

# Having a Dialogue With Hashem

Source Sheet by Mordechai Lewis

## TEHILLIM TOGETHER by HaRav Betzalel Rudinsky

### תהילים ה:ג'

הַקְּשִׁיבָה | לְקוֹל שׁוֹעֵי מַלְכִי וְאֵלֶיךָ כִּי־אֵלֶיךָ אֶתְפַּלֵּל:

### Psalms 5:3

Heed the sound of my cry, my king and God, for I pray to You.

### Radak on Psalms 5:3:2-4

(2) **my King**: – for Thou art a king over me, and I cry unto Thee as men cry unto the king. (3) **and my God (Judge)** – art Thou, for Thou art my Judge and shalt save me from those who do me evil. (4) **For unto Thee do I pray**: – and not to another, a deliverer, for there is none beside Thee.

### Song of Songs 2:4

He brought me to the banquet room And his banner of love was over me.

### שיר השירים רבה ב:ד:א

אָמַר רַבִּי אֲחָא עִם הָאֲרִיזִין שְׁקוּרָא לְאַהֲבָה אֵיבָה, כְּגוֹן וְאַהֲבָתָּ וְאַיְבָתָּ, אָמַר הַקְּדוּשׁ בְּרוּךְ הוּא וְדַלּוּגוֹ עָלֵי אַהֲבָה...

### Bava Kamma 16a

A person's spine, seven years after his death, metamorphoses into a snake. The Gemara qualifies the last statement: **And this matter applies** only to a case where that person **did not bow during** the blessing of **thanksgiving**, the eighteenth blessing of the *Amida* prayer.

### Shenei Luchot HaBerit, Torah Shebikhtav, Toldot, Torah Ohr 59

Our sages (Baba Kama 16) say that if someone fails to bow down when reciting the benediction מְדִים during the עֲמִידָה prayer his spine will turn into a snake at the end of 70 years. [the version in our edition of the Talmud is "7 years." Ed.] The "bowing" referred to is the bending of one's knee; since knee-bending involves the ירך, thigh, pelvis and reproductive organs, (the body's part most vulnerable to Satan, i.e. the snake), we have a clear link between the two. [The Talmud in Sotah describes the snake as maintaining an upright posture, a sign of arrogance. Man and the snake are the only two creatures that were created to walk upright. This is the common denominator between man and the snake. When man abuses this privilege by asserting himself not only vis-a-vis other creatures but even vis-a-vis G-d, he will wind up as a snake, i.e. lose that ability, just as the snake has lost its ability to maintain an upright posture. Ed.] Failure to bow during the prayer of thanksgiving to G-d is the opposite of what David used to do. He used every opportunity to praise and give thanks to G-d. As an expression of his sentiments he composed the book of Psalms. A person who lives for seventy years (average) and fails to express his gratitude to G-d in the proper fashion will have his spine [symbolic of his life] turned into a snake [forfeit resurrection]. Jacob is the mystical dimension of the spinal cord.

