

Connecting to Hashem by Maintaining Unity

Source Sheet by Mordechai Lewis

TEHILLIM TOGETHER by HaRav Betzalel Rudinsky - Week 6

תהילים ב':א'-ג'

(א) לָמָּה רָגְשׁוּ גוֹיִם וְלֹא־אֲמִים יְהַגּוּ-רִיק; (ב) יִתְנַצְּבוּ | מַלְכֵי-אָרֶץ וְרוֹזְנִים נוֹסְדוּ-יַחַד
עַל-יְקוֹק וְעַל-מְשִׁיחֹו: (ג) גַּנְתָּקָה אֶת-מוֹסְרוֹתַימוּ וְנִשְׁלִיכָה מִמֶּנּוּ עֲבֹתַימוּ:

Psalms 2:1-3

- (1) Why do nations assemble, and peoples plot vain things; (2) kings of the earth take their stand, and regents intrigue together against the LORD and against His anointed?
(3) “Let us break the cords of their yoke, shake off their ropes from us!”

Berakhot 7b

And Rabbi Yoḥanan said other aggadic statements in the name of Rabbi Shimon ben Yoḥai: The existence of wayward children in a person’s home is more troublesome than the war of Gog and Magog, the ultimate war, the climax of the travails of Messianic times. As it is stated: “A Psalm of David, when he fled from his son, Absalom” (Psalms 3:1). And it is written thereafter: “Lord, how numerous are my enemies, many have risen against me” (Psalms 3:2). While concerning the war of Gog and Magog, which is alluded to in the second chapter of Psalms, it is written: “Why are the nations in an uproar? And why do the peoples speak for naught? The kings of the earth stand up and the rulers take counsel together, against the Lord, and against His anointed...He that sits in heaven laughs, the Lord mocks them” (Psalms 2:1–4). Yet in this chapter describing the war of Gog and Magog “how numerous are my enemies” is not written, as it is not as difficult as raising a wayward son like Absalom.

רש"י על ברכות ז' ב

למה רגשו גוים - מה תועלת להם אלמא דבר קל הוא בעיניו:

Midrash Tanchuma Buber, Emor 18

- (1) Esau said: Cain was stupid to kill [his brother] Abel during his father's lifetime.⁷⁹ Cf. Gen. R. 75:9. Did he not know that his father would be fruitful and multiply? I am not

acting like that. Instead < he said > (in Gen. 27:41): PLEASE ⁸⁰*Na. The word is added to the Masoretic Text.* LET THE DAYS OF MOURNING FOR MY FATHER COME; [THEN I WILL KILL MY BROTHER JACOB]. Pharaoh said: Esau was stupid to say: LET THE DAYS OF MOURNING [FOR MY FATHER] COME. Did he not know that his brother would be fruitful and multiply during his father's lifetime? I will not act like that. Instead, while they are tiny under their mothers' birthstool, I will strangle them. Thus it is written (in Exod. 1:22): EVERY SON BORN YOU SHALL THROW INTO THE NILE ... Haman said: Pharaoh was stupid to say: EVERY SON BORN < YOU SHALL THROW INTO THE NILE >, [BUT EVERY DAUGHTER YOU SHALL KEEP ALIVE]. Did he not know that, when the daughters are married to men, they are fruitful and multiply through them. I will not act like that. Instead, < I will act > (in Esth. 3:13): TO DESTROY AND TO ANNIHILATE [ALL THE JEWS, YOUNG AND OLD, CHILDREN AND WOMEN, ON A SINGLE DAY]. R. Levi said: Gog [and Magog] as well are going to say the same: The former ones were stupid because they devised secret plans against Israel. Did they not know that they have a patron ⁸¹*Lat.: patronus.* in the heavens? I will not act like that. First I will join in battle with their patron, and after that I will join in battle with them. Thus it is written (in Ps. 2:2): THE KINGS OF THE EARTH TAKE THEIR STAND, AND THE RULERS TAKE COUNSEL TOGETHER AGAINST THE LORD AND AGAINST HIS ANOINTED. The Holy One said to him: O wicked one, have you come to me to join in battle? ⁸²*Rt.: ZWG. The root more commonly refers to joining in wedlock as does the Greek verb, zeugnunai.* By your life I will wage war with you, as stated (in Is. 42:13): THE LORD SHALL GO FORTH LIKE A WARRIOR.... It also says (in Zech. 14:3): THEN THE LORD WILL COME FORTH AND FIGHT WITH THOSE NATIONS AS WHEN HE FIGHTS IN THE DAY OF BATTLE.

מדרש תהילים ב' ד'

(ד) עשו אמר שוטה היה קין שהרג הבל בחיי אביו ולא היה יודע שאביו פרה ורבה. אני איני עושה כן אלא (בראשית כז מא) יקרבו ימי אבל אבי. פרעה אמר שוטה היה עשו שאמר כן ולא היה יודע שאחיו פרה ורבה בחיי אביו. אני איני עושה כן אלא עד דיהון דקיקין תחות כורסייא דאימהון אנא מחינא להון. הדא הוא דכתיב (שמות א כב) כל הבן הילוד היאורה תשליכוהו. המן הרשע אמר פרעה היה שוטה שאמר כן ולא היה יודע שהבנות נישאות לאנשים והן פרות ורבות. אני איני עושה כן אלא (אסתר ג יג) להשמיד להרוג ולאבד וגו'. גוג ומגוג עתידין לומר כן שוטים היו הראשונים שמעקיפין עצה על ישראל ולא היו יודעים שיש להם פטרון בשמים. אני איני עושה כן אלא בתחלה אני מזדווג לפטרונן ואחר כך אני חוזר על ישראל.

