices], O Hashem. The rivers raised their voices. The rivers continue to raise their roar. (4) Greater than the sounds of many waters, more majestic than the breakers of the sea, You are majestic on high, Hashem.

PART 3. PERMANENCE OF MAJESTY. The singer joyfully declares that the promises of the prophets have finally been fulfilled and the Bais HaMikdash is rebuilt once more. The mizmor ends with a tefillah that Hashem will continue to reside among the people for all time.

(ה) עֲדֹתֶיךָ נְאֻמָּנוּ מְאֹד לְבֵיתֶךָ נֶאֱוָה־קֹדֶשׁ ה' לְאַרְךָ יָמִים:

(5) Your testimonies are most trustworthy. As for Your House, the Sacred dwelling, Hashem, may it be for all time.

Learning the Mizmor

PART 1. MAJESTY BEGINS.

(א) ה' מֶלֶךְ גִּאוֹת לְבִישׁ

At long last, **Hashem has** been acknowledged as the King for He has always **reigned** — ה' מֶלֶךְ over the universe. **He has** now **donned** His true **majesty** — **גִּאוֹת לְבִישׁ**, whereby He performs miraculous events at will.

לְבִישׁ ה' עֹז הַתְּאֵזָר
אֶף תִּכּוֹן תִּבֵּל בַּל תִּמּוֹט:

Hashem has donned His majesty — **לְבִישׁ ה'** and **has girded Himself with strength** — **עֹז הַתְּאֵזָר** to maintain the continuity of the laws of nature. **Even the world of mankind is firm** — **אֶף תִּכּוֹן תִּבֵּל**. **It will not falter** — **בַּל תִּמּוֹט**

because there will no longer be evildoers to cause unrest.

(ב) נִכּוֹן כְּסֵאֶךָ מֵאָז
מֵעוֹלָם אֲתָהּ:

Your throne, which symbolizes the universal recognition of Your supremacy, **has been** firmly **established** — נִכּוֹן כְּסֵאֶךָ, **from then** — מֵאָז, the moment of the Geulah. **You Yourself are** unchanging **from eternity** — מֵעוֹלָם אֲתָהּ.

PART 2. CHALLENGES OVERCOME.

(ג) נִשְׂאוּ נְהָרוֹת ה'
נִשְׂאוּ נְהָרוֹת קוֹלָם
יִשְׂאוּ נְהָרוֹת דְּכָכִים:

Hashem, there are no forces that can successfully challenge Your power. **The** enemy nations are like torrential **rivers** that **raised** the sound of **their voices**, **O Hashem** — נִשְׂאוּ נְהָרוֹת ה' to terrorize those who fear You. Indeed, **the rivers raised their voices** — נִשְׂאוּ נְהָרוֹת קוֹלָם. **The rivers** continue to **raise their roar** — יִשְׂאוּ נְהָרוֹת דְּכָכִים.

(ד) מִקְלוֹת מַיִם רַבִּים
אֲדִירִים מִשְׁבְּרֵי יָם
אֲדִיר בְּמָרוֹם ה':

Greater **than the** thundering **sounds of many waters** — מִקְלוֹת מַיִם רַבִּים, more **majestic than the** pounding **breakers of the sea** — אֲדִירִים מִשְׁבְּרֵי יָם, **You are majestic on high**, Hashem — אֲדִיר בְּמָרוֹם ה'.

PART 3. PERMANENCE OF MAJESTY.

(ה) עֵדוּתֶיךָ נֶאֱמָנוּ מֵאֲד
לְבֵיתֶךָ נֶאֱוָה קֹדֶשׁ
ה' לְאֶרֶץ יְמִים:

Your Torah's testimonies and the words of Your prophets **are most trustworthy** — עֵדוּתֶיךָ נֶאֱמָנוּ מֵאֲד and so we confidently rely on the faithfulness of Your promise

for the future. **As for Your House, the Sacred Dwelling – לְבֵיתְךָ נְאֻה־קֹדֶשׁ**,
Hashem, may it be rebuilt and endure for all time – ה' לְאֶרֶךְ יָמִים –

Sources

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

- א - רש"י, רד"ק, מצודות, מלבי"ם, ספורנו, רשר"ה
ב - רד"ק, ספורנו
ג - רש"י, רד"ק, מצודות, המאירי, בן-רמון
ד - רש"י, רד"ק
ה - רש"י, רד"ק, המאירי

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