

אגוד מוסדות לחינוך ישראלי
CONSORTIUM of
JEWISH DAY SCHOOLS



פסוקי דזמרה

ברוך שְׁאֵמַר



PUTTING THINGS IN PERSPECTIVE



Did you ever get an expensive present or precious gift? What was it?

What was your reaction when you received the gift? How did you treat and care for the gift? What did you do to protect it?

The משנה ברורה (נה:א) quotes a cryptic tradition that although this ברכה is not found in the גמרא, it was established by the אנשי כנסת הגדולה when a פתק (note) came down from Heaven with this ברכה that has 87 words. This is hinted to in the פסוק "ראשו כתם פז" – "His opening words were the finest gold." We cannot understand the depths of what this means but it certainly demonstrates the importance and loftiness of this prayer which is why we stand when saying it.



FROM THE HEART; TO THE HEART

I grew up across the street from Rav Yaakov Jofen, Rosh Yeshiva of Yeshivas Beis Yosef and heir to the prestigious Novardok dynasty. In his later years, I would always notice him sitting and learning Torah by the front window of his home. There was a lamp on and the windows were open for additional sunlight. Seeing him learning every time I passed by the house made a deep impression on me.



FROM THE HEART; TO THE HEART

When he passed away in 2003, his son told me the following story: One day during shiva a non-Jewish man entered the home. Somewhat surprised, the family looked up and the man said, "I am sorry to hear that the old man passed away." The family members nodded their heads in appreciation, wondering how the man knew their father.

"Tell me, was your father a jeweler?" the man asked. The family, again surprised, said no and asked why. The man responded, "Every day, I would walk by the house and noticed that your father was studying something very intently under a lamp. I figured he must be a jeweler examining precious stones." The family members smiled and responded, "Indeed, he was a jeweler. Every word of Torah was precious to him like jewels. יקרה היא מפינים - the words of Torah are more precious than pearls!"



**ברוך שאמר
is more precious than
gold and we have struck
it rich! Let us learn these
very special words on the
next page.**

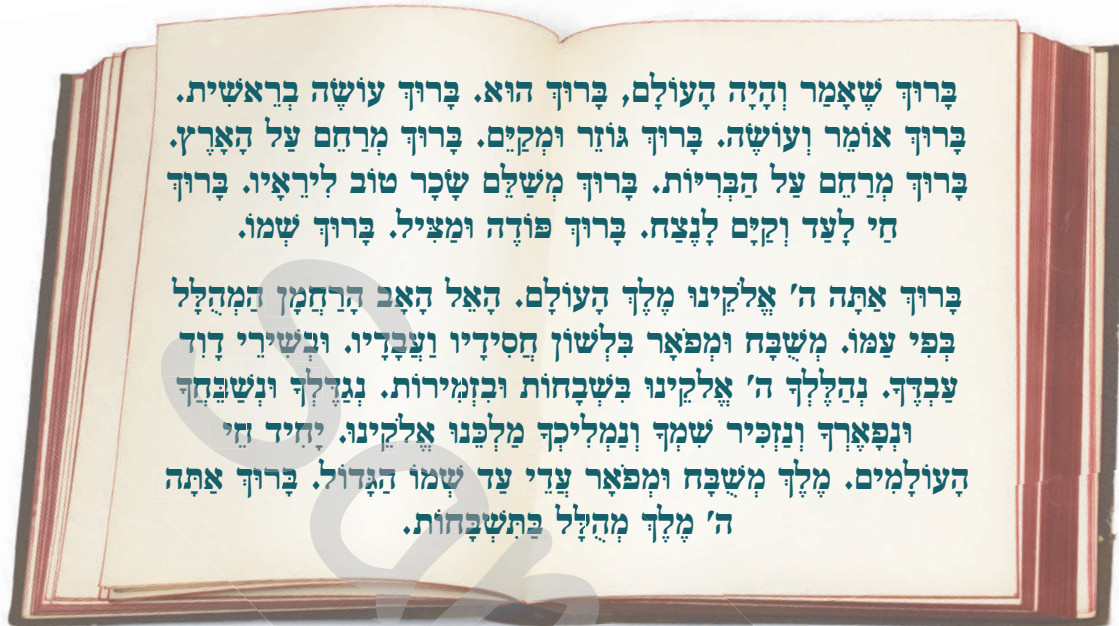


DID YOU KNOW?

ברוך serves as the start of פסוקי דזמרה which begins and ends with a ברכה and therefore one should not talk during פסוקי דזמרה in between these two ברכות. (שולחן ערוך נא:ד)



MAKING IT MEANINGFUL



ברוך שאמר begins with ten praises of 'ה where we describe why He is ברוך.

Number the ten descriptions above

(note that הוא is part of the first description).

Let us analyze some of the descriptions.

ברוך שאמר והיה העולם, ברוך הוא.

Have you ever built something? What was it? _____

What materials did you use? _____

What tools did you use? _____

Did you ever create something from nothing? Did you ever create something by just speaking or willing it to exist? Of course not. Yet, 'ה was able to simply speak or desire that this intricately complex world would exist from nothing!

ברוך עושה בְּרֵאשִׁית.

In what tense is the word עושה? _____

When did ה' create the world? _____

If so, why does it say that ה' currently creates the world?



TYING OUR TEFILLA TOGETHER

In every morning, we say that ה' is מחדש בטובו בכל יום תמיד מעשה בראשית. What does it mean that ה' "renews the creations" every day? ה' did not leave the world after creation. He "recreates" it every day. (א:ב) נפש החיים explains that ה' constantly wills for the world to exist. If ה' would stop doing so for even an instant, the world would cease to exist. His will is what keeps the world in place.



THINK ABOUT IT

Imagine a table that was created by a furniture manufacturer. When the creator of the table walks away from the table, the table continues to stand on four legs. However, the world would not survive if ה' walked away from it. If ה' walked away from the "table" it would fall apart and cease to exist. It is as if ה' is constantly holding the "table" together.

How can knowing that ה' remains involved in "creating" the world inspire your every day?

ברוך אומר ועושה. ברוך גוזר ומקיים

Why is it praiseworthy that ה' keeps His promises. If ה' was גוזר and decreed, shouldn't it be a given that he is מקיים and keeps his promise? Moreover, a decree is generally a punishment. Why are we thanking ה' for upholding His punishments?

The Skulener Rebbe explained that ה' is not only גוזר; He gives strength and is מקיים the person to make it through any difficult ordeal that is decreed.



FROM THE HEART; TO THE HEART



When the Skulener Rebbe was imprisoned in Rumania, he determined to use his time wisely. He began to review all the daily prayers, to ensure that when he would pray he would do so knowing the full meaning and intent of every word. When he reached a certain phrase, "Baruch

gozer u'mekayem" ("Blessed is He who decrees and fulfills"), he was a bit puzzled. Generally, when we talk about a decree, we are referring to what we perceive of as a negative, seemingly evil phenomenon. Why then do we thank Him for carrying out evil decrees? "I will not leave this prison cell, even if I am freed, until I uncover the meaning behind this phrase."

The Skulener pondered this phrase for days and days, attempting to ascertain exactly what was the intent of this prayer. He even announced, "I will not leave this prison cell, even if I am freed, until I uncover the meaning behind this phrase." Finally, insight came; revelation dawned upon him. The word "fulfills" does not refer to the Al-mighty who issues the decrees — the subject of the verse. It refers to mankind, the object. G-d enacts the decree and also gives (or has given) us the strength to endure it, to withstand the trial. In understanding this verse, we must read it, "Blessed is He who decrees and enables us to fulfill."



FROM THE HEART; TO THE HEART

After months of tremendous international efforts, including the intervention of United Nations Secretary-General Dag Hammarskjold (and the influence at the behest of the Lubavitcher Rebbe of a prominent, non-Hasidic rabbi in Cincinnati, Rav Eliezer Silver, to intervene at the U.S. State Department and with the Romanian ambassador on behalf of the Skulener), the Skulener Rebbe was freed. He emigrated immediately. Finally, in the spring of 1960, he was able to settle in the United States. He chose America over Israel so he could better help those who remained in Rumania.

https://www.chabad.org/kabbalah/article_cdo/aid/3026119/jewish/The-Father-of-Orphans.htm

Did you ever experience a challenge (big or small)? How did 'ה help you endure through that challenge?

ברוך מרחם על הארץ. ברוך מרחם על הבריות

What two things does 'ה have mercy on?

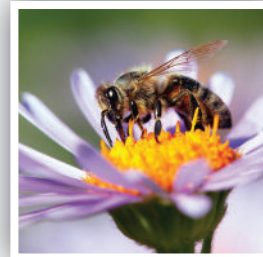
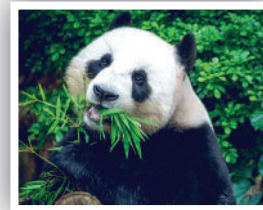
1.

2.

ברוך שאמר

How does 'ה have mercy on the land? Rav Schwab explains that 'ה created the world in a perfect way that would allow life to exist. For example, the sun is 92,960,000 miles from Earth. That is warm enough for the Earth to function, but not too hot to burn us to a crisp.

'ה has mercy on creations by making sure that every creature in the world has what it needs in order to exist.



Rav Schwab adds that 'ה had mercy on people by giving them the opportunity to do תשובה!

Fill in the chart below. Can you think of other ways that 'ה had mercy on הארץ and on הבריות?

ברוך מרחם על הבריות

ברוך מרחם על הארץ

ברוך משלם שכר טוב ליראיו

ה' asks why we praise ה' for giving us reward. Is it not due to us? He answers that we really do not deserve anything considering that our entire existence is a תּוֹנֶה from ה'. Anything we do does not come close to paying ה' back for all the good we have been given.

ובְּשִׁירֵי דָוִד עֲבֹדָה. נִהְלָלָה ה' אֱלֹהֵינוּ בְּשִׁבְחוֹת וּבְזִמְרוֹת.

With these words, we introduce everything we are about to do with פסוקי תהלים. We are going to use the שירי דוד - the songs that דוד wrote in דזמרה and elsewhere to praise ה'.

נִגְדָּלָהּ וְנִשְׁבַּחָהּ וְנִפְאָרָהּ וְנִזְכָּר שְׁמָהּ וְנִמְלִיכָהּ מִלְּכֵנוּ אֱלֹהֵינוּ.

Look at the words above. There are five descriptions of what we will do to praise ה'. List each one below. Can you translate them? Can you think of differences between them?

נִגְדָּלָהּ	_____
וְנִשְׁבַּחָהּ	_____
וְנִפְאָרָהּ	_____
וְנִזְכָּר שְׁמָהּ	_____
וְנִמְלִיכָהּ	_____

ברוך שאמר

Rav Schwab explains that these five phrases organize and set up the entire פסוקי דזמרה, as each phrase refers to another section. As we learn תפילה we can refer back to this list to think about how each accomplishes what we are trying to do with it.

הודו - יהי כבוד	נגדלך
אשרי	ונשבחך
הללוך	ונפאריך
ויברך דוד	ונזכיר שמך
שירת הים	נמליכך

"כל הלומד תורה ואינו חוזר עליה, דומה לאדם שזורע ואינו קוצר" (סנהדרין צט.)



REVIEWING AND REAPING

☞ Understand the Words:

ברוך שאמר _____

והיה העולם _____

ברוך הוא, _____

ברוך עשה בראשית _____

ברוך אומר ועשה _____

ברוך גוזר ומקיים _____

ברוך שאמר

ברוך מרחם על הארץ
 ברוך מרחם על הבריות
 ברוך משלם
 שכר טוב ליראיו
 ברוך חי לעד
 וקיים לנצח
 ברוך פודה ומציל
 ברוך שמו
 ברוך אתה ה' אלקינו מלך העולם
 הקל, אב הרחמן
 המהלל בפה עמו
 משבח ומפאר
 בלשון חסידיו ועבדיו
 ובשירי דוד עבדך
 נהלך ה' אלקינו
 בשבחחות ובזמירות
 נגדלך ונשבחך ונפאריך
 ונזכיר שמך
 ונמליכך מלכנו אלקינו
 יחיד, חי העולמים

ברוך שאמר

מֶלֶךְ מְשַׁבַּח וּמְפָאֵר _____
 עַדִּי עַד שְׁמוֹ הַגָּדוֹל. _____
 בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה ה' _____
 מֶלֶךְ מְהֻלָּל בְּתַשְׁבּוּחוֹת _____



UNDERSTAND THE IDEAS

1) What is the ברכה of שאמר ברוך an introduction to?

2) What are the הלכות about talking during דזמרה? Why?

3) Who established the ברכה of שאמר ברוך? Where did they get it from?

4) What does it mean that 'ה' is אומר ועושה? Why is that remarkable?

ברוך שאמר

5) Why does it say that 'ה' is עושה בראשית in the present tense?

6) Why do we praise 'ה' for being גוזר ומקיים?

7) Why do we praise 'ה' for being משלם שכר טוב if it is reward that we deserve?

8) What are the שירי דוד that we will use to praise 'ה'?

9) What five types of praise do we offer in דמורה?



MAKING IT PERSONAL

Let us try to personalize what we learned!

What is one idea from this תפילה that you
can focus on in the coming week?

I want to try to focus on the words:

When I do so I will think about:

I think that doing this will help my תפילה because:
