

תהלים מט

PSALM 49

This psalm reminds us that our journey in this world is to transform our ego nature, to raise holy sparks, and to contribute to tikun olam (repair of the world).

Lam'natzei-ach livnei korach mizmor.

For the conductor, a psalm by the sons of Korach.

Shimu zot kol ha-amim,

Hear this all you peoples,

ha-azinu kol yosh'vei chaled.

give ear all you dwellers of this decaying world.

Gam b'nei adam,

Even children of Adam,

gam b'nei ish,

even children of humankind,

yachad ashir v'evyon.

together rich and poor.

Pi y'dabeir chochmot,

My mouth will speak wisdom,

v'hagut libi t'vunot.

and the meditation of my heart is intelligent.

Oteh l'mashal ozni,

I will incline my ear to a parable,

eftach b'chinor chidati.

I will solve my riddle with a harp.

Lamah ira bimeit ra,

Why should I fear in the days of evil?

avon akeivai y'subeini.

the iniquity I trod upon surrounds me.

Habot'chim al cheilam,

Those who rely on their possessions,

uvrov ashram yit-halalu.

and are boastful of their great wealth.

Ach lo fadoh yifdeh ish,

A sibling cannot be redeemed in any way by a person,

lo yitein Leilohim kafro.

they cannot give Elohim their ransom.

V'yeikar pidyon nafsham,

The redemption of their soul is too costly,

v'chadal l'olam.

and unattainable forever.

Vichi od lanetzach,

Can one live for eternity,

lo yireh hashachat.

never to see the grave?

Ki yireh chachamim yamutu,

Though they see that wise people die,

לְמַנְצֵחַ לְבְנֵי קֶרַח מִזְמוֹר.

שְׁמְעוּ זֹאת כָּל הָעַמִּים,

הָאֲזִינוּ כָּל יְשֵׁבֵי חֶלֶד.

גַּם בְּנֵי אָדָם,

גַּם בְּנֵי אִישׁ,

יַחַד עֹשִׂיר וְאֶבְיוֹן.

פִּי יִדְבֵר חֲכָמוֹת,

וְהִגֹּת לְבִי תְבוֹנוֹת.

אֶטָּה לְמִשַּׁל אֲזִנִּי,

אֶפְתַּח בְּכַנּוֹר חִידָתִי.

לָמָּה אִירָא בְיָמַי רָע,

עוֹן עֲקָבַי יִסְבְּנִי.

הַבֹּטְחִים עַל חֵילָם,

וּבָרַב עֲשָׂרָם יִתְהַלְלוּ.

אֶח לֹא פֹדֶה יִפְדֶּה אִישׁ,

לֹא יִתֵּן לְאֱלֹהִים כֶּפֶרוֹ.

וַיִּקַּר פְּדִיוֹן נַפְשָׁם,

וְחָדַל לְעוֹלָם.

וַיִּחִי עוֹד לְנֶצֶחַ,

לֹא יִרְאֶה הַשָּׁחַת.

כִּי יִרְאֶה חֲכָמִים יָמוּתוּ,

yacha k'sil vava-ar yoveidu,
that together the foolish and senseless perish,
v'az'vu la-acheirim cheilam.
and leave to others their possessions.

Kirbam bateimo l'olam,
Their inner thoughts are that their houses will last forever,
mishk'notam l'dor vador,
their dwellings for generation to generation,
kar'u vishmotam alei adamot.
they have proclaimed their names throughout the lands.

V'adam bikar bal yalin,
But as for humankind they do not endure in their splendor,
nimshal kab'heimot nidmu.
they are likened to silenced animals.

Zeh darkam, kesel lamo,
This is their way, their folly remains with them,
v'achareihem b'fihem yirtzu selah.
yet their mouths speak soothingly of their destiny, Selah!

Katzon lishol shatu,
Like sheep they are destined for the lower world,
mavet yireim,
death shall consume them,

vayirdu vam y'sharim laboker,
and the upright shall dominate them at morning,
v'tzuram l'valot sh'ol
their form will be consumed in the grave
miz'vul lo.
from their dwelling.

Ach Elohim yifdeh nafshi
But Elohim will redeem my soul
miyad sh'ol,
from the hand of the grave,

ki yikacheini selah.
for He will take me, Selah!

Al tira ki ya-ashir ish,
Fear not when a person becomes wealthy,
ki yirbeh k'vod beito.
when he increases the glory of their house.

Ki lo v'moto yikach hakol,
For upon their death they will take nothing at all,
lo yeireid acharav k'vodo.
their glory will not descend after them.

Ki nafsho b'chayav y'vareich,
Because while they lived they blessed their soul,
v'yoducha ki teitiv lach.
they will praise you because you have done well for yourself.

Tavo ad dor avotav,
It shall come to the generation of their ancestors,

יִחַד כְּסִיל וְבַעַר יֵאבְדוּ,
וְעָזְבוּ לְאַחֲרֵים חֵילָם.
קִרְבָּם בְּתֵימֹו לְעוֹלָם,
מִשְׁכְּנֹתָם לְדוֹר וָדוֹר,
קָרְאוּ בְשֵׁמוֹתַם עָלַי אֲדָמוֹת.
וְאָדָם בִּיקָר בַּל יֵלִין,
נִמְשַׁל כַּבְּהֵמוֹת נִדְמוּ.
זֶה דַרְכָּם, כְּסֵל לָמוּ,
וְאַחֲרֵיהֶם בְּפִיהֶם יִרְצוּ סֵלָה.
כִּצְאֵן לְשֹׂאֵל שֵׁתוּ,
מֹוֹת יִרְעִם,
וַיִּרְדּוּ בָם יִשְׂרָיִם לְבִקְרָה,
וְצוֹרָם לְבִלְוֹת שֹׂאֵל
מִזְבֵּל לוֹ.
אֲךְ אֱלֹהִים יִפְדֶּה נַפְשִׁי
מִיַּד שֹׂאֵל,
כִּי יִקְחֵנִי סֵלָה.
אֵל תִּירָא כִּי יַעֲשֶׂר אִישׁ,
כִּי יִרְבֶּה כְבוֹד בֵּיתוֹ.
כִּי לֹא בְּמוֹתוֹ יִקַּח הַכֹּל,
לֹא יֵרֵד אַחֲרָיו כְּבוֹדוֹ.
כִּי נַפְשׁוֹ בְּחַיָּו יְבָרַךְ,
וַיִּוְדָךְ כִּי תִיטִיב לָךְ.
תָּבוֹא עַד דּוֹר אֲבוֹתָיו,

ad neitzach lo yiru or.

they shall not see light unto eternity.

Adam bikar v'lo yavin,

Humankind is glorious but without understanding,

nimshal kab'heimot nidmu.

they are likened to the animals that are without speech.

עַד נֵצַח לֹא יִרְאוּ אֹר.
 אָדָם בִּיקָר וְלֹא יָבִין,
 נִמְשָׁל כַּבְּהֵמוֹת נִדְמוּ.