# Rejoicing over the downfall of the Egyptians and other modern-day enemies

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### Section 1: To rejoice or not to rejoice-two seemingly contradictory statements

# 1) Proverbs Chapter 11

י בְּטוּב צַדִּיקִים, תַּעֲלֹץ קַרְיָה; וּבַאֲבֹד רְשַׁעִים רְנַּה.

10 The city exults in the good of the righteous; and when the wicked perish, there is joy.

# 2) Proverbs Chapter 24

It is read in singular) יז בּנְפל אויביך אוֹיִבְדּ, אַל-תִּשְׂמָח; וּבִּכְּשְׁלוֹ, אַל-יָגֵל לבַּדּ.

17 Rejoice not when your enemy falls, and when he stumbles, let your heart not be joyous,

יח פֶּן-יִרְאֶה יְהוָה, וְרַע בְּעֵינָיו; וְהֵשִׁיב מֵעֶלָיו אַפּוֹ. **18** Lest Hashem see it, and it be displeasing in His eyes, and He turn His anger from him [to you]

# 3) Gemora Megilla 16a - Mordechai kicks Haman

בָּתַר דְּשַּקְלִינְהוּ לְמַזְיֵיהּ, לַבְשִּׁינְהוּ לְמָאנֵיהּ, אֲמֵר לֵיהּ: סַק וּרְכֹב. אֲמַר לֵיהּ: לָא יָכֵילְנָא, דִּכְחִישָׁא חֵילַאי מִימֵי תַּעֲנִיתָא. גְּחֵין וּסְלֵיק. כִּי סָלֵיק, בְּעַט בֵּיהּ. אֲמַר לֵיהּ: לָא כְּתִיב לְכוּ: ״בִּנְפֹל אוֹיִבְךָ אַל תִּשְׂמָח״? אֲמֵר לֵיהּ: הָנֵי מִילֵּי בְּיִשְׂרָאֵל, אֲבָל בְּדִידְכוּ כְּתִיב: ״וְאַתָּה עַל בָּמוֹתֵימוֹ תִדְרוֹךְ״.

After Haman trimmed his hair, Haman dressed Mordecai in the royal garments. Haman then said to him: Mount the horse and ride. Mordechai said to him: I am unable, as my strength has waned from the days of fasting that I observed. Haman then stooped down before him and Mordecai ascended on him. As he was ascending the horse, Mordechai gave Haman a kick. Haman said to him: Is it not written for you: "Do not rejoice when your enemy falls" (Proverbs 24:17)? Mordechai said to him: This statement applies only to Jews, but with regard to you it is written: "And you shall tread upon their high places" (Artscroll translates it as "haughty ones":) (Deut. 33:29).

## 4) Devarim Ch. 33 - Moshe Rabbenu's last words spoken in the Torah

**כט** אַשְּׁרֶיךּ יִשְּׂרָאֵל מִי כַמוֹדְּ, עַם נוֹשַׁע בַּיהנָה, מָגֵן עָזְרֶדְּ, וַאֲשֶׁר-חֶרֶב גַּאֲנָתֶדְּ; וְיִכָּחֲשׁוּ אֹיְבֶידְּ לָדְ, וְאַתָּה עַל-בַּמוֹתֵימוֹ תִדִרֹדְ. 29 Fortunate are you, O Israel! Who is like you, O people whose salvation is through the Lord, the Shield Who helps you, your majestic Sword! Your enemies will lie to you, but you will tread upon their haughty ones (literally high places)."

# **4a)** Onkelos (Devarim 33/29) — On the necks of their kings

תרגום אונקלוס דברים פרשת וזאת הברכה פרק לג פסוק כט

(כט)... ויתכדבון שנאך לך ואת על פרקת צורי מלכיהון תדרוך:

...your enemies will falsely flatter you, and on the joints of the necks of their kings you will trample.

## **4b)** Rashi – Place your feet upon their necks

(שם י) אָתָה על־בָּמוֹתֵימוֹ תִדְרָבְ: כָּעִנְיָן שֶׁנֶּאֶמַר "שִּׁימוּ אֶת רַגְלֵיכֶם עַל צַוְּאבֵי הַמְּלָכִים הָאֵלֶּה" (שם י)

and you will tread upon their high places: [The meaning here is: "And you will crush their neck underfoot,"] similar to "Place your feet upon the necks of these kings!" (Josh.10:24).

# 5) Joshua Chapter 10

- כב וַיּאמֶר יְהוֹשֻׁעַ, פִּתְחוּ אֶת-פִּי הַמְּעָרָה; וְהוֹצִיאוּ אֵלַי, אֶת-חֲמֵשֶׁת הַמְּלָכִים הָאֵלֶה--מָן-הַמְּעַרַה.
- **כג** וַיַּצְשׂוּ כֵן--וַיּצִיאוּ אֵלָיו אֶת-חֲמֵשֶׁת הַמְּלָכִים הָאֵלֶּה, מִן-הַמְּעָרָה: אֵת מֶלֶּךְ יְרוּשָׁלַם, אֶת-מֶלֶךְ חָבְרוֹן אֶת-מֶלֶךְ יַרְמוּת, אֶת-מֵלֶךְ לַכִישׁ, אֶת-מֵלֶךְ עֵגְלוֹן.
- בד וַיְהִי כְּהוֹצִיאָם אֶת-הַמְּלֶכִים הָאֵלֶה, אֶל-יְהוֹשֻׁע, וַיִּקְרָא יְהוֹשֻׁעַ אֶל-כָּל-אִישׁ יִשְׂרָאֵל וַיֹּאמֶר אֶל-קְצִינֵי אַנְשֵׁי הַמִּלְחָמָה יִשְׂרָאֵל וַיֹּאמֶר אֶל-קְצִינֵי אַנְשֵׁי הַמִּלְחָמָה הָהָלְכוּא אִתּוֹ, קִרְבוּ שִׁימוּ אֶת-רַגְלֵיכֶם עַל-צַוְּארֵי הַמְּלָכִים הָאֵלֶה; וַיִּקְרְבוּ, וַיָּשִׁימוּ אֵת-רַגְלֵיהֵם עַל-צַוּארֵיהֵם.
  - **כה** וַיֹּאמֶר אֲלֵיהֶם יְהוֹשֻׁעַ, אַל-תִּירְאוּ וְאַל-תֵּחָתּוּ: חָזְקוּ וְאִמְצוּ--כִּי כָּכָה יַעֲשֶׂה יְהוָה לְכָל-אֹיְבֵיכֶם, אֲשֶׁר אַתֶּם נִלְחָמִים אוֹתֵם.
- **כו** וַיַּכֵּם יְהוֹשֻׁעַ אַחֲרֵי-כֵּן, וַיְמִיתֵם, וַיִּתְלֵם, עַל חֲמִשָּׁה עֵצִים; וַיִּהְיוּ תְּלוּיִם עַל-הָעֵצִים, עַד-הַעַרֵב.

- **22** And Joshua said, Open the mouth of the cave, and bring out those five kings to me from the cave.
- 23 And they did so, and they brought forth those five kings to him from the cave; the king of Jerusalem, the king of Hebron, the king of Jarmuth, the king of Lachish, and the king of Eglon.
- 24 And it was when they brought out those kings to Joshua, that Joshua called for all the men of Israel, and said to the chiefs of the men of war that went with him, Come near, put your feet upon the necks of these kings. And they came near, and put their feet upon their necks.
- **25** And Joshua said to them, Fear not, nor be dismayed, be strong and of good courage, for thus shall the Lord do to all your enemies against whom you fight.
- **26** And afterward Joshua smote them, and slew them, and hanged them on five poles; and they were hanging upon the poles until the evening.

# 6) Eliyahu Rabba

The background for Eliyahu Rabba is explained in **Ketubot 106a.** It is the teachings of Eliyahu Hanavi.

<u>רב ענן</u> הֲוָה רְגִיל <u>אליָהוּ</u> דְּאָתֵי גַּבָּיהּ, דְּהֵוָה מַתְנֵי לֵיהּ סֶדֶר דְּאֵלִיָּהוּ. כֵּיוַן דְּעֲבִד הָכִי, אִיסְתַּלָּק. יְתֵיב בְּתַעֲנִיתָא וּבְעָא רַחֲמֵי וַאֲתָא. כִּי אֲתָא, הֲוָה מְבַעֵית לֵיהּ בַּעוֹתֵי. וַעֲבַד תִּיבוּתָא וִיתֵיב קמֵיהּ עַד דְאַפֶּיק לֵיהּ סִידְרֵיהּ. וְהַיְינוּ דְאָמְרִי: סֶדֶר דְּאֵלְיָהוּ רַבָּה, סֶדֶר אֵלִיָּהוּ זוּטָא. Elijah the Prophet was accustomed to come and visit Rav Anan, as the prophet was teaching him the statements that would later be recorded in the volume Seder deEliyahu, the Order of Elijah. Once Rav Anan did this and caused a miscarriage of justice, Elijah departed. Rav Anan sat in observance of a fast and prayed for mercy, and Elijah came back. However, when Elijah came after that, he would scare him, as he would appear in frightening forms.

And Rav Anan made a box where he settled himself down and he sat before Elijah until he took out for him, i.e., taught him, all of his Seder. And this is what the Sages mean when they say: Seder deEliyahu Rabba, the Major Order of Elijah, and Seder Eliyahu Zuta, the Minor Order of Elijah, as the first order was taught prior to this incident and the second came after it.

Regarding the last line, <u>Rashi</u> explains that "Rabbah" refers to what was taught before this incident ("outside the box") and "Zutta" to what was taught after the incident ("inside the box").

Rav Anan was a third century Babylonian Amora.

## 6a) Eliyahu Rabba Parsha 18

אליהו רבה פרשה יח

(ק) ... הרי הוא אומר, "בנפול אויבך על תשמח ובכשלו אל יגל לבך, פן יראה ה' ורע בעיניו, והשיב מעליו אפו" (משלי כ"ד י"ז), ולהלן הוא אומר, "באבוד רשעים רנה" (משלי י"א י'), כיצד יתקיימו שני כתובים הללו, אלא, תלמיד חכם שנצחך היום במלאכה, ולמחר בא דבר לידו, אל תשמח בו,שנאמר " פן יראה ה' ורע בעיניו". אבל אם אחד מישראל שהוא רוצה לשמח במפלתן של רשעים באותן המבקשים לעשות רעה לישראל חברו, שהם רשעים גמורים, מתר לשמוח ברעתן...

...And behold it says, "When your enemy falls do not rejoice, and when he stumbles, let your heart not be joyous, Lest Hashem see it, and it be displeasing in His eyes, and He turn His anger from him [to you]" (Proverbs 24/17)

and furthermore its says "When the wicked perish there is joy" (Proverbs 11/10).

How do these two verses not contradict each other? A Talmud scholar who wins you today in (halachic) work and tomorrow a (negative) thing happens to him. Do not rejoice in it "lest Hashem will see and it will be evil in His eyes." But if a Jew wants to celebrate at the downfall of the wicked,- meaning those that seek to do harm to the Jew his friend, these types are completely wicked and it is permissible to rejoice in their downfall.

# 7) The death of the wicked, good or bad?

Sanhedrin, Chapter. 8, Mishna 5:

.... שֶׁמִּיתָתָן שֶׁל רְשָׁעִים הֲנָאָה לָהֶן וַהֲנָאָה לָעוֹלָם, וְלַצַּדִּיקִים רַע לָהֶן וְרַע לָעוֹלָם....

.....For the death of the wicked is a benefit for them and a benefit for the world but [the death of the righteous is bad for them and bad for the world;

**8)** Talmud Bavli, Sanhedrin 113b - Good fortune comes to the world <u>תלמוד בבלי מסכת סנהדרין דף קיג עמוד ב</u> תנו רבנן: ..... רשע אבד מן העולם - טובה באה לעולם, שנאמר ובאבד רשעים רנה.

Our Rabbis taught: .... When a wicked person dies, good fortune comes to the world, as it is stated: "When the wicked perish there is joy."

# 9) Psalms Ch. 58 - The righteous shall rejoice

י**א** יִשְׂמֵח צַדִּיק, כִּי-חָזָה נָקָם; פְּעָמָיו יִרְחַץ, בְּדַם הָרָשָׁע.

יב וְיאמֵר אָדָם, אַדְּ-פְּרִי לַצַּדִּיק; אַדְּ יֵשׁ-אֱלֹהִים, שֹׁפְטִים בָּאָרֶץ. 11 The righteous one will rejoice when he sees vengeance; he shall wash his feet in the blood of the wicked.

**12** And mankind shall say: 'There is, indeed, fruit for the righteous; there is, indeed, a G-d who judges on earth.'

## 10) Shemoth Ch. 14 - Vengeance brings recognition of Hashem & faith in Him

**ל** וַיּוֹשַׁע יְהוָה בַּיּוֹם הַהוּא, אֶת-יִשְׂרָאֵל--מִיַּד מִצְרַיִם; וַיַּרְא יִשְׂרָאֵל אֶת-מִצְרַיִם, מֵת עַל-שְׂפַת הַיָּם.

לא וַיַּרְא יִשְׂרָאֵל אֶת-הַיָּד הַגְּדֹלָה, אֲשֶׁר עָשָׂה יְהוָה בְּמִצְרַיִם, וַיִּירְאוּ הָעָם, אֶת-יְהוָה; וַיַּאֲמִינוּ, בַּיהוָה, וּבְמשֶׁה, עבדוֹ. **30** On that day Hashem saved Israel from the hand of Egypt, and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore.

**31** And Israel saw the great hand Hashem inflicted upon Egypt, and the people feared Hashem; and they believed in Hashem, and in His servant Moses.

# 11) Shemoth 18/11 - Destruction of the Egyptian Army Convinced Yitro עַתָּה יָדַעְתִּי, כִּי-גַדוֹל יִהוָה מִכָּל-הָאֱלֹהִים: כִּי בַדָּבָר, אֲשֶׁר וַדוּ עַלֵיהֶם.

(Yitro said) "Now I know that the Lord is greater than all the deities, for with the thing that they plotted, [He brought] upon them." [see Rashi/Onkelos]

# 12) Shemoth Ch. 18 - Yitro rejoiced

חַ וַיְסַפֵּר משֶה, לְחֹתְנוֹ, אֵת כָּל-אֲשֶׁר
עֲשָׂה יְהֹנָה לְפַרְעֹה וּלְמִצְרַיִם, עַל אוֹדֹת יִשְׂרָאֵל: אֵת כָּל-הַתְּלָאָה אֲשֶׁר
מְצָאָתַם בַּדֶּרֶךְ, וַיַּצְלֵם יְהֹנָה.

**ט** וַיִּחַדְּ יִתְרוֹ--עַל כָּל-הַטּוֹבָה, אֲשֶׁר-עָשָׂה יְהוָה לְיִשְׂרָאֵל: אֲשֶׁר הָצִילוֹ, מִיַּד מִצְרַיִם.

- **8** Moses told his father in law [about] all that the Lord had done to Pharaoh and to the Egyptians on account of Israel, [and about] all the hardships that had befallen them on the way, and [that] the Lord had saved them.
- 9 And Yitro rejoiced for all the goodness which the Lord had done to Israel, in that He had rescued them from the hands of the Egyptians.

# 13) Sforno - Shemoth 18/9 – It is proper to rejoice at the enemy's downfall.

Ovadia ben Jacob **Sforno** (1475 - 1549) was an Italian rabbi, Biblical **commentator**, philosopher and physician. Rabbi Ovadiah **Sforno's** commentary on the Torah is included in most standard rabbinic Mikra'ot Gedolot editions. It is famed for its brevity, in-sight, and emphasis on the plain sense of the text.

**(ט)** ויחד יתרו על כל הטובה. לא שמח על אבדן מצרים כראוי למקנא לכבוד קונו, כענין ישמח צדיק כי חזה נקם (תהלים נח, יא) אבל שמח על טובתם של ישראל, כמרחם על דמעת העשוקים:

<u>Yitro was delighted over all the goodness</u>, he was not happy over the destruction of Egypt which would have been appropriate for one who is zealous for his Creator. According to the matter, "the Tzaddik will rejoice when he sees vengeance (Psalms 58/11)," but he (Yitro) [only] rejoiced over goodness that occurred to Israel like one who has mercy for the tears of the oppressed.

**Section 2** Midrash: G-d rebuked the angels and told them not to sing His praises – How did Hazal know?

# 14) Shemoth Ch. 14

יט וַיִּפַע מַלְאַךּ הָאֱלהִים, הַהֹלֵךּ לִפְנֵי מַחֲנֵה יִשְׂרָאֵל, וַיֵּלֶךְ, מֵאַחֲרִיהֶם; וַיִּפַע עַמּוּד הָעָנָן, מִפְּנֵיהֶם, וַיַּעֲמד, מֵאַחֲרִיהֶם.

בְּנָבָא בֵּין מַחֲנֵה מִצְרַיִם, וּבֵין מַחֲנֵה יִשְּרָאֵל, וַיְהִי הֶעָנֶן וְהַחשֶׁדְ,
וַיְּאֶר אֶת-הַלַּיְלָה; וְלֹא-קָרַב זָה אֵל-זַה, כַּל-הַלַּיִלָה.

19 And the angel of God, who went before the camp of Israel, removed and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud removed from before them, and stood behind them;

20 And he came between the camp of Egypt and (between) the camp of Israel; and there was the cloud and the darkness (to the Egyptians), and it illuminated the night (to Israel), and the one came not near the other all the night.

## 15) Isaiah Ch. 6

ג וְקַרָא זֶה אֶל-זֶה וְאָמַר, קדוֹשׁקדושׁ קדושׁ יְהוָה צְבָאוֹת; מְלֹאכָל-הָאָרֶץ, כְּבוֹדוֹ.

**3** And one called unto another, and said: Holy, holy, holy, is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of His glory.

# 16) Three Midrashic explanations on why the angels did not sing praises at the Yam Suf

# 16a) Jews were still in distress and worried about their fate

<u>שמות רבה (וילנא) פרשת בשלח פרשה כג</u>

ז ...א"ר יוחנןُ בקשׂו המלאכים לומר שירה לפני הקדוש ברוך הוא באותו הלילה שעברו ישראל את הים ולא הניחן הקדוש ברוך הוא א"ל **לגיונותי נתונין בצרה** ואתם אומרים לפני שירה,

...Rav Yochanan said "The angels requested to say Shira before the Holy one blessed Be He on that night that Israel passed through the sea, and the Holy One blessed Be He did not let them. He said to them **My legion (the Jewish people) are in distress** and you want to say Shira?

# 16b) Hashem wanted Am Yisrael to praise Him first.

That is the meaning of Az Yashir (אז ישיר)

## שמות רבה (וילנא) פרשת בשלח פרשה כג

ד"א אז ישיר משה, הה"ד (תהלים סח) קדמו שרים אחר נוגנים,...משל למלך שנשבה בנו והלך והצילו והלכו בני הפלטון מבקשין לקלס למלך ובנו מבקש לקלסו אמרו לו אדונינו מי יקלסך תחלה א"ל בני, מכאן ואילך מי שרוצה לקלסני יקלסני, כך כשיצאו ישראל ממצרים וקרע להם הקדוש ברוך הוא את הים והיו המלאכים מבקשים לומר שירה א"ל הקדוש ברוך הוא אז ישיר משה ובני ישראל תחלה ואח"כ אתם,

Another explanation, "then Moshe will sing" this is what is stated (in Psalms 68) The singers went first and afterwards those that played on instruments...

This is a parable to a king. The king's son was captured and he went and saved him. The people of the palace went to praise the king, and his son also requested to praise him. They said to him, "My master, who will praise you first?" He said to them, "My son, afterward, whoever wants to praise me will praise me." When Israel went out from Egypt and the Holy One, Blessed Be He split the sea and the angels requested to say Shira, the Holy One blessed Be He said "then Moshe and the children of Israel will sing first and afterward you."

# 16c) Hashem himself was not rejoicing when he drowned the Egyptians but caused the Jews to rejoice

תלמוד בבלי מסכת סנהדרין דף לט עמוד ב

..... לפי שאין הקדוש ברוך הוא שמח במפלתן של רשעים, דאמר רבי שמואל בר נחמן אמר רבי יונתן: מאי דכתיב ולא קרב זה אל זה כל הלילה, באותה שעה בקשו מלאכי השרת לומר שירה לפני? - הקדוש ברוך הוא, אמר להן הקדוש ברוך הוא: מעשה ידי טובעין בים ואתם אומרים שירה לפני? - אמר רבי יוסי בר חנינא: הוא אינו שש אבל אחרים משיש.

...This is because the Holy One, Blessed be He, is not gladdened by the downfall of the wicked. The Gemara comments: As Rabbi Shmuel bar Naḥman says that Rabbi Yonatan says: What is the meaning of that which is written in the passage describing the splitting of the Red Sea: "And the one came not near the other all the night" (Exodus 14:20)? At that time the ministering angels desired to recite a song before the Holy One, Blessed be He. The Holy One, Blessed be He, said to them: My handiwork, i.e. the Egyptians\*, are drowning in the sea, and you are reciting a song before Me? Apparently, God is not gladdened by the downfall of the wicked. Rabbi Yosei bar Ḥanina says: He, i.e., God, does not rejoice in their downfall, but He does cause others to feel joy...

<sup>\*</sup>This source learns that "My handiwork" refers to the Egyptians. Others learn these words "handiwork" refers to the Jews and "drowning" refers to the waters surrounding the Jews as is usually the case in a drowning.

## **16d)** A similar Gemora is repeated in Megilla 10b

#### תלמוד בבלי מסכת מגילה דף י עמוד ב

...לְפִי שֶׁאֵין הַקָּדוֹשׁ בָּרוּךְ הוּא שָׂמֵחַ בְּמַפַּלְתָּן שֶׁל רְשָׁעִים. וְאָמֵר <u>רַבִּי יוֹחְנְן,</u> מַאי דִּכְתִיב: ״וְלֹא קָרַב זֶה אֶל זֶה כָּל הַלָּיִלָה״ — בִּקְשׁוּ מַלְאֲכֵי הַשָּׁרֵת לוֹמֵר שִׁירָה, אָמֵר הַקָּדוֹשׁ בָּרוּךְ הוּא: מַעֲשֵׂה יָדַי טוֹבְעִין בַּיָּם, וְאַתֶּם אוֹמְרִים שִׁירָה?

...Because the Holy One, Blessed be He, does not rejoice over the downfall of the wicked. And similarly, Rabbi Yoḥanan said: What is the meaning of that which is written: "And the one came not near the other all the night" (Exodus 14:20)? The ministering angels wanted to sing their song, for the angels would sing songs to each other, as it states: "And they called out to each other and said" (Isaiah 6:3), but the Holy One, Blessed be He, said: The work of My hands, the Egyptians, are drowning at sea, and you wish to say songs? This indicates that God does not rejoice over the downfall of the wicked.

אָמַר <u>רבִּי אָלְעָזָר</u>: הוּא אֵינוֹ שָּׁשֹׁ, אֲבָל אֲחֵרִים מֵשִּׂישׂ. וְדַיְקָא נָמֵי, דִּכְתִיב: ״כֵּן יָשִּׁישׂ״, וְלָא כְּתִיב ״יַשׂוּשׁ״. שָׁמַע מִינַּהּ.

Rabbi Elazar said that this is how the matter is to be understood: Indeed, God Himself does not rejoice over the downfall of the wicked, but He causes others to rejoice. The Gemara comments: One can learn from the language of the verse as well, as it is written: "So the Lord will rejoice [ken yasis]" (Deuteronomy 28:63). And it is not written yasus, the grammatical form of the verb meaning: He will rejoice. Rather, it is written yasis. The grammatical form of this verb indicates that one causes another to rejoice. Consequently, these words are understood to mean that God will cause others to rejoice. The Gemara concludes: Indeed, learn from it that this is the case.

## **17)** Exodus Chapter 15- Moshe Rabbenu emphasizes the drowning of the Egyptians

- א אָז יָשִׁיר-מֹשֶׁה וּבְנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל אֶת-הַשִּׁירָה הַזֹּאת, לִיהוָה, וַיֹּאמְרוּ, לֵאמֹר: אָשִׁירָה לִיהוָה כִּי-גִאה גִאה, סוּס ורכבוֹ רָמַה בַיַּם.
- <u>1</u> Then Moses and the children of Israel sang this song to the Lord, and they spoke, saying, I will sing to the Lord, for very exalted is He; a horse and its rider He cast into the sea.
- ב עזִי וְזִמְרָת יָהּ, וַיְהִי-לִי לִישׁוּעָה; זָה אֵלִי וְאָנוָהוּ, אֵלֹהֵי אָבִי וְאֵרֹמִמַנָּהוּ.
- **2** The Eternal's strength and His vengeance were my salvation; this is my God, and I will make Him a habitation, the God of my father, and I will ascribe to Him exaltation.
- ָיְהוָה, אִישׁ מִלְחָמָה; יְהוָה, שְׁמוֹ. 🖈
- <u>3</u> The Lord is a Master of war; the Lord is His Name.
- ד מַרְכָּבֹת פַּרְעֹה וְחֵילוֹ, יֵרָה בַיָּם; וּמִבְּחַר שלשיו, טבעו ביַם-סוּף.
- 4 Pharaoh's chariots and his army He cast into the sea, and the elite of his officers sank in the Red Sea.
- **ה** תַהמת, יַכְסִימוּ; יֵרְדוּ בָמַצוֹלת, כְמוֹ- אָבַן.
- **5** The depths covered them; they went down into the depths like a stone.
- ָּן יְמֵינְךּ יְהוָה, נֶאְדָּרִי בַּכֹּחַ; יְמִינְךּ יְהוָה, תַּרְעַץ אוֹיֵב.
- <u>6</u> Thy right hand, O Lord, glorious in power, Your right hand, O LORD, dashes in pieces the enemy.
- ז וּבְרֹב גְּאוֹנְךָּ, תַּהֵרֹס קָמֶיךּ; תְּשַׁלַח, חֲרֹנְךְ--יאכְלַמוֹ, כָּקשׁ.
- 7 And with Your great pride You tear down those who rise up against You; You send forth Your

ח וברוח אַפֶּיך נֶעֶרְמוּ מִיִם, נִצְבוּכמוֹ-נֵד נֹזְלִים; קפאו תַהמת, בַּלַב-יָם.

**ט** אָמַר אוֹיֵב אֶרְדּף אַשִּׂיג, אֲחַלֵּק שָׁלֶל; תִּמַלָאֲמוֹ נָפָשִׁי-- אַרִיק חַרבִּי, תּוֹרִישֵׁמוֹ יָדִי.

י נָשַׁפְתָּ בְרוּחֲךּ, כָּסָמוֹ יָם; צַלְלוּ, כַּעוֹפֶרֶת, בָּמִים, אָדִירִים.

יא מי-כָמכָה בָּאֵלִם יְהוָה, מִי כָּמכָה נֶאְדָּר בַּקְדָש; נוֹרָא תְהִלֹת, עשַה פָּלֶא.

י**ב** נָטִיתָ, יְמִינְךְ--תִּבְלֶעֵמוֹ, אָרֶץ.

#### burning wrath; it devours them like straw.

**8** And with the blast of Thy nostrils the waters were piled up--the floods stood upright as a heap; the deeps were congealed in the heart of the sea.

**9** [Because] the enemy said: 'I will pursue, I will overtake, I will divide the spoil; my lust shall be satisfied from them; I will draw my sword, my hand shall destroy them.'

10 You blew with Your wind, the sea covered them; they sank like lead in the mighty waters.

11 Who is like You among the powerful, O Lord? Who is like You, powerful in the holy place? Too awesome for praises, performing wonders!

12 You inclined Your right hand; the earth swallowed them up.

### Miriam's Song Shemoth Ch. 15

נַתִּקַח מִרְיָם הַנְּבִיאָה אֲחוֹת אַהֲרֹן,אֶת-הַתִּף--בְּיָדָהּ; וַתֵּצֶאנְ כָל-הַנָּשִׁיםאַחַריהַ, בתפים וּבמחלת.

כא וַתַּעַן לָהָם, מִרְיָם: שִׁירוּ לִיהוָה כִּי-גָאה גָּאָה, סוּס וְרֹכְבוֹ רָמָה בִּיָם. **20** Miriam, the prophetess, Aaron's sister, took a timbrel in her hand, and all the women came out after her with timbrels and with dances.

21 And Miriam called out to them, Sing to the Lord, for very exalted is He; a horse and its rider He cast into the sea

**18)** The Chida – Rabbi Chaim Joseph David Azulai (Chida), born in 1724 in Jerusalem. Saying the Song at the Sea -

### אמירת שירת הים – סגולה לכפרת עוונות

בספר עבודת הקודש להחיד"א זיע"א אות כ"ד כתב וז"ל. וצריך לאמור שירת הים [בכל יום בפסוקי דזמרה] בשמחה רבה ובנעימה. ויצייר בדעתו כאילו עומד ביבשה בתוך הים והמצרים נטבעים והוא ניצול. והוא סגולה לכפרת עוונותיו כידוע. עכ"ל

In the work of the holy Chidah ...,he wrote, "And one should say "Shirat Hayam" [every day in *Pesukei De-Zimra* (our morning prayers)] with great happiness and joyful melody. He should imagine in his mind as if he was standing on dry land in the midst of the sea and the Egyptians drowning and he is saved. It is a segula for the forgiving of his sins as is known."

# **19)** Ben Ish Hai - Chacham Yosef Chaim (1832-1909)

#### <u>בן איש חי שנה ראשונה פרשת ויגש</u>

שירת הים יאמר בשמחה ובנעימה כאילו עומד בתוך הים בשעת הנס, ובזה תהיה מסוגלת לכפרת עונותיו.

The song said by the sea should be said with happiness and a pleasant melody as if he is standing in the sea at the hour of the miracle and with this he will have the segulah to atone for his sins.

# **20)** Chafetz Chaim - Rabbi Israel Meir Kagan (1839-1933)

#### משנה ברורה סימן נא

ויאמר שירת הים [יט] בשמחה וידמה בדעתו כאלו באותו היום עבר בים והאומר בשמחה מוחלין לו עונותיו:

And one should say "Shirat Hayam" with happiness and imagine in his mind that at that time he passed through the sea. The one who recites it with joy, his iniquities are forgiven.

21) Sefer Haredim - Rabbi Elazar son of Moshe Azkari was born in 1533 in Tzefat.

### ספר חרדים מצוות התלויות בארץ ישראל פרק ז

... יכוון בשירת הים שאומרים בכל יום לאומרה בקול ובשמחה רבה כאלו אותה שעה יצא ממצרים .....שאמרו שכל מי שנעשה לו נס ואומר שירה מוחלין לו על כל עונותיו....

One should intend when saying the "Shirat Hayam" that we say every day to say it out loud and with great joy as if at that moment he went out of Egypt... for they say concerning anyone that had a miracle done for him and says *Shira* his sins are forgiven.

22) Gemora Brachot 9b - King David did not use the word Hallelujah until.... דְּאָמֵר רַבִּי יְהוּדָה בְּרֵיהּ דְּרָבִּי שִׁמְעוֹן בָּן פּזִּי: מֵאָה וְשָׁלֹשׁ פָּרְשִׁיּוֹת אָמֵר דָּוִד, וְלֹא אָמֵר "הָלְלוּיָהּ" עַד שֶׁרָאָה בְּמַפָּלְתָּן שֶׁל רְשָׁעִים, שֶׁנֶּאֱמֵר: "יִתַּמוּ חַטָּאִים מִן הָאָרֶץ וּרְשָׁעִים עוֹד "הַלְלוּיָהּ".

As Rabbi Yehuda, son of Rabbi Shimon ben Pazi, said: David said one hundred and three chapters, and he did not say *Halleluya* in any of them until he saw the downfall of the wicked. Only then could David say *Halleluya* wholeheartedly. As it is stated (Psalms 104/35): "Let sinners cease from the earth, and let the wicked be no more. My soul, bless the Lord, *Halleluya*" (Psalms 104:35).

- 23) One reason Hizkiyahu was not worthy to be Mashiach is because he did not sing Shira when the army of Sancheriv was killed.
- 23a) Kings 2 Chapter 19

לה וַיְהִי, בַּלַיְלָה הַהוּא, וַיִּצֵא מַלְאַדְּ יְהוָה וַיַּדְּ בְּמַחֲנֵה אַשׁוּר, מֵאָה שְׁמוֹנִים וַחֲמִשָּׁה אָלֶף; וַיַּשְׁכִּימוּ בַבּקָר, וְהִנֵּה כֻלָּם פָּגַרִים מֵתִים.

**35** And it came to pass on that night that an angel of the Lord went out and **slew one hundred eighty-five thousand** of the camp of Assyria. And they arose in the morning, and behold they were all dead corpses.

23b) One who does not sing Shira can not be Mashiach.

תלמוד בבלי מסכת סנהדרין דף צד עמוד א

... ביקש הקדוש ברוך הוא לעשות חזקיהו משיח, וסנחריב גוג ומגוג. אמרה מדת הדין לפני הקדוש ברוך הוא: רבונו של עולם! ומה דוד מלך ישראל שאמר כמה שירות ותשבחות לפניך -לא עשיתו משיח, חזקיה שעשית לו כל הנסים הללו ולא אמר שירה לפניך - תעשהו משיח? לכך נסתתם.

.....the Holy One, Blessed be He, sought to designate King Hizkiyahu as the Messiah and to designate Sennacherib and Assyria, respectively, as Gog and Magog, all from the prophecy of Ezekiel with regard to the end of days (Ezekiel, chapter 38), and the confrontation between them would culminate in the final redemption. The attribute of justice said before the Holy One, Blessed be He: Master of the Universe, and if with regard to David, king of Israel, who recited several songs and praises before You, You did not designate him as the Messiah, then with regard to Hizkiyahu, for whom You performed all these miracles, delivering him from Sennacherib and healing his illness, and he did not recite praise before You, will You designate him as the Messiah\*?

<sup>\*</sup>Another reason given that Hizkiyahu was not worthy to be the Mashiach was because he gave the golden door handles of the Beit Hamikdash to Sancherev as bribe money. (Rashi)