

## ספר תהילים כא | Tehillim / Psalms 21

MATSATI.COM Ministry | <http://www.matsati.com>

### Great is the Salvation of God

This week's study is from *Tehillim / Psalms 21:1-13*, the Psalm begins saying: **א** לַמְנַצֵּחַ מְזֻמֹּר לְדָוִד: *“For the director of music, A psalm of David.”* David says **ב** יְהוָה בְּעֶזְרָה יִשְׁמַח-מְלֹךְ וּבִישׁוּעָתָהּ מֵה-יִגְּלִל [יִגְּלִל] *21:1 O Lord, in Your strength the king will be glad, And in Your salvation how greatly he will rejoice! (NASB)* It is interesting that he says in God's strength the king will be glad. The king relies upon the Lord and not upon his own strength, we are told over and over again to call and rely upon the Lord in Scripture. The king also relies upon the Lord's salvation. Seeking the Lord for His help and salvation, David says **ג** תַּאֲוֹת לְבוֹ נָתַתָּה לוֹ וְאַרְשֶׁת שְׂפָתָיו בַּל-מִנְעַתָּה סָלָה: *ד* כִּי-תִקְדָּמֵנוּ בְּרִכּוֹת טוֹב תִּשִׁית לְרֵאשִׁי עֲטָרַת פָּז: *ה* חַיִּים: *ו* שְׁאֵל מִמֶּךָ נָתַתָּה לוֹ אֶרְךָ יָמִים עוֹלָם וָעֶד: *ז* גָּדוֹל כְּבוֹדוֹ בִּישׁוּעָתָהּ הוֹד וְהִדָּר תִּשְׁנֶה עָלָיו: *ח* *21:2 You have given him his heart's desire, And You have not withheld the request of his lips. Selah. 21:3 For You meet him with the blessings of good things; You set a crown of fine gold on his head. 21:4 He asked life of You, You gave it to him, Length of days forever and ever. 21:5 His glory is great through Your salvation, Splendor and majesty You place upon him. (NASB)* What does it mean that the king's glory is great through the salvation of the Lord? David says **ז** כִּי-תִשְׁתִּיתָהּ בְּרִכּוֹת לְעַד תִּתְחַדְּהוּ בְשִׂמְחָה אֶת-פְּנֵיהֶּ: *ח* כִּי-הִמְלִךְ בֵּיתָךְ בֵּיתֶךָ וּבְחָסֶד עָלְיוֹן בַּל-יִמוּט: *ט* *21:6 For You make him most blessed forever; You make him joyful with gladness in Your presence. 21:7 For the king trusts in the Lord, And through the lovingkindness of the Most High he will not be shaken. (NASB)* The second half of the psalm David says that the Lord is the one who helps him discover who his enemies are and those who hate him. The Lord will make known those who plot against you from among the sons of men and they will not succeed. The Lord will swallow them up in His wrath those who seek the destruction of His holy ones. The Lord will destroy the off spring of his enemies and turn their weapons back against them for the purpose of saving His anointed one. Everything and everyone that one hates is engraved upon the heart; therefore, seek the Lord to circumcise your heart. *Devarim / Deuteronomy 10:16 So circumcise your heart, and stiffen your neck no longer. (NASB)* Because of all of this **יד** רִוְמָה יְהוָה בְּעֶזְרָה נְשִׂירָה וּנְזֻמָּרָה *21:13 Be exalted, O Lord, in Your strength; We will sing and praise Your power. (NASB)*

עברית Hebrew	ארמי Aramaic	ελληνικός Greek
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>ספר תהלים פרק כא</b></p> <p><b>א</b> לַמְנַצֵּחַ מְזֻמֹּר לְדָוִד: <b>ב</b> יְהוָה בְּעֶזְרָה יִשְׁמַח-מְלֹךְ וּבִישׁוּעָתָהּ מֵה-יִגְּלִל [יִגְּלִל] <b>ג</b> תַּאֲוֹת לְבוֹ נָתַתָּה לוֹ וְאַרְשֶׁת שְׂפָתָיו בַּל-מִנְעַתָּה סָלָה: <b>ד</b> כִּי-תִקְדָּמֵנוּ בְּרִכּוֹת טוֹב תִּשִׁית לְרֵאשִׁי עֲטָרַת פָּז: <b>ה</b> חַיִּים   שְׁאֵל מִמֶּךָ נָתַתָּה לוֹ אֶרְךָ יָמִים עוֹלָם וָעֶד:</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>ספר טוביה פרק כא</b></p> <p><b>א</b> לשבחה תושבחתא לדוד: <b>ב</b> יהוה בעשנך ייחדי ימלוך מליך משיחא ובפורקנך כמא ירנן מרנן לחדא: <b>ג</b> רגגת נפשיה יהבת ליה ופירוש סיפוותיה לא כליתא לעל-מיו: <b>ד</b> ארום תקדמיניה ברכן טבן תשוי על רישיה כליל דהב סנינא:</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>ΨΑΛΜΟΙ 21</b></p> <p>21:1 εις τὸ τέλος ψαλμὸς τῷ δαυιδ κύριε ἐν τῇ δυνάμει σου εὐφρανθήσεται ὁ βασιλεὺς καὶ ἐπὶ τῷ σωτηρίῳ σου ἀγαλλιάσεται σφόδρα 21:2 τὴν ἐπιθυμίαν τῆς ψυχῆς αὐτοῦ ἔδωκας αὐτῷ καὶ τὴν θέλησιν τῶν χειλέων αὐτοῦ οὐκ ἐστέρησας αὐτόν διάψαλμα 21:3 ὅτι προέφθασας αὐτόν ἐν εὐλογίαις χρηστότητος ἔθηκας ἐπὶ τὴν κεφαλὴν αὐτοῦ στέφανον ἐκ λίθου τιμίου</p>



<p><b>Tehillim / Psalms 21</b>                  Praise for Deliverance. For the choir director. A Psalm of David. 21:1 O Lord, in Your strength the king will be glad, And in Your salvation how greatly he will rejoice! 21:2 You have given him his heart's desire, And You have not withheld the request of his lips. Selah. 21:3 For You meet him with the blessings of good things; You set a crown of fine gold on his head. 21:4 He asked life of You, You gave it to him, Length of days forever and ever. 21:5 His glory is great through Your salvation, Splendor and majesty You place upon him. 21:6 For You make him most blessed forever; You make him joyful with gladness in Your presence. 21:7 For the king trusts in the Lord, And through the lovingkindness of the Most High he will not be shaken. 21:8 Your hand will find out all your enemies; Your right hand will find out those who hate you. 21:9 You will make them as a fiery oven in the time of your anger; The Lord will swallow them up in His wrath, And fire will devour them. 21:10 Their offspring You will destroy from the earth, And their descendants from among the sons of men. 21:11 Though they intended evil against You And devised a plot, They will not succeed. 21:12 For You will make them turn their back; You will aim with Your bowstrings at their faces. 21:13 Be exalted, O Lord, in Your strength; We will sing and praise Your power. (NASB)</p>	<p><b>Toviyah / Psalms Chapter 21</b>                  21:1 For praise; a psalm of David. 21:2 O Lord, in your strength the King Messiah will rejoice, and how greatly will he exult in your redemption! 21:3 You have given him the desire of his soul; and you have not withheld the expression of his lips forever. 21:4 For you will make good blessings go before him; you will place on his head a crown of refined gold. 21:5 Eternal life he asked of you; you gave him length of days forever and ever. 21:6 Great is his glory in your redemption; praise and splendor you will place on him. 21:7 Because you will give him blessings forever; you will gladden him with the gladness that is from your presence. 21:8 Because the King Messiah hopes in the Lord; and through the favor of the Most High he is not shaken. 21:9 The blow of your hand will reach all your foes; the vengeance of your right hand will find all your enemies. 21:10 You will make them like a fiery furnace at the time of your anger, O Lord; in his anger he will swallow them up and the inferno of Gehenna will consume them. 21:11 You will make their children perish from the earth, and their progeny from the sons of men. 21:12 Because they plotted evil against you, they thought evil thoughts, but they could not prevail against you. 21:13 Because for your people you made them one porter in the ropes of your tabernacle; you will prepare their way before them. 21:14 Stand up, O Lord, in your might; let us sing praise and dance in your strength. (EMC)</p>	<p><b>Psalmoi / Psalms 21</b>                  For the end, a Psalm of David. 21:1 O Lord, the king shall rejoice in thy strength; and in thy salvation he shall greatly exult. 21:2 Thou hast granted him the desire of his soul, and hast not withheld from him the request of his lips. Pause. 21:3 For thou hast prevented him with blessings of goodness: thou has set upon his head a crown of precious stone. 21:4 He asked life of thee, and thou gavest him length of days for ever and ever. 21:5 His glory is great in thy salvation: thou wilt crown him with glory and majesty. 21:6 For thou wilt give him a blessing for ever and ever: thou wilt gladden him with joy with thy countenance. 21:7 For the king trusts in the Lord, and through the mercy of the Highest he shall not be moved. 21:8 Let thy hand be found by all thine enemies: let thy right hand find all that hate thee. 21:9 Thou shalt make them as a fiery oven at the time of thy presence: the Lord shall trouble them in his anger, and fire shall devour them. 21:10 Thou shalt destroy their fruit from the earth, and their seed from among the sons of men. 21:11 For they intended evils against thee; they imagined a device which they shall by no means be able to perform. 21:12 For thou shalt make them turn their back in thy latter end, thou wilt prepare their face. 21:13 Be thou exalted, O Lord, in thy strength: we will sing and praise thy mighty acts. (LXX)</p>
--	---	--

When we do think of a king, sometimes we think of the men who rule here on earth before we think on the sovereign Lord, Ruler and King of all the universe. Do you think God was originally in favor of the institution of a “king” in Israel? Does the Torah indicate that God had in mind for kings to rule over Israel or was His original intent to be King and Ruler Himself? Was the original design, based upon the Torah, for the people to go to Him and seek His counsel, where king, מֶלֶךְ (melech) from the root word מ.ל.ך to be a counselor, was for us to seek His counsel and His “final” word on a given matter? Studying the biblical narrative, this is indeed an interesting question. Let’s begin by looking at *1 Samuel 8:1-9:2*.

***1 Samuel 8:1-9:2***

*8:1 And it came about when Samuel was old that he appointed his sons judges over Israel. 8:2 Now the name of his firstborn was Joel, and the name of his second, Abijah; they were judging in Beersheba. 8:3 His sons, however, did not walk in his ways, but turned aside after dishonest gain and took bribes and perverted justice. 8:4 Then all the elders of Israel gath-*

ered together and came to Samuel at Ramah; 8:5 and they said to him, 'Behold, you have grown old, and your sons do not walk in your ways. Now appoint a king for us to judge us like all the nations.' 8:6 But the thing was displeasing in the sight of Samuel when they said, 'Give us a king to judge us.' And Samuel prayed to the Lord. 8:7 The Lord said to Samuel, 'Listen to the voice of the people in regard to all that they say to you, for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected Me from being king over them. 8:8 'Like all the deeds which they have done since the day that I brought them up from Egypt even to this day in that they have forsaken Me and served other gods so they are doing to you also. 8:9 'Now then, listen to their voice; however, you shall solemnly warn them and tell them of the procedure of the king who will reign over them.' 8:10 So Samuel spoke all the words of the Lord to the people who had asked of him a king. 8:11 He said, 'This will be the procedure of the king who will reign over you: he will take your sons and place them for himself in his chariots and among his horsemen and they will run before his chariots. 8:12 'He will appoint for himself commanders of thousands and of fifties, and some to do his plowing and to reap his harvest and to make his weapons of war and equipment for his chariots. 8:13 'He will also take your daughters for perfumers and cooks and bakers. 8:14 'He will take the best of your fields and your vineyards and your olive groves and give them to his servants. 8:15 'He will take a tenth of your seed and of your vineyards and give to his officers and to his servants. 8:16 'He will also take your male servants and your female servants and your best young men and your donkeys and use them for his work. 8:17 'He will take a tenth of your flocks, and you yourselves will become his servants. 8:18 'Then you will cry out in that day because of your king whom you have chosen for yourselves, but the Lord will not answer you in that day.' 8:19 Nevertheless, the people refused to listen to the voice of Samuel, and they said, 'No, but there shall be a king over us, 8:20 that we also may be like all the nations, that our king may judge us and go out before us and fight our battles.' 8:21 Now after Samuel had heard all the words of the people, he repeated them in the Lord's hearing. 8:22 The Lord said to Samuel, 'Listen to their voice and appoint them a king.' So Samuel said to the men of Israel, 'Go every man to his city.' 9:1 Now there was a man of Benjamin whose name was Kish the son of Abiel, the son of Zeror; the son of Becorath, the son of Aphiah, the son of a Benjamite, a mighty man of valor. 9:2 He had a son whose name was Saul, a choice and handsome man, and there was not a more handsome person than he among the sons of Israel; from his shoulders and up he was taller than any of the people. (NASB)

א וַיְהִי כַּאֲשֶׁר זָקַן שְׁמוּאֵל וַיִּשְׂם אֶת-בָּנָיו שְׁפֹטִים לְיִשְׂרָאֵל: ב וַיְהִי שָׁם-בְּנֹו הַבְּכוֹר יוֹאֵל וְשֵׁם מִשְׁנֵהוּ אַבְיָה שְׁפֹטִים בְּבֵאֵר שָׁבַע: ג וְלֹא-הָלְכוּ בְּנָיו בְּדַרְכּוֹ [בְּדַרְכּוֹ] וַיִּטּוּ אַחֲרֵי הַבְּצֹעַ וַיִּקְחוּ-שִׁחָד וַיִּטּוּ מִשְׁפָּט: ד וַיִּתְקַבְּצוּ כָּל זִקְנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל וַיָּבֹאוּ אֶל-שְׁמוּאֵל הַרְמָתָה: ה וַיֹּאמְרוּ אֵלָיו הֲנִיחָה אֶתְּהָ זָקְנֵת וּבְנֵיהָ לֹא הָלְכוּ בְּדַרְכֶּיהָ עֲתָה שְׂמִימָה-לָנוּ מֶלֶךְ לְשֹׁפְטֵנוּ כְּכָל-הַגּוֹיִם: ו וַיִּרַע הַדָּבָר בְּעֵינֵי שְׁמוּאֵל כַּאֲשֶׁר אָמְרוּ תַּנְהָ-לָנוּ מֶלֶךְ לְשֹׁפְטֵנוּ וַיִּתְפַּלֵּל שְׁמוּאֵל אֶל-יְהוָה: ז וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה אֶל-שְׁמוּאֵל שְׁמַע בְּקוֹל הָעָם לְכָל אֲשֶׁר-יֹאמְרוּ אֵלָיךָ כִּי לֹא אֶתְּהָ מֵאֲסוּ כִּי-אֶתִּי מֵאֲסוּ מִמֶּלֶךְ עָלֶיְהֶם: ח כְּכָל-הַמַּעֲשִׂים אֲשֶׁר-עָשׂוּ מִיּוֹם הַעֲלֹתִי אֶתְּם מִמִּצְרַיִם וְעַד-הַיּוֹם הַזֶּה וַעֲזַבְנִי וַעֲבַדוּ אֱלֹהִים אַחֲרָיִם כִּן הָמָּה עֹשִׂים גַּם-לָךְ: ט וְעַתָּה שְׁמַע בְּקוֹלְךָ אֲךָ כִּי-הָעַד תַּעֲיִד בְּהֶם וְהַגִּדְתָּ לָהֶם מִשְׁפַּט הַמֶּלֶךְ אֲשֶׁר יִמְלֶךְ עָלֵיהֶם: י וַיֹּאמֶר שְׁמוּאֵל אֵת כָּל-דְּבָרֵי יְהוָה אֶל-הָעָם הַשְּׂאֵלִים מֵאֵתוֹ מֶלֶךְ: יא וַיֹּאמֶר זֶה יְהִי מִשְׁפַּט הַמֶּלֶךְ אֲשֶׁר יִמְלֶךְ עָלֵיכֶם אֶת-בְּנֵיכֶם יִקַּח וְשָׂם לוֹ בְּמִרְכָּבָתוֹ וּבְפָרָשָׁיו וְרָצוּ לִפְנֵי מִרְכָּבָתוֹ: יב וְלָשׂוּם לוֹ שָׂרֵי אֲלָפִים וְשָׂרֵי חֲמִשָּׁיִם וְלַחֲרָשׁ חֲרִישׁוֹ וְלַקָּצֵר קָצִירָו וְלַעֲשׂוֹת כְּלֵי-מִלְחָמָתוֹ וְכְלֵי רִכְבּוֹ: יג וְאֶת-בְּנֹוֹתֵיכֶם יִקַּח לְרִקְחוֹת וְלִטְבַּחוֹת וְלֵאֲפוֹת: יד

וְאֶת-שְׂדוֹתֵיכֶם וְאֶת-פְּרִמֵיכֶם וְזִיתֵיכֶם הַטּוֹבִים יִקַּח וְנָתַן לְעַבְדָּיו: טו וְזָרְעֵיכֶם וְכַרְמֵיכֶם יַעֲשֶׂה וְנָתַן לְסָרִיסָיו וְלְעַבְדָּיו: טז וְאֶת-עַבְדֵיכֶם וְאֶת-שִׁפְחוֹתֵיכֶם וְאֶת-בְּחֹרֵיכֶם הַטּוֹבִים וְאֶת-חֲמוֹרֵיכֶם יִקַּח וְעָשָׂה לְמִלְאָכָתוֹ: יז צֹאנְכֶם יַעֲשֶׂה וְאֶתֶם תִּהְיוּ-לוֹ לְעַבְדִּים: יח וְזַעֲקֶתֶם בַּיּוֹם הַהוּא מִלִּפְנֵי מִלְכְּכֶם אֲשֶׁר בְּחָרְתֶם לָכֶם וְלֹא-יַעֲנֶה יְהוָה אֶתְכֶם בַּיּוֹם הַהוּא: יט וַיִּמְאַנוּ הָעָם לְשִׁמְעַע בְּקוֹל שְׂמוּאֵל וַיֹּאמְרוּ לֹא כִּי אִם-מֶלֶךְ יִהְיֶה עָלֵינוּ: כ וְהִינּוּ גַם-אֲנַחְנוּ כְּכֹל-הַגּוֹיִם וְשִׁפְטָנוּ מִלִּפְנֵי וַיִּצְא לִפְנֵינוּ וְנִלְחַם אֶת-מִלְחַמְתּוֹנוֹ: כא וַיִּשְׁמַע שְׂמוּאֵל אֶת כָּל-דְּבָרֵי הָעָם וַיַּדְבָּרֵם בְּאָזְנֵי יְהוָה: כב וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה אֶל-שְׂמוּאֵל שְׁמַע בְּקוֹלִי וְהִמְלַכְתָּ לָהֶם מֶלֶךְ וַיֹּאמֶר שְׂמוּאֵל אֶל-אֲנָשִׁי יִשְׂרָאֵל לָכוּ אִישׁ לְעֵירוֹ: א וַיְהִי-אִישׁ מִבֶּן-יָמִין [מִבְּנֵימִין] וְשָׁמוֹ קִישׁ בֶּן-אֲבִיאל בֶּן-צָרוּר בֶּן-בְּכוֹרֵת בֶּן-אֶפְיִח בֶּן-אִישׁ יָמִינִי גְבוּר חֵיל: ב וְלוֹ-הָיָה בֶן וְשָׁמוֹ שְׂאוּל בְּחֹר וְטוֹב וְאִין אִישׁ מִבְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל טוֹב מִמֶּנּוּ מִשְׁכְּמוֹ וּמַעֲלָה גְבוּהַ מִכָּל-הָעָם:

Reading through *1 Samuel 8:1-3*, when Samuel grew old, he appointed his sons as judges over Israel. The names of his sons were Joel and Abijah and they served at Beersheba. According to the Scriptures, Samuel's sons did not walk in his ways. Samuel's sons were not like him, the Scriptures say they were greedy for money and accepted bribes. Thus, his sons were corrupt. In addition to this, Samuel's sons were old enough to be on their own. Despite Samuel's influence as a man of God in his family, his sons were still corrupt. What is apparent here is what's indicated by Scripture, each person needs to personally meet the Lord God as their Savior and true King of their lives. Having godly parents does not always result in godly children. These Scriptures indicate growing up in a God fearing household, does not guarantee being faithful to the Lord when one is old without having a personal encounter with the Lord. Samuel's sons did not develop their own individual faith before the Lord and neither did they remain true to God's word. Their lives in the Lord were relative, superficial, and habitual instead of deeply accepting God's sovereignty and holiness. They essentially were going through the motions. Thus, when they were tempted with a bribe, they easily stumbled and could neither act as righteous men nor lead the people in God's ways.

**Does anyone have unsaved children who would like to comment on this?**

Reading *1 Samuel 8:4-5*, the Scriptures say *8:4 Then all the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah; 8:5 and they said to him, 'Behold, you have grown old, and your sons do not walk in your ways. Now appoint a king for us to judge us like all the nations.'* (NASB) The people wanted good leadership and recognized the poor spiritual leadership of Samuel's sons and did not want to return to the days of Eli and his sons. As a result of this, the people of Israel come up with three reasons to ask for a king: (i) Samuel was getting old, (ii) His sons were not qualified to lead the people, and (iii) they wanted to be like the neighboring nations. When the people asked for a king, we read *8:6 But the thing was displeasing in the sight of Samuel when they said, 'Give us a king to judge us.'* And Samuel prayed to the Lord. (NASB), and so Samuel responded with being very disappointed. Samuel prayed to the Lord because the people sought a king. He was not happy with the people's demand. *8:7 The Lord said to Samuel, 'Listen to the voice of the people in regard to all that they say to you, for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected Me from being king over them. 8:8 'Like all the deeds which they have done since the day that I brought them up from Egypt even to this day in that they have forsaken Me and served other gods so they are doing to you also.'* (NASB) According to *1 Samuel 8:7-8*, the Lord says their request for a king was a rejection of the Lord God Almighty being King over them and not specifically a rejection of Samuel. Based upon the statement and response during the conversation between the Lord and Samuel, did the prophet act in the position as king over the people? The people saying "Give us a king to judge us" suggests that the prophet who judges may in fact have acted as a king in a way over the people. Note again how the king, מֶלֶךְ (melech) from the root word מ.ל.ך means to be a counselor, and the people would seek the counsel of the prophet to know the will of the Lord. The prophet's word that was from God was the "final" word on

a given matter? What is a prophet? The word for prophet in Hebrew is נביא (navi) and scholars have not agreed upon the exact derivation of this word. Brown Driver and Briggs Lexicon states that the navi is a spokesman, speaker, prophet, and is applied to many people in the Scriptures, to Abraham, Moshe, Samuel, Elijah, and many more. The root meaning of the word is “to call” which emphasizes that the prophet was called by God to be His spokesman. The Gesenius’ lexicon (by Heinrich Friedrich Wilhelm Gesenius 1786 – 1842) states that navi is derived from the root word נבע meaning “to boil” however, most scholars reject this theory today. The word as it is used in the Hebrew bible is with such variety that its exact meaning is not well understood. In the end it is defined as “prophet” based on the actions of the person that it is describing. Other terms that are used of the prophet are רֹאֵה (seer) from the root meaning “to see, to look at,” this word is used to refer to a prophet in *1 Samuel 9:9* ט לְפָנִים | בְּיִשְׂרָאֵל כֹּה־אָמַר הָאִישׁ בְּלָכְתּוֹ לְדָרוֹשׁ אֱלֹהִים *9:9 (Formerly in Israel, when a man went to inquire of God, he used to say, ‘Come, and let us go to the seer’; for he who is called a prophet now was formerly called a seer.) (NASB)* And another word used to refer to a prophet is חֹזֶה (choze, or חזון chazon) meaning “vision,” or “revelation,” and this word is used as a synonym for “prophet” in *2 Samuel 24:11*, יֵא וַיִּקָּם, *24:11 When David arose in the morning, the word of the Lord came to the prophet Gad, David’s seer (חֹזֶה), saying, (NASB)* Clearly, based upon these Scriptures, the prophet was God’s spokesman, and the characteristic introduction of the prophet on the word of the Lord is to say “Thus says the Lord...” indicates that the prophet has heard from God and is speaking the Word of the Lord and not his own words. The prophet spoke as one who is required to speak and deliver God’s word that has been given him. The true prophet of God, his message would remain consistent regardless of the circumstances and the people to whom he was speaking. According to the use of the words רֹאֵה (seer) and חֹזֶה (choze, or חזון chazon) meaning “vision,” or “revelation,” the prophet receives wisdom and knowledge through his communication with God, he is made aware of “seeing” future events. In addition to this, signs and wonders may also accompany the message of the prophet to substantiate that his words are from the Lord God of Heaven.

The king is known as one to whom one seeks advise or counsel. The prophet would seek the advise of the King of the universe (God) when the people would come asking for a word from the Lord. The word רֹעֵה (roeh) “a shepherd” is used metaphorically of a ruler or king according to *2 Samuel 5:2, 2 Samuel 7:7, Tehillim / Psalms 78:72, Jeremiah 3:15 and 23:2-4, Ezekiel 34:2-23, 1 Chronicles 11:2, and 1 Chronicles 17:6*. In *1 Samuel 9:16*, the word נָגִיד (nagid) meaning “a ruler” or “prince,” comes from the root meaning “the one who stands in front,” appears as if it is used to refer to a king who is set apart for the throne but is yet to reign. This seems to be how the word is used in *1 Samuel 9:16* טז כָּעֵת | מָחָר אֶשְׁלַח אֵלֶיךָ אִישׁ מֵאֶרֶץ בְּנֵימִן וּמִשְׁחָתוֹ לְנָגִיד עַל-עַמִּי יִשְׂרָאֵל וְהוֹשִׁיעַ אֶת-עַמִּי מִיַּד פְּלִשְׁתִּים כִּי רָאִיתִי אֶת-עַמִּי כִּי בָאָה צָעֲקוֹתוֹ אֵלַי: *9:16 ‘About this time tomorrow I will send you a man from the land of Benjamin, and you shall anoint him to be prince over My people Israel; and he will deliver My people from the hand of the Philistines. For I have regarded My people, because their cry has come to Me.’ (NASB)* It is interesting that in *Daniel 9:25*, the phrase מָשִׁיחַ נָגִיד (Mashiach nagid) the “Messiah the prince” is designated as the heir to the throne כֹּה וַתִּדַע כֹּה וַתִּשְׁפַל מִן-מִצָּא דָבָר לְהָשִׁיב וּלְבָנוֹת יְרוּשָׁלַם עַד-מָשִׁיחַ נָגִיד שְׁבַעִים שָׁבָעָה וְשִׁבְעִים שָׁשִׁים וּשְׁנָיִם תָּשׁוּב וּנְבֻנְתָה: *9:25 ‘So you are to know and discern that from the issuing of a decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until Messiah the Prince there will be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks; it will be built again, with plaza and moat, even in times of distress. (NASB)* The word שָׂר (sar) is also used meaning “a prince,” “captain,” or “chief.” The root meaning indicates “to rise in splendor.” This term is use of the Messiah in *Isaiah 9:6* as the “Prince of peace.” Throughout the Scriptures, ultimately we see that God was intending for the Messiah to become king and ruler over Israel, especially in the prophetic literature.

So we come back to the original question whether God was originally in favor of the institution of a king in Israel according to the Torah? Does the Torah indicate that God had in mind for kings to rule over Israel or was His original intent to be King and Ruler Himself? On occasion, the Scriptures appear to point in opposite directions on this question. On the one hand we find the Davidic kingship in very positive terms and a significant amount of theology has been developed around this especially in the Apostolic Writings and references to the Messiah in the Tanach. On the other hand, the words of God from *1 Samuel 8* seem to speak against the institution of king. If we carefully study the biblical narrative from Deuteronomy through 2 Kings, a few conclusions can be made regarding kings. Based upon Scripture, the godly king was the one who led the people in worship and in keeping the mitzvot (commandments) and essentially keeping the covenant of God. The king was also the one who was trusted by the Lord to fight Israel's battles with their enemies. Looking at the Scripture references above, Kings had many different functions, and they were described in diverse terms such as "lord," "judge," "shepherd," "leader of the armies," and so on. The Lord God did in fact give Israel provision in the Torah for a king according to *Devarim / Deuteronomy 17:14-20*.

***Devarim / Deuteronomy 17:14-20***

*17:14 'When you enter the land which the Lord your God gives you, and you possess it and live in it, and you say, 'I will set a king over me like all the nations who are around me,' 17:15 you shall surely set a king over you whom the Lord your God chooses, one from among your countrymen you shall set as king over yourselves; you may not put a foreigner over yourselves who is not your countryman. 17:16 'Moreover, he shall not multiply horses for himself, nor shall he cause the people to return to Egypt to multiply horses, since the Lord has said to you, 'You shall never again return that way.' 17:17 'He shall not multiply wives for himself, or else his heart will turn away; nor shall he greatly increase silver and gold for himself. 17:18 'Now it shall come about when he sits on the throne of his kingdom, he shall write for himself a copy of this law on a scroll in the presence of the Levitical priests. 17:19 'It shall be with him and he shall read it all the days of his life, that he may learn to fear the Lord his God, by carefully observing all the words of this law and these statutes, 17:20 that his heart may not be lifted up above his countrymen and that he may not turn aside from the commandment, to the right or the left, so that he and his sons may continue long in his kingdom in the midst of Israel. (NASB)*

יד כִּי-תָבֹא אֶל-הָאָרֶץ אֲשֶׁר יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ נָתַן לְךָ וּיְרַשְׁתָּהּ וַיִּשְׁבְּתָהּ בָּהּ וְאָמַרְתָּ אֲשִׁימָה עָלַי מֶלֶךְ כְּכָל-הַגּוֹיִם אֲשֶׁר סְבִיבֹתַי: טו שׁוֹם תִּשִׂים עָלַי מֶלֶךְ אֲשֶׁר יִבְחַר יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ בּוֹ מִקְרֵב אַחֶיךָ תִּשִׂים עָלַיךָ מֶלֶךְ לֹא תוּכַל לָתֵת עָלַיךָ אִישׁ נָכְרִי אֲשֶׁר לֹא-אַחֶיךָ הוּא: טז רַק לֹא-יִרְבֶּה-לוֹ סוּסִים וְלֹא-יִשְׁיֵב אֶת-הָעָם מִצְרַיִמָה לְמַעַן הִרְבּוֹת סוּס וַיְהִי אָמַר לָכֶם לֹא תִסְפוּן לָשׁוּב בְּדַרְךָ הַזֶּה עוֹד: יז וְלֹא יִרְבֶּה-לוֹ נָשִׁים וְלֹא יִסּוֹר לִבּוֹ וְכֶסֶף וְזָהָב לֹא יִרְבֶּה-לוֹ מְאֹד: יח וְהָיָה כִשְׁבַתוֹ עַל פֶּסֶא מִמְּלַכְתּוֹ וְכָתַב לוֹ אֶת-מִשְׁנֵה הַתּוֹרָה הַזֹּאת עַל-סֵפֶר מִלְּפָנֵי הַכֹּהֲנִים הַלְוִיִּם: יט וְהִיְתָה עִמּוֹ וְקָרָא בּוֹ כָּל-יְמֵי חַיָּיו לְמַעַן יִלְמַד לִירְאָה אֶת-יְהוָה אֱלֹהָיו לְשֹׁמֵר אֶת-כָּל-דְּבָרֵי הַתּוֹרָה הַזֹּאת וְאֶת-הַחֻקִּים הָאֵלֶּה לְעִשְׂתָּם: כ לְבַלְתִּי רוּם-לִבּוֹ מֵאַחֶיו וּלְבַלְתִּי סוּר מִן-הַמִּצְוָה יְמִין וּשְׂמֹאל לְמַעַן יֵאָרֶיךָ יָמִים עַל-מִמְּלַכְתּוֹ הוּא וּבְנָיו בְּקֶרֶב יִשְׂרָאֵל:

Based upon these Scriptures, the Torah suggests that the Lord did intend for Israel to have a king. The idea for Israel to have a king was therefore not contradictory to the ruling of God over the nation of Israel. When we read in Scripture *1 Samuel 8:4 Then all the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah; 8:5 and they said to him, 'Behold, you have grown old, and your sons do not walk in your ways. Now appoint a king for us to judge us like all the nations.'* (NASB) The people wanted to be "like the na-

tions” and were therefore rejecting God’s rule by His representative. The people did not want the one who was “called of God” to judge them, they wanted a king like the nations to judge them. The Lord’s original intention was to install a king who would represent His rule over the people, a godly king who would lead the people in worship and in keeping the covenant of God. According to the Scriptures, God’s chosen king would have the following characteristics (1) he would be divinely appointed (i.e. not having gained the throne by his own efforts), (ii) he would be a man “after God’s own heart,” meaning that his plan and agenda would be established by God’s rule and care of the nation of Israel, (iii) David was chosen by God as His king, all subsequent kings would come from David’s family, God had promised David that his throne would be established forever, meaning his dynasty would be an eternal one (see *2 Samuel 7:16*), and (iv) the king’s office would remain distinct from the priests (*1 Samuel 13:12-15*), this much is apparent from the life of king Saul. According to *Zechariah 6:13*, prophetically, the office of king and priest would eventually be united in the Messiah, that was foreshadowed by David himself who offered sacrifices and wore the priest cloths when he operated as king (*2 Samuel 6:17 and 8:18*), following the order of Melchizedek who was also both a king and a priest (see *Bereshit / Genesis 14:18 and Tehillim / Psalms 110*). Ultimately, we see God’s plan throughout Israel’s history included the monarchy as a means of accomplishing his purposes for humanity and for His Messiah Yeshua to be prophet, priest, and king, ruler over all, and all being made subject to His rule and reign (*Colossians 2:9-10*).

According to the Scriptures, the godly king is to lead the people in worship and in keeping the covenant of God. As husbands and fathers on this earth, men are placed as head over the household (see *Ephesians 5:22-31, 1 Timothy 2:11-12 and 3:3-5, Colossians 3:19, 1 Peter 3:7*) and are given the responsibility to lead his family in prayer and worship and the keeping of the covenant of God. What a great responsibility that is given to men on this earth. According to *Tehillim / Psalms 21:1-2*, the king is to rely upon the Lord’s salvation meaning He is to seek the Lord for His help and salvation.

Reading through *Tehillim / Psalms 21:2-5*, David says תַּאֲוֹת לְבוֹ נִתְתָּה לּוֹ וְאַרְשֵׁת שְׂפָתָיו בַּל־מִנְעָתָּה | שְׁאַל מִמֶּךָ נִתְתָּה לּוֹ אֲרָךְ יָמִים עוֹלָם וְעַד: סְלָה: ד כִּי־תִקְדָּמְנוּ בְּרִכּוֹת טוֹב תִּשִׁית לְרֵאשִׁי עֲטָרְתָּ פָּז: ה חַיִּים | שְׁאַל מִמֶּךָ נִתְתָּה לּוֹ אֲרָךְ יָמִים עוֹלָם וְעַד: 21:2 You have given him his heart’s desire, And You have not withheld the request of his lips. Selah. 21:3 For You meet him with the blessings of good things; You set a crown of fine gold on his head. 21:4 He asked life of You, You gave it to him, Length of days forever and ever. 21:5 His glory is great through Your salvation, Splendor and majesty You place upon him. (NASB) Notice the way in which David is writing this psalm. He says, “You give him his hearts desire and do not withhold his requests,” “You greet him with a crown of pure gold,” “You gave to him length of days forever and ever,” (נִתְתָּה לּוֹ אֲרָךְ יָמִים עוֹלָם וְעַד) and “His glory is great through Your salvation” (גְּדוֹל כְּבוֹדוֹ בִּישׁוּעָתְךָ) and that God has placed splendor and majesty upon Him. Who is this person that the Lord does these things? How is the glory of this king great in God’s salvation? The rabbis translate this to be the “king Messiah” in Targum Pseudo Jonathan.

### Aramaic Translation

ב יהוה בעשנך ייחדי ימלוך מליך משיחא ובפורקנך כמה ירנן מרנן לחדא: ג רגגת נפשיה יהבת ליה ופירוש סיפוותיה לא כליתא לעלמין: ד ארום תקדמיניה ברכן טבן תשוי על רישיה כליל דהב סנינא: ה חיי עלמא שאל מינך יהבת ליה ניגדא דיומיא לעלמי עלמין:

21:2 O Lord, in your strength the King Messiah will rejoice, and how greatly will he exult in your redemption! 21:3 You have given him the desire of his soul; and you have not withheld the expression of his lips forever. 21:4 For you will make good blessings go before him; you will place on his head a crown of refined gold. 21:5 Eternal life he asked of you; you gave

*him length of days forever and ever. (EMC)*

### Septuagint (Greek)

21:2 τὴν ἐπιθυμίαν τῆς ψυχῆς αὐτοῦ ἔδωκας αὐτῷ καὶ τὴν θέλησιν τῶν χειλέων αὐτοῦ οὐκ ἔστέρησας αὐτόν διάψαλμα 21:3 ὅτι προέφθασας αὐτόν ἐν εὐλογίαις χρηστότητος ἔθηκας ἐπὶ τὴν κεφαλὴν αὐτοῦ στέφανον ἐκ λίθου τιμίου 21:4 ζῶην ἠτήσατό σε καὶ ἔδωκας αὐτῷ μακρότητα ἡμερῶν εἰς αἰῶνα αἰῶνος 21:5 μεγάλη ἡ δόξα αὐτοῦ ἐν τῷ σωτηρίῳ σου δόξαν καὶ μεγαλοπρέπειαν ἐπιθήσεις ἐπ' αὐτόν 21:6 ὅτι δώσεις αὐτῷ εὐλογίαν εἰς αἰῶνα αἰῶνος εὐφρανεῖς αὐτόν ἐν χαρᾷ μετὰ τοῦ προσώπου σου

*21:2 Thou hast granted him the desire of his soul, and hast not withheld from him the request of his lips. Pause. 21:3 For thou hast prevented him with blessings of goodness: thou has set upon his head a crown of precious stone. 21:4 He asked life of thee, and thou gavest him length of days for ever and ever. 21:5 His glory is great in thy salvation: thou wilt crown him with glory and majesty. 21:6 For thou wilt give him a blessing for ever and ever: thou wilt gladden him with joy with thy countenance. (LXX)*

In addition to this, the Septuagint translates the Masoretic text very close to the Hebrew text. Let's take a closer look at these verses, beginning with the Hebrew word בְּרָכוֹת “blessings.” To help us understand how the word בְּרָכוֹת is used in the Scriptures, we survey the various occurrences of this word in the Tanach. Searching the Hebrew Scriptures produces the following results:

#### ספר תהילים פרק כא

עָלִיוֹ: ז פִּי-תְשִׁיטֶהוּ בְּרָכוֹת לְעַד תִּחַדְדֶהוּ בְּשִׂמְחָה אֶת-פְּנֵיָהּ: ח פִּי-הִמְלִךָ בְּטִיחַ בִּיהוָה  
וּבְחֶסֶד עָלָיו בַּל-יִמוּט: ט תִּמְצָא יְדָהּ לְכָל-אֲבִיבֵיהּ מִיַּיָּהּ

*Tehillim / Psalms 21:6 For You make him most blessed forever; You make him joyful with gladness in Your presence. (NASB)*

#### ספר תהילים פרק פד

מַעֲיֵן יִשְׁתִּיטְהוּ גַם-בְּרָכוֹת יַעֲטֶה מוֹרָה: ח יִלְכוּ מִחַיִל אֶל-חַיִל יִרְאֶה אֶל-אֱלֹהִים בְּצִיּוֹן: ט  
יְהִי אֱלֹהִים צָבָאוֹת שְׂמֵעָה תִפְלִי הַאֲזִינָה אֱלֹהֵי

*Tehillim / Psalms 84:6 Passing through the valley of Baca they make it a spring; The early rain also covers it with blessings. (NASB)*

#### ספר משלי פרק י

בְּקִצִיר בֶּן מִבִּישׁ: ו בְּרָכוֹת לְרֹאשׁ צַדִּיק וּפִי רְשָׁעִים יִכְסֶה חֶמְסוֹ: ז יִזְכֹּר צַדִּיק לְבָרָכָה  
וְשֵׁם רְשָׁעִים יִרְקֹב: ח חֶכֶם-לֵב יִקַּח מְצוֹת וְאִוִּיל שִׁפְתָיו

*Mishley / Proverbs 10:6 Blessings are on the head of the righteous, But the mouth of the wicked conceals violence. (NASB)*

#### ספר משלי פרק כח

כ אִישׁ אָמוּנוֹת רַב-בְּרָכוֹת וְאֶץ לְהַעֲשִׂיר לֹא יִנְקֶה: כא הִכַּר-פְּנִים לֹא-טוֹב וְעַל-פֶּת-לֶקֶם  
יִפְשַׁע-גְּבָרָה: כב גִּבְהַל לְהוֹן אִישׁ רַע עֵינָיו וְלֹא-יִדַע



21:7 For the king trusts in the Lord, And through the lovingkindness of the Most High he will not be shaken. (NASB) The Lord God Almighty will make the Messiah most blessed forever. The anointed one trusts in the Lord and will not be shaken. Even today we can trust the Lord and not be shaken. Hallelujah!

The second half of the psalm (*Tehillim / Psalms 21:8-12*), David gives the examples of how the Lord works for the righteous.

ט תמָצָא יָדְךָ לְכָל-אִיבֵיךָ יְמִינְךָ תִּמְצָא שְׂנְאֵיךָ: י תִּשְׁתִּימוּ | כְּתִנּוּר אֵשׁ לַעֲת פְּנֵיךָ יְהוָה בְּאִפּוֹ  
יִבְלָעֵם וְתֹאכְלֵם אֵשׁ: יא פְּרִימוֹ מֵאֶרֶץ תִּאָּבֵד וְזֶרַע־מִבְּנֵי אָדָם: יב כִּי-נָטוּ עֲלֶיךָ רָעָה חָשְׁבוּ  
מִזְמָה בַּל-יִוָּכְלוּ: יג כִּי תִשְׁתִּימוּ שְׂכָם בְּמִיתְרֵיךָ תִּכּוֹנֵן עַל-פְּנֵיהֶם:

21:8 Your hand will find out all your enemies; Your right hand will find out those who hate you. 21:9 You will make them as a fiery oven in the time of your anger; The Lord will swallow them up in His wrath, And fire will devour them. 21:10 Their offspring You will destroy from the earth, And their descendants from among the sons of men. 21:11 Though they intended evil against You And devised a plot, They will not succeed. 21:12 For You will make them turn their back; You will aim with Your bowstrings at their faces.

The Lord will make known to us those who plot against us from among the sons of men and they will not succeed. The Lord will swallow them up in His wrath against those who seek the destruction of His holy ones. The Lord will destroy the off spring of his enemies and turn their weapons back against them for the purpose of saving His anointed one. In fact, we are told that if we have anything against our brother, to make right with him before bringing a sacrifice before the Lord (*Matthew 5:23-26*). Hate is engraved upon the heart and if we are to go before the Lord with a pure heart, we need to seek the Lord to circumcise your hearts. (*Devarim / Deuteronomy 10:16 So circumcise your heart, and stiffen your neck no longer. NASB*) Our enemies do not have uncircumcised hearts, they plot and plan for evil and destruction. As a result of God's deliverance from our enemies, His working to save us, to reveal to us our enemies, to work in our lives to draw us nearer to Himself, because of all of these things we can say יד רוֹמָה יְהוָה בְּעֵזְךָ נְשִׁירָה

21:13 Be exalted, O Lord, in Your strength; We will sing and praise Your power. (NASB)

Comparing the Aramaic Targum and the Septuagint with the Masoretic text we read the following:

ט תִּדְבַק מַחַת אִידֶךָ לְכָל בְּעֲלֵי דַבְּכָךָ פּוֹרְעֵנוֹת יְמִינְךָ תִּשְׁכַּח לְכָל סְנֵאָךְ: י תִּשְׁוִינוֹן הַיָּד אִיּוֹרָא  
דְּדָמֵי אַתּוֹן נוֹרָא לְעִידְנֵי רוֹגֶזְךָ יְהוָה בְּרַגְזֵיהּ יִסְלַעְמִינוֹן וְתִכְלִינוֹן כְּאִישְׁתָּא יִשְׁלַח־בִּינוֹן וְתַגְמְרִינוֹן  
בְּעוֹר גַּהֲנָם: יא בְּנִיהוֹן מֵאֶרְעָא תְּהוּבַד וְזִרְעִיתְהוֹן מִבְּנֵי נְשָׂא: יב מִטּוֹל דְּחִשְׁלֵוּ עֲלֶךָ בִּישְׁתָּא  
חֲשִׁיבוּ מַחֲשַׁבָּן בִּישָׁן וְלֹא יִכְלִינוֹן: יג מִטּוֹל דְּשׁוּיִתִּינוֹן לְעִמְךָ כְּתַף חַד בְּאִיטוֹנֵי מִשְׁכְּנֶיךָ תִּתְקַן  
אוֹרְחָהוֹן קְדָמֵיהוֹן "תִּסְדֵּר אוֹרִיתְךָ קְדָמוֹהֵי:

21:9 The blow of your hand will reach all your foes; the vengeance of your right hand will find all your enemies. 21:10 You will make them like a fiery furnace at the time of your anger, O Lord; in his anger he will swallow them up and the inferno of Gehenna will consume them. 21:11 You will make their children perish from the earth, and their progeny from the sons of men. 21:12 Because they plotted evil against you, they thought evil thoughts, but they could not prevail against you. 21:13 Because for your people you made them one porter in the ropes of your tabernacle; you will prepare their way before them. (EMC)

21:8 εὐρεθείη ἡ χεὶρ σου πᾶσιν τοῖς ἐχθροῖς σου ἢ δεξιὰ σου εὖροι πάντας τοὺς μισοῦντάς σε

21:9 θήσεις αὐτοὺς ὡς κλίβανον πυρὸς εἰς καιρὸν τοῦ προσώπου σου κύριος ἐν ὄργῃ αὐτοῦ

συνταράξει αὐτούς καὶ καταφάγεται αὐτούς πῦρ 21:10 τὸν καρπὸν αὐτῶν ἀπὸ γῆς ἀπολεῖς καὶ τὸ σπέρμα αὐτῶν ἀπὸ υἰῶν ἀνθρώπων 21:11 ὅτι ἔκλιναν εἰς σέ κακά διελογίσαντο βουλήν ἦν οὐ μὴ δύνωνται στῆσαι 21:12 ὅτι θήσεις αὐτούς νῶτον ἐν τοῖς περιλοίοις σου ἐτοιμάσεις τὸ πρόσωπον αὐτῶν

*21:8 Let thy hand be found by all thine enemies: let thy right hand find all that hate thee. 21:9 Thou shalt make them as a fiery oven at the time of thy presence: the Lord shall trouble them in his anger, and fire shall devour them. 21:10 Thou shalt destroy their fruit from the earth, and their seed from among the sons of men. 21:11 For they intended evils against thee; they imagined a device which they shall by no means be able to perform. 21:12 For thou shalt make them turn their back in thy latter end, thou wilt prepare their face. (LXX)*

It is interesting that the rabbis speak of the vengeance of God, in the Aramaic Targum, against the enemy of his people with the fire and the inferno of Gehenna (Hell). The reference to Gehenna coupled with fire is a place of suffering and torture and according to the rabbinic literature is known to be the residence of condemned souls, the wicked (unrighteous, unjust people), i.e. see the rabbinic commentary on *Midrash Tehillim I* and elsewhere throughout the midrashic literature on the psalms. The Aramaic Targum states that the Lord will make the children of the wicked perish from the earth and even their children's children to perish, because they plotted against God's people. In the Septuagint, the Rabbis parallel the children with fruit and seed. The wicked lay in wait, however, the Lord is our Salvation. The Psalm warns men not to attack or plot against the righteous. David says if the wicked plot against the righteous, God will reveal their plans, they will lose the fruit of their labors and even the lives of their own children. Based on this psalm, the enemy (a wicked man) "with mischievous intent," moves stealthily lurking for the opportunity of doing wrong and of plotting and planning. It is only by the Salvation of God that his plans are made known to us. Note how the Psalm does not name a person specifically but names the enemy (the wicked) who act in this manner towards the righteous ones of God. Great is the salvation of the Lord our God, and great are the ways that He works in our lives for His glory. *רוֹמָהּ יְהוָה בְּעֶזְרָה נְשִׂירָה וּנְזֻמָּרָה גְבוּרָתְךָ: 21:13 Be exalted, O Lord, in Your strength; We will sing and praise Your power. (NASB)*

## Rabbinic Commentary

The Rabbinic Commentary (Midrash) on *Tehillim / Psalms 21* has 5 parts. Reading through this week's Midrash we will be looking at Parts 1, 2, 4, and 5. Let's begin by outlining *Midrash Tehillim Chapter 21, Parts 1, 2, 4, and 5*.

### Part 1

- The Midrash introduces the Psalm with the *דיבור המתחיל* (Dibur Hamathil) "For the leader. A Psalm of David. The king will joy in Your strength, O Lord (*Tehillim / Psalms 21:1-2*)."
- The *פתיחה* (Petihta) "the homiletic introduction" to the Midrash says "These words are to be read in the light of what Scripture says elsewhere, In that day there will be a root of Jesse, which will stand for an ensign of the peoples, unto him will the nations seek (*Isaiah 11:10*)"
- The *משל* (mashal) "the parable," goes on to explain the *פתיחה* (Petihta), the rabbis discuss this root of Jesse as the King Messiah.
- The *נמשל* (Nimshal) "expansion on the parable" expands upon the *משל* (mashal) goes on to expand upon what will the King Messiah do? He will teach the people and the nations will seek him.
- The Concluding phrase says "Unto him will the nations seek. Rabbi Khanina said in the name of

*Rabbi Akha, What can His rest will be glory mean except that god will bestow a portion of His supernatural glory upon the king Messiah. Hence it is said, The king will joy in Your strength, O Lord.*”

## Part 2

- The Midrash introduces the Psalm with the דיבור המתחיל (Dibur Hamathil) “*Another comment on The king will joy in Your strength, O Lord. Scripture says elsewhere, Who is this King of glory? (Tehillim / Psalms 24:10).*”
- The פתיחתא (Petihta) “*the homiletic introduction*” to the Midrash says “*Rabbi Simon asserted, To whom can this King of glory refer except to that one King who bestows upon those who fear Him a portion of His own glory.*”
- The משל (mashal) “*the parable,*” goes on to explain the פתיחתא (Petihta), the rabbis discuss the King of glory, who is He?
- The נמשל (Nimshal) “*expansion on the parable*” expands upon the משל (mashal) goes on to expand upon the King of glory being the King Messiah.
- The Concluding phrase says “*Or, finally, strength refers to the Temple, for it is said I will break the pride of your strength (Vayikra / Leviticus 26:19).*”

## Part 4

- The Midrash introduces the Psalm with the דיבור המתחיל (Dibur Hamathil) “*For You meet him with the blessing of goodliness (Tehillim / Psalms 21:4)*”
- The פתיחתא (Petihta) “*the homiletic introduction*” to the Midrash says “*The phrase blessings of goodliness refers, according to Rabbi Judah, to the blessings which were given to Moshe who was called a goodly child, as is said She saw him that he was a goodly child (Shemot / Exodus 2:2).*”
- The משל (mashal) “*the parable,*” goes on to explain the פתיחתא (Petihta), the rabbis go on the discuss the phrase “*blessings of goodliness*” and how God blesses through the Torah.
- The נמשל (Nimshal) “*expansion on the parable*” expands upon the משל (mashal) goes on to expand upon how God blesses and to whom He blesses and honors.
- The Concluding phrase says “*Rabbi Yudan said it was put upon him at the Jordan, for as it is written of Moshe They were afraid to come near to him (Shemot / Exodus 34:30), so is it written of Joshua at the Jordon, They feared him, as they feared Moshe (Joshua 4:14).*”

## Part 5

- The Midrash introduces the Psalm with the דיבור המתחיל (Dibur Hamathil) “*For You will make him most blessed forever (Tehillim / Psalms 21:7).*”
- The פתיחתא (Petihta) “*the homiletic introduction*” to the Midrash says this verse (21:7) “*means that all the nations will bless themselves in the king Messiah.*”
- The משל (mashal) “*the parable,*” goes on to explain the פתיחתא (Petihta), the rabbis go on to discuss the King Messiah and who he is.
- The נמשל (Nimshal) “*expansion on the parable*” expands upon the משל (mashal) goes on to expand upon how the King Messiah will draw near to the Holy One blessed be He.
- The Concluding phrase says “*The rabbis say that Gehenna will still exist in the time to come, for it is said Behold the day comes that will burn as an oven and all that do wickedly will be stubble; and the day that comes will burn them up (Malachi 3:19), and so on as above.*”

*Midrash Tehillim 21, Part 1, opens with the דיבור המתחיל (Dibur Hamathil) saying “For the leader:*

*A Psalm of David. The king will joy in Your strength, O Lord (Tehillim / Psalms 21:1-2)."* The homiletic introduction (פתיחתא) to the Midrash opens saying "These words are to be read in the light of what Scripture says elsewhere, In that day there will be a root of Jesse, which will stand for an ensign of the peoples, unto him will the nations seek (Isaiah 11:10)." It is interesting here in *Midrash Tehillim 21 Part 1*, rabbi Tankhuma says that the King Messiah will come to teach the nations of the earth.

*Rabbi Tankhuma said, The King Messiah will come for no other purpose than to teach the nations of the earth thirty precepts such as those of the Booth, the Palm branch, and the Tefillin. (Midrash Tehillim 21, Part 1)*

אמר ר' תנחומא אין מלך המשיח בא אלא ליתן לאומות העולם שש מצות, כגון סוכה ולולב ותפילין

In the Hebrew Scriptures, the concept of the King Messiah, the Anointed One of God will come to deliver His people from oppression and sin. Studying the Tanach, there are many references throughout Scripture and in the Torah specifically regarding the Messiah, the Holy One of God. (Scripture that directs our attention to the Messiah of God.) As a result of this, we read based upon *Isaiah 11:10*, the rabbis develop their understanding of the Messiah along side of the doctrine of God, the Torah, the Land of Israel, etc, and so the King Messiah has become a core doctrine of sorts within the fundamental and essential teachings of Judaism. The hope of the Messiah appearing has been a major focus point in Judaism and was a major driving force in its belief and behavior throughout the centuries. It might also be said that the doctrine of the Messiah has helped to preserve the Jewish people throughout the history of Israel, that God has promised to send a deliverer to save His people from their enemies. We also read in the Torah from Parashat Behukotai (*Vayikra / Leviticus 26:3-27:34*) that God is establishing and rising up His covenant in a way that only He can do. The purpose is so that He will dwell with his chosen people and to walk in our midst so that He will be our God and we will be His people. It is in this special way God is making His covenant in the Memra (מִימְרָה, the Word) and the Word of God becoming alive and being born into this world in Yeshua the Messiah.

The King Messiah and His identity is questioned here in the midrash, and throughout history His identity has been sought after. When the Messiah comes, it is also questioned by the rabbis what will be His purpose? What will He do? It is interesting that in *Midrash Tehillim 21, Part 1*, the rabbis say that "The King Messiah will come for no other purpose than to teach the nations of the earth thirty precepts such as those of the Booth, the Palm branch, and the Tefillin." Take note of what the rabbis are saying here, He (the King Messiah) will come and teach the nations of the earth thirty precepts, and the three precepts the rabbis give in the midrash are "the Booth" (Tabernacles, Succot), "the palm branch," and "Tefillin" (Prayer). What is interesting is these three examples the rabbis provide us describe the work of the King Messiah as three major categories for the thirty precepts which are not listed. The first example of the teaching of the Messiah is the Booth, a reference to Succot. Succot represents the children of Israel who lived in temporary dwellings during the wilderness journey and of God tabernacling with them, His Word, and the Lord God dwelling among (in the midst of) His people. The second example is that of the palm branch. In the Apostolic Writings, the Scriptures tell us people cut branches from palm trees and laid them across the path for Yeshua as he entered Jerusalem during his triumphal entrance just prior to his crucifixion. The people greeted Yeshua (*Matthew 21:1-9*) as the Messiah who potentially may become their political leader and not as the one in whom God had sent to take away the sins of the world. Their shout "Hosanna" meant "save or salvation is now." In ancient times, palm branches symbolized goodness and victory. They were often depicted on coins and important buildings. Solomon had palm branches carved into the walls and doors of the temple (*1 Kings 6:29*). We read in the Apostolic Writings that the Apostle John saw people from every

nation raise palm branches to honor Yeshua (*Revelation 7:9*).

The rabbis discuss the work of the King Messiah when he comes, but a fundamental Messianic concept in Judaism is the aspect of the “*hiddenness*” of the Messiah. The idea is that the Messiah is already present and hidden amongst his people. In the one sense, the Lord God Almighty Himself is hidden from us since no eye can see Him and live. We can however discern his presence through the creation, we can know the designer’s hand by the instruments of His work in the creation. We can understand something of His character on our own consciences in moral judgment that everyone knows the difference between right and wrong. However, we do not know him directly unless He has chosen to reveal Himself to us. If we think about it, even the fact of His existence is hidden from us and is the reason we need to live by faith (2 *Corinthians 5:7*). The Lord God Almighty is hidden from knowledge and understanding until He graciously and powerfully speaks to us through His word in our hearts, minds, and lives. Note the key point here is that He reveals Himself to us in His word. The written Word of God witnesses to the Messiah and speaks prophetically of the Lord’s plan to bring the Messiah to save His people. In the Tanach the prophets speak of the Messiah and therefore the rabbis write in the *Talmud Bavli Berekot 34b* that “*All the prophets spoke only of the days of the Messiah.*” If we study the topic of soteriology (*Theology the doctrine of salvation*) and the Messiah, there is an abundance of Scripture that back God’s plan to bring the Messiah into this world for the purpose of Saving His people according to the Tanach. As a result of these things, the rabbis developed a doctrine of eschatology of the King Messiah who is a Redeemer and Savior of the people. From the Tanach and specifically the prophets, the Messiah’s return was seen in light of the apocalyptic expectation of a redeemer, however, his identity, mission, and arrival are hidden in the future for the Day of the Lord, the restoration from Exile, and the Judgment of the Nations. Thus from the rabbinic literature there is no clear picture (path) for understanding the King Messiah and we are left to ponder the mystery of God’s work in this case. It just might be the reason the rabbis describe the Messiah in this way so as to allow one to ponder the significance of the Scriptures on this topic and on who the Messiah is, His purpose, and to allow for the Lord God to bring His deliverer into this world without man’s help. Note that the Day of the Lord includes judgment against the nations, against Israel, and the promise of a future of peace and life, and even of the redemption of all of creation, according to the book of Revelation. Thus these rabbinic concepts are not foreign to the Apostolic writers. The Kingdom will be restored to the Davidic King, who will be enthroned in Jerusalem in a time of peace, justice, fertility and covenant obedience (*the millennial reign, 1000 year reign according to Revelation 20:1-3*). In fact, the Kingdom is even now restored to the Davidic King, Yeshua the Messiah and we wait for the day that He sits down upon His throne to rule and to reign. The spiritual aspect of this concept, Yeshua should be ruling and reigning in our hearts today!

According to the Tanach, the word Mashiach (מָשִׁיחַ) may refer to people who are set apart for service to the Lord such as prophets, priests, and kings. Take for example when the Babylonian exiles returned to Israel, Zerubbabel (6<sup>th</sup> century BCE) is understood from Messianic terms. During the Maccabees revolt against the Seleucids (2<sup>nd</sup> century BCE), they too were understood from Messianic terms and a number of sects emerged from this period during the Hellenistic period. The Dead Sea Scrolls (DSS) found in the ruins of Qumrān belonged to a sectarian community whom most scholars believe were Essenes; the DSS describe the appearance of two Messiahs, a Messianic King and a High Priest. Other groups expected a deliverer from Roman rule. The war against Rome was seen as an eschatological struggle that would result in the Messianic age. The hidden Messiah may be found in texts such as the gospel of John, 2 Esdras, Midrash Tehillim, the Targumim, and the book of Revelation. The question is “*why must the Messiah be hidden?*” The common answer is “*sufficient penance has not yet been done for the sins of Israel; and until there is genuine conversion of obedience to the Torah the Messiah cannot be revealed.*” Thinking on this concept of the “*hidden Messiah,*” take note how Yeshua kept himself hidden from the people in the Apostolic gospels. Yeshua kept himself hidden and only revealed himself to the disciples during the various stages of his ministry. It is only following His resurrection that he begins with Moshe and the prophets and expounds

to His disciples the things concerning Himself in all the Scriptures (*Luke 24:27*). Note how these truths were hidden from them until “*He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures.*” (*Luke 24:45*) Also note the use of secrecy in Mark’s Gospel and many scholars (i.e. William Wrede) have attempted to explain Yeshua’s commands to keep silent after performing miracles. In addition to this, take note of the silencing of demons, and Yeshua’s commands that the disciples not to make known his identity. Yeshua also speaks in parables (*Mark.4:10-12*) for the purpose of hiding his identity. Therefore, the concept of the hidden Messiah is well established in Judaism of the first century. The rabbinic mindset of the “hidden Messiah” is a very biblical concept that was carried on into the Tannaim era and we find it here in the Midrash on Tehillim (*Tannaim - group of Jewish sages/teachers who were active between 70 to 200 of the Christian era and their main literary product is the Mishnah wherein their views are recorded*). With Rabbinic Judaism replacing the Temple ritual following the destruction of the second Temple (70 CE), the Hidden Messiah become a large part of a complex picture of the Messianic expectation of Judaism. Studying the Masoretic Text (Tanach), it is not possible to derive an exact picture of who the Messiah will be. Therefore, concepts of the Messiah were projected into the future restoration and salvation of Israel. As a result of this, the Messiah took on the idea of being hidden and pre-existent with God in the sense that His pre-existent hiddenness suggests to us that He is more than simply a man but one who is waiting for the moment when God will send Him to accomplish Israel’s salvation. The concept of the preexistence of the Messiah accords with the general Talmudic view which holds that “*The Holy One, blessed be He, prepares the remedy before the wound*” (*Talmud Bavli, Megillot 13b*). The preexistence of the Messiah means that the exile of Israel (the wound) was predetermined by God in the six days of Creation. And so, the creation of the Messiah, the ultimate healer of the great national disaster of Israel, at that early date according to the rabbis, the hiddenness of the Messiah become a necessity and we learn that this was in fact God’s plan all along to reveal the Messiah at the given time, following the Resurrection. *Talmud Bavli Pesachim 54a and Nedarim 39a* also states “*Seven things were created before the word was created: The Torah, Repentance, the Garden of Eden, Gehenna, the Throne of Glory, the Temple, and the name of the Messiah....The name of the Messiah, as it is said: May his name endure forever, may his name blossom before the sun (Ps. 72:17)*” In the Talmud, talmud, the name of the Messiah is linked to the verse from *Tehillim / Psalms 72:17* which states: יְהִי שִׁמּוֹ לְעוֹלָם לְפָנַי שְׂמֹחַ יְבִיחַ [יִגְדֹּל] שְׁמוֹ וַיִּתְבָּרְכוּ בוֹ כָּל-גּוֹיִם וְאַשְׁרֵוּהוּ: *72:17 May his name endure forever; May his name increase as long as the sun shines; And let men bless themselves by him; Let all nations call him blessed. (NASB)* It is interesting here in the Talmud the rabbis say “*the name of the Messiah*” rather than “*the Messiah*” possibly as an anti-Christian polemic against Yeshua. Nevertheless, the pre-existence of the hiddenness of the Messiah suggests that the Messiah will be revealed in God’s timing. Can you see the parallels in both the rabbinic literature and the Apostolic Writings? Studying the Rabbinic literature, the rabbis discussion of the Messiah’s name, nature, coming, and destiny is inconclusive. The King Messiah is not a central doctrine, but it is secondary to the major and generative categories of the rabbinic system. In general terms, the Talmudic understanding of the Messiah is that He will come during a time of trouble and oppression of the Jewish people and that is exactly what Yeshua did, He come at the perfect time for the Lord to work His will and plan for the salvation of Israel and for the nations to then seek after the King Messiah. The Concluding phrase of *Midrash Tehillim 21 Part 1* says “*Unto him will the nations seek. Rabbi Khanina said in the name of Rabbi Akha, What can His rest will be glory mean except that god will bestow a portion of His supernatural glory upon the king Messiah. Hence it is said, The king will joy in Your strength, O Lord.*” This thought process is definitely in line with the Apostolic Writings and the words of Yeshua Himself.

*Midrash Tehillim 21, Part 5* opens with the Dibur Hamathil (דיבור המתחיל) saying “*For You will make him most blessed forever (Tehillim / Psalms 21:7).*” The פתיחה (Petihtha), “the homiletic introduction” to the Midrash says this verse (21:7) “*means that all the nations will bless themselves in the king Messiah.*” The rabbis go on to discuss the King Messiah and who he is. Studying the Scriptures on the Messiah, the

Righteous Branch, the King Messiah, the Priest Messiah, the Anointed One (משיח), the Promised One who would one day come to deliver God's people and in whom God's kingdom is to be established in Israel and in the World is in fact found within the pages of the rabbinic literature as we briefly examined, and most importantly, within the pages of the Holy Scriptures. The hope of the Messiah runs throughout the Tanakh where Mashiach will restore the Kingdom of David (*Jeremiah 23, 30:9, and Ezekiel 34:23*). He will restore the Temple in Zion (*Isaiah 2:2, Michah 4:1, Zechariah 6:13, and Ezekiel 37:26-28*). He will regather the exiles (*Isaiah 11:12, 43:5, and 51:11*). He will offer a New Covenant to Israel (*Jeremiah 31:31-35*). He will usher peace into this world coupled with the knowledge of the true God (*Isaiah 2:4 and 11:9*). He will swallow up death and disease (*Isaiah 25:8*) bearing our iniquities (*Isaiah 53*). He will raise the dead to new life (*Isaiah 26:19*), and He will teach the Torah with the knowledge of the God of Israel for the purpose of uniting all of mankind as one as it says in *Zechariah 14:9* וְהָיָה יְהוָה לְמֶלֶךְ עַל-כָּל-הָאָרֶץ בַּיּוֹם הַהוּא יְהוָה אֶחָד וַיִּשְׁמוּ אֶחָד: “*God will be king over all the world and in that day God will be one and His name will be one.*” The key verse on which the idea of “*Messiah the King*” that rules in righteousness with dominion over all is found in Nathan's oracle to King David in *2 Samuel 7:10-16* that says י וְשִׁמְתִי מְקוֹם לְעַמִּי לְיִשְׂרָאֵל וְנִטְעַתִּיו וְשָׁכַן תַּחְתָּיו וְלֹא יִרְגַז עוֹד וְלֹא-יִסִּיפוּ בְנֵי-עוֹלָה לְעַנּוֹתוֹ פְּאֻשֶׁר בְּרִאשׁוֹנָה: יא וְלִמֹן-הַיּוֹם אֲשֶׁר צִוִּיתִי שְׁפָטִים עַל-עַמִּי יִשְׂרָאֵל וְהִנִּיחֹתִי לָהּ מִכָּל-אֲיָבִיב וְהִגִּיד לָהּ יְהוָה כִּי-בֵּית יַעֲשֶׂה-לָּהּ יְהוָה: יב כִּי | יִמְלֹאוּ יָמֶיהָ וְשִׁכְבָתָּהּ אֶת-אֲבֹתֶיהָ וְהִקִּימֹתִי אֶת-זֶרְעָהּ אַחֲרֶיהָ אֲשֶׁר יֵצֵא מִמֶּעִידָהּ וְהִכִּינֹתִי אֶת-מַמְלַכְתּוֹ: יג הוּא יִבְנֶה-בֵּית לְשָׁמַי וְכִנְנֹתִי אֶת-כִּסֵּא מַמְלַכְתּוֹ עַד-עוֹלָם: יד אֲנִי אֶהְיֶה-לוֹ לְאָב וְהוּא יְהִי-לִי לְבֵן אֲשֶׁר בְּהַעֲוֹתוֹ וְהִכַּחֲתִיו בְּשִׁבְט אֲנָשִׁים וּבִנְגָעֵי בְנֵי אָדָם: טו וְחִסְדִּי לֹא-יִסּוּר מִמֶּנּוּ כְּאֲשֶׁר הִסְרֹתִי מֵעַם שָׂאוֹל אֲשֶׁר הִסְרֹתִי מִלְּפָנַי: טז וְנִאֲמַן בֵּיתָהּ: *7:10 I will also appoint a place for My people Israel and will plant them, that they may live in their own place and not be disturbed again, nor will the wicked afflict them any more as formerly, 7:11 even from the day that I commanded judges to be over My people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. The Lord also declares to you that the Lord will make a house for you. 7:12 ‘When your days are complete and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your descendant after you, who will come forth from you, and I will establish his kingdom. 7:13 ‘He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. 7:14 ‘I will be a father to him and he will be a son to Me; when he commits iniquity, I will correct him with the rod of men and the strokes of the sons of men, 7:15 but My lovingkindness shall not depart from him, as I took it away from Saul, whom I removed from before you. 7:16 ‘Your house and your kingdom shall endure before Me forever; your throne shall be established forever.’” (NASB) The covenant spoken of here was not fulfilled by Solomon and therefore the Seed that is raised up after David (וְהִקִּימֹתִי אֶת-זֶרְעָהּ אַחֲרֶיהָ) is the very seed that is referred to in the covenant blessings the Lord had spoken to Avraham and to his children in Parashat Lech Lecha. The One referred to here is the King Messiah, the Anointed King who will sit upon the throne forever and ever (וְכִנְנֹתִי אֶת-כִּסֵּא מַמְלַכְתּוֹ עַד-עוֹלָם). Based on the Scriptures, Yeshua is both משיח בן-יוסף “*the Messiah son of Joseph*” (the suffering servant) and משיח בן-דוד “*the Messiah son of David*” (the reigning King). He is the Anointed Prophet, Priest, and King that is foreshadowed through the Tanakh in the use of the word משיח (Mashiach, Messiah, anointed one) and the various offices held by chosen men of God as prophets, priests, and kings. Therefore the Messiah is interpreted to occupy each of the offices as prophet, priest, and king. Note that David operated in all three offices as prophet, priest, and king during his life. As a result David's life foreshadows the Messiah and provides for us a Messianic expectation of the coming Messiah just like the rabbis suggest and connect the reign of David and his throne to the King Messiah.*

In Parashat Vayeshev, God is setting the stage for Joseph to be the Messiah of ancient Israel in the physical saving of the children of Israel. Through God's divine direction, Pharaoh set Joseph up into the highest position of power in the land of Egypt. He will be placed as administer of the law in order to store food for the specific purpose of saving both the nations and Israel from starvation in the coming famine.

Joseph functioned as a type of Messiah, the Lord God is setting him up to be a physical savior and a crucial piece in God's plan for Israel. By the power of God Joseph preserved life in Israel and in Egypt in a way that foreshadows the true Savior Yeshua the Messiah who was to come to save us from our sins and preserving life for the Olam Habah (the world to come). Joseph entered into prison falsely accused, Yeshua was falsely accused. Joseph grew up shepherding his Father's flock; Yeshua is the true Sheppard leading all men into God's truth and righteousness. Joseph ruled as the greatest power in Mitzrayim but remained under the authority of Pharaoh. Yeshua will rule as the greatest power over all nations of the earth and the entire universe but He will rule under and according to the authority of God our Father in Heaven. *Luke 3:23* states that Yeshua was about 30 years old when he began his ministry and interestingly, Joseph was taken out of prison at around 30 years of age beginning his saving ministry telling others of the dream and-interpretation of the one true God, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob had given him. Joseph gives the children of Israel physical food, whereas Yeshua gives us spiritual food (*John 6:27*). Joseph kept his family, and the nation of Egypt alive with grain, and Yeshua makes us alive spiritually and physically (*John 10:10*) and gives us life everlasting. As we study these scriptures it becomes apparent by the examples of the great men of faith foreshadowing the One who was to come, God's King Messiah is Yeshua .

The text of *Bereshit / Genesis 49:10* translated into Aramaic is very rabbinic and very Apostolic regarding how this verse is understood to be messianic from ancient times. The Targum Onkelos states עֲלֵמָא עַד דְּיִיְתִי מְשִׁיחָא meaning "until the Messiah comes." Below is a comparison of *Bereshit / Genesis 49:10* from the Masoretic text shown along side of the Aramaic translations from the Targum Onkelos, Pseudo Jonathan, Neofiti, FTP Genesis, and FTV Genesis. Let's look at the Aramaic text from the Targumim.

#### **פרשת ויחי ספר בראשית פרק מט פסוק ח-יב**

י לא-יסור ישבט מיהודה ומחקה מבין רגליו עד פי-יבא שילה ולו יקהת עמים:

#### **תרגום אונקלוס ספר בראשית פרק מט פסוק י**

לא יעידי עביד שולטן מדבית יהודה וספרא מבניבנוהי עד עלמא עד דיייתי משיחא דדיליה"דיליה " היא מלכותא וליה ישתמעון עממא:

#### **פסבדו יונתן ספר בראשית פרק מט פסוק י**

לא פסקין מלכין ושליטין מדבית יהודה וספרין מאלפי אורייתא מזרעיה עד זמן די ייתי מלכא משיחא זעיר בנוי ובדיליה יתימסון עממיא

#### **תרגום ניופתי ספר בראשית פרק מט פסוק י**

לא פסקין מלכין מין דבית יהודה ואף לא ספרין "ולא סברין מלפין " מלפי אוריה מבני בנוי עדזמן דייתי מלכא משיחא דדידיה היא מלכותא וליה ישתעבדון כל מלכותא"אומי":

#### **FTP Genesis פרק מט פסוק י**

לא יפסקון מלכין ושלטנן מדבית יהודה ולא ספרין ומלפי אורייתא מבני בנוי עדזמן דייתי מלכא דמשיחא דעתיד למיקום מדבית יהודה

#### **FTV Genesis פרק מט פסוק י**

לא פסקין מלכין מדבית יהוד' אוף לא סברין מלפי אורייתא מן בני בנוי עדזמן דייתי מלכא משיחא דדידיה היא מלכותא וליה עתידין ישתעבדון כל מלכותא דארעא

Comparing these various Aramaic translations (shown above), it is interesting to note that Targum Pseudo-Jonathan says “*until the time when the King Messiah will come, the youngest of his sons, and because of him nations shall melt away*” (לא פסקין מלכין ושליטין מדבית יהודה וספרין מאלפי אורייתא מזרעיה עד זמן די) (ייתי מלכא משיחא זעיר בנוי ובדיליה יתימסון עממיא). So here we find the eschatological connection to the Messiah, the day of the Lord, and the destruction of the nations. In Midrash Tehillim the connection to the Messiah, the day of the Lord, and the destruction of the nations is discussed at length, however, in Part 5 of *Midrash Tehillim 21*, all of the nations will bless themselves in the King Messiah. In each of these Aramaic Targums, the one who is coming (Shiloh, שִׁילוֹה) is the “*king Messiah*” (מלכא דמשיחא). Each Targum says essentially the same thing עד זמן די ייתי משיחא (Onkelos: “*until Messiah comes*”), עד זמן די ייתי משיחא (Pseudo-Jonathan: “*until the time the King Messiah comes*”), עד זמן די ייתי משיחא (Neofiti: “*until the King Messiah comes*”), עד זמן די ייתי משיחא (FTP Genesis: “*until the King Messiah comes*”), and עד זמן די ייתי משיחא (FTV Genesis: “*until the King Messiah comes*”). As a result of the Aramaic translations, there is much to be said in the Rabbinic literature concerning the King Messiah as we find here in *Midrash Tehillim 21*. Midrash Rabbah on Bereshit (Genesis) provides some insights on the messianic nature of this verse centered on the scepter (staff) that will not depart from Judah. The rabbinic literature states that this verse alludes to the Messiah Son of David (see *Midrash Rabbah on Genesis 97, 98 parashah 8, and 99 parashah 8*). The Concluding phrase of *Midrash Tehillim 22 Part 5* states “*The rabbis say that Gehenna will still exist in the time to come, for it is said Behold the day comes that will burn as an oven and all that do wickedly will be stubble; and the day that comes will burn them up (Malachi 3:19), and so on as above.*” In the eschatological event of the last days, the rabbis say that Gehenna (hell) will exist in the olam habah (world to come) in which the wicked will burn. The nations are also correlated to the wicked and so this midrash suggests that the rabbis believe the King Messiah will come or be revealed at some point prior to the great day of judgment. In this time the nations will seek the King Messiah and will bless themselves in Him. The Messiah is often referred to as “*King Messiah*” מלך המשיח as is noted here in the midrash, the nations hope will be for Him (the Messiah) just as it is written, “*In that day the heir to David’s throne will be a banner of salvation to all the world. The nations will rally to him, and the land where he lives will be a glorious place.*” (NIV) “*Then in that day The nations will resort to the root of Jesse, Who will stand as a signal for the peoples; And His resting place will be glorious.*” (NASB) therefore, the afflicted people He will save and He will include and attract people from all cultures and nations (see *Isaiah 11:10*). This is in fulfillment of God’s promise to Abraham saying in *Bereshit / Genesis 22:18* “*In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice.*” (NASB)

Midrash Tehillim 21, Part 2 opens with the Dibur Hamathil (דיבור המתחיל) saying “*Another comment on The king will joy in Your strength, O Lord. Scripture says elsewhere, Who is this King of glory? (Tehillim / Psalms 24:10).*” In the homiletic introduction (פתיחתא) the rabbis say “*Rabbi Simon asserted, To whom can this King of glory refer except to that one King who bestows upon those who fear Him a portion of His own glory.*” They ask the question concerning the King of Glory, and state that this is none other than the one who gives to others His own glory. With this premise, the rabbis make the following statements in the midrash.

*A mortal king, one may not call his viceroy king, yet the Holy One blessed be He, called Moshe god, when He said to him See I have made you a god to Pharaoh (Shemot / Exodus 7:1).*

מלך בשר ודם אין קוראין לסגן שלו בשמו, והקב"ה קרא למשה בשמו, שנאמר ראה נתתיך

*God will call the King Messiah after His own name, for it is said of the king Messiah This is his name whereby he will be called, The Lord our righteousness (Jeremiah 23:6).*

וקורא למלך המשיח בשמו, שנאמר וזה שמו אשר יקראו ה' צדקנו (ירמיה כג ו)

Note that the rabbis say “*the king of flesh and blood*” (מלך בשר ודם) referring to a “*mortal king*” who the Holy One blessed be He called Moshe “*god*” saying in *Shemot / Exodus 7:1* “*See I have made you a god to Pharaoh.*” Within this context, the rabbis say the Lord God will call the King Messiah after His own name and refer to *Jeremiah 23:6*. In the Tanakh, the Messiah is also referred to as the הר-הגדול (Har Hagadol) in *Zechariah 4:7*: *4:7 What are you, O great mountain? Before Zerubbabel you will become a plain; and he will bring forth the top stone with shouts of ‘Grace, grace to it!’* the reason being, He (the Messiah) towers above the Patriarchs, is greater than Moshe, and is greater than the ministering angels. This is also apparent from the midrash. The Messiah is the Lord’s anointed one (בִּי-מְשֻׁחָה יְהוָה) *1 Samuel 24:7, 24:11, 2 Samuel 19:22, and Tehilim / Psalms 2:2* where Mashiach functions as a noun naming a particular person. This is referencing the anointed king. On occasion, the Hebrew spelling changes to indicate the Messiah’s relationship to the Lord, such as the use of the construct form to indicate “*The Anointed of the Lord.*” ב יתִיצֵבוּ | מְלִכֵי-אֶרֶץ *Tehilim / Psalms 2:2* . ז אֲסַפְרָה אֶל חַק יְהוָה אָמַר אֱלֹהֵי בְנֵי אֶתְהָ אֲנִי הַיּוֹם יִלְדֹתֶיךָ: (2:7) Mashiach is referred to as “*His*” (the Lord’s) Anointed King who is the son that is the only begotten of God (2:7). The Messiah is also known as מגיד (Mashiach Nagid) “*Messiah the Prince (governor),*” the one who would be cut off according to *Daniel 9:25* (עַד-מְשִׁיחַ) כה ותדע ותשפיל מן-מצא דבר להשיב ולבנות ירושלם עד-משיח). Note also that this is the same word מגיד (Nagid, governor, prince) used when God chose David to be king in *1 Samuel 13:14* (יד ועתה ממלכתך לא-תקום בקוש יהנה לו איש פלכבו ויצוהו יהנה לנגיד על-עמו כי לא שמרת את אשר-צוה יהנה: drawing a parallel to king David. The Messiah is also known as the צמח צדיק “*the righteous branch*” that is written in *Jeremiah 23:5* and how the rabbis use the verse in *Midrash Tehillim 21 Part 2*, (הנה ימים באים) and *Zechariah 6:12* (ואמרת) (נאם-יהוה והקמתי לדוד צמח צדיק ומלך מלך והשפיל ועשה משפט וצדקה בארץ: (אליו לאמר פה אמר יהנה צבאות לאמר הנה-איש צמח שמו ומתחתיו יצמח ובנה את-היכל יהנה: . If we dig a little deeper in Midrash Rabbah on *Bamidbar / Numbers* we read that the rabbinic thought on צמח צדיק “*the righteous branch*” is the title of the Messiah just like the rabbis in Midrash Tehillim describe this verse in reference to the King Messiah who will be called by God’s name.



(*Shemot / Exodus 33:12-34:26*). Moshe has asked the Lord God to forgive the sins of the Children of Israel (וַיֹּאמֶר ה' אֶל-מֹשֶׁה אֲנִי נֹאֵם תִּשָּׂא הַטָּאתָם). Moshe asks the Lord to reveal Himself and His glory (וַיֹּאמֶר ה' אֶל-מֹשֶׁה אֲנִי נֹאֵם תִּשָּׂא הַטָּאתָם). The Lord commands Moshe to make two stone tablets like the previous ones (וַיֹּאמֶר ה' אֶל-מֹשֶׁה אֲנִי נֹאֵם תִּשָּׂא הַטָּאתָם) and He will write on them the words that were on the previous set of Tablets. Then, Moshe demonstrates for us the importance of knowing God according to His ways in his statement אֲנִי נֹאֵם תִּשָּׂא הַטָּאתָם meaning 'Now therefore, I pray You, if I have found favor in Your sight, let me know Your ways that I may know You, so that I may find favor in Your sight. Consider too, that this nation is Your people.' (NASB) Moshe asks the Lord God stating that "If I have found favor in Your sight, let me know Your ways that I may know You and find favor in Your sight." (אֲנִי נֹאֵם תִּשָּׂא הַטָּאתָם) In this Hebrew Sentence, we find a chiasmic literary structure where there appears to be an inversion in the phrase or clause on the order of words with respect to the first clause or phrase. For example: "Now if I have found favor in your eyes --> let me know your ways --> so that I might find favor in your eyes." Having found favor in God's eyes, Moshe desires to know God in a more intimate way, for the purpose of living correctly so the Lord looks favorably down upon him. This also should be our desire to know God more intimately for the purpose of being pleasing in His sight. This text shows us the order of obedience; we have found favor in God's eyes because He loves us and by faith, now we obey the Lord so that we can continue to walk in His favor, His love, and His blessing by the faith that we have. This is how the rabbis understood the "blessing of goodness" to refer to the "blessing of the Torah." Living our lives according to the Torah, we will find favor, love, and blessing. This is in fact valid for us as believers in Yeshua the Messiah today. Because of our faith, we have favor, love, and blessing, and faith also comes by the evidence of how our lives are lived in accordance to God's Word. The rabbis say in *Midrash Tehillim 21 Part 4*, "That is to say, even the honor of the king Messiah is great only through God's works. Glory and great worship will You lay upon him (*Tehillim / Psalms 21:6*) means that You O God, lay a master's glory and a disciple's great worship upon the king Messiah." (גדול כבודו בישועתך. גדול) (במפעליו. הוד והדר תשועה עליו. הוד של רב, והדר של תלמיד, כענין שנאמר ונתתה מהודך עליו (במדבר כז כ)) Notice how the rabbis say the honor and glory of God is placed upon the King Messiah. In addition to this, "great worship, the master's glory, and the disciples great worship is laid upon the King Messiah." Is this not what has in fact taken place in Yeshua the Messiah? This rabbinic understanding of the King Messiah is a significant parallel to Yeshua the Messiah in the Apostolic Writings. The rabbis say the King Messiah is great through the work of God. Note the work of God in Yeshua's life, two examples, He kept the Torah perfectly and the Lord God Almighty raised Him from the dead (the resurrection). Also note the context of the midrash, the rabbis quote *1 Samuel 2:6* and speak of the resurrection of the dead.

**1 Samuel 2:8-10**

2:8 'He raises the poor from the dust, He lifts the needy from the ash heap To make them sit with nobles, And inherit a seat of honor; For the pillars of the earth are the Lord's, And He set the world on them. 2:9 'He keeps the feet of His godly ones, But the wicked ones are silenced in darkness; For not by might shall a man prevail. 2:10 'Those who contend with the Lord will be shattered; Against them He will thunder in the heavens, The Lord will judge the ends of the earth; And He will give strength to His king, And will exalt the horn of His anointed.' (NASB)

ח מקים מעפר דל מאשפת ירים אביון להושיב עם-גנדיבים וכסא כבוד ינחלם פי ליהנה מצקי  
 ארץ וישת עליהם תבל: ט רגלי חסידו [חסידיו] ישמר ורשעים בחשך ידמו פי-לא בכח יגבר-

אִישׁ: יִהְיֶה יַחַתוּ מְרִיבֹו [מְרִיבֹו] עָלָו [עָלָו] בְּשָׁמַיִם יִרְעֵם יִהְיֶה יָדִין אֶפְסֵי-אֶרֶץ וַיִּתֵּן-עַז  
לְמַלְכוֹ וַיָּרֶם קִרְוֹן מְשִׁיחוֹ:

Note how in *1 Samuel 2:8*, the Scriptures say that He (God) will “*raise the poor from the dust*” suggesting resurrection from the dead (*i.e. we are created from the dust from the dust of the earth, and to dust we will return Bereshit / Genesis 3:19*). Glory and great worship the Lord will lay upon Him (the King Messiah) and note the rabbis clarify the meaning to say that the “*disciple’s great worship is laid upon the King Messiah.*” Do these concepts not sound very familiar in the life, work, and resurrection of Yeshua the Messiah? Based upon the midrash on *Tehillim / Psalms 21*, the rabbis lay out what they are looking for in the King Messiah. This appears to line up explicitly with Yeshua, the gospel of Christ, and the teaching of the Apostles in the Apostolic Writings. So why don’t the rabbis recognize Yeshua as the Messiah, the Holy One of God? The Rabbis then say “*Glory, accordingly, is to be understood as in God’s command to Moshe’s concerning Joshua, You will put of Your glory upon him (Bamidbar / Numbers 27:20). Note that it is said of you glory, and not all your glory. Where, then, was all the glory of Moshe put upon Joshua? Rabbi Yudan said it was put upon him at the Jordan, for as it is written of Moshe They were afraid to come near to him (Shemot / Exodus 34:30), so is it written of Joshua at the Jordon, They feared him, as they feared Moshe (Joshua 4:14).*” So the laying on of the glory of God to the King Messiah is explained in the comparison of the Torah text on Moshe and Joshua, Moshe is transferring leadership to Joshua by the laying on of hands before the entire congregation of Israel. It is in this way the Lord God Almighty transfers His glory to His Word, the Word through whom the heavens and the earth were created. Isn’t that awesome? In Yeshua the Messiah, we give glory, honor, praise, and worship. Yeshua is Lord of all creation and rightly so, He is the Word of the Living God! Let’s pray!

Heavenly Father,

Thank you for helping us to recognize that even in the minds of the rabbis Yeshua is King and Lord of All! Help us Lord to seek the King Messiah with an upright heart and in truth. We realize that it is only by Your Great Mercy that You reveal these things to us and that we are able to stand before you! Lord forgive us for all of our sins and keep each of us so that our sins do not rule in our lives. We ask that You would help righteousness and justice to rule in our lives for Your glory! We thank you Lord for sending us Your Son Yeshua who paid the covenant price for the forgiveness of our sins. We believe that in Your Son Yeshua, You have made a sure foundation, You are our Rock, Redeemer, and Savior. In Yeshua we have the hope of eternal life. Help us to trust in You Lord as we wait patiently for You and Your presence each day. We believe in the Righteous work Yeshua did in His life and upon the cross to make atonement for our sins. Help us to live and dedicated our lives to You, fill us with Your presence Lord and thank You for revealing these truths to our hearts. We praise Your Holy Name and give You all of the honor, and the glory, and the praise forever and ever.

In Yeshua’s (Jesus’) Name I pray! Amen!

Be Blessed in Yeshua, Christ our Messiah!

\*\*\*\*\*

הללויה לאדוננו מורנו ורבינו ישוע מלך המשיח לעולם ועד:  
Hallelujah for our Lord, our Teacher, our Rabbi,  
“Yeshua” King Messiah forever and ever

## Notes