Midrash Tehillim

Midrash Tehillim / Psalms 69 | סדרת הַתַּהְילִים

Midrash Tehillim / Psalms 69, Part 1

1. For the leader; upon Shoshannim. A Psalm of David. Save me, O God; for the waters are come in unto the soul (Tehillim / Psalms 69:1-2). These words are to be considered in the light of what Scripture says elsewhere, How fair and how pleasant are you, O love, for delights (Song 7:7) that is, How fair and pleasant were the children of Israel when they stood at the sea and beheld the Holy One blessed be He. As Scripture says, And Israel saw the great work which the Lord did upon the Egyptians, and the people feared the Lord, and believed in the Lord, and in His servant Moshe (Shemot / Exodus 14:31). Indeed, whenever the children of Israel behold the Holy One blessed be He, how fair and pleasant they are. They behold God as He gave them the Torah at Sinai, and all of them became upright persons, as is said, He lays up sound wisdom for the upright (Mishley / Proverbs 2:7); Scripture also says, Do good, O Lord, unto those that be good, and to them that are upright in their hearts (Tehillim / Psalms 125:4). The behold the Lord come into the Tent of Meeting, and they became righteous, as is said, Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous (Tehillim / Psalms 33:1). They behold God upon the waters of the sea and they became Shoshannim, lilies, as is said, For the leader; upon Shoshannim. When, as the Psalm says, they prayed, Save me, O God; for the waters are come in unto the soul.

Midrash Tehillim 69, Part 2

2. I sink in deep mire, where there is no standing; I am come into deep waters where the floods overflow me (Tehillim / Psalms 96:4) together with the remaining
verses of the Psalm alludes to the oppression of the present exile, there is nothing else I can do except pray, for it is said, But as for me, let my prayer be unto You, O Lord, in an acceptable time (Tehillim / Psalms 69:14). Rabbi Jose son of Halafta taught that there are set times for prayer. What is an acceptable set time? The hour when a congregation prays. And thus Scripture says, In an acceptable time have I heard You (Isaiah 49:8). Deliver me out of the mire, and let me not sink (Tehillim / Psalms 69:15); that is, deliver me out of the punishment of hell, of which it is said He brought me up also out of the tumultuous pit, out of the miry clay.