

TEHILLIM TALKS

Psalm 86

A Prayer of David.

1-7

Incline Your ear, Adonai, and answer me, for I am poor and needy. ² Guard my soul, for I am **devout** [חַסִּיד, *chasid*]. Save Your servant, who trusts in You – O You, my God. ³ Be gracious to me, O **Master** (אֲדֹנָי, *Adonai*), for to You do I cry all the day. ⁴ Gladden the soul of Your servant, for to You, O **Master**, I lift up my soul. ⁵ For You, O **Master**, are good and forgiving, abounding in lovingkindness to all who call upon You. ⁶ Give ear, Adonai, to my prayer; listen to the voice of my pleas. ⁷ In the day of my distress I call upon You, for You will answer me.

8-10

There is none like You among the *elohim*, O **Master**, nor are there any works like Yours. ⁹ All the nations that You made shall come and bow down before You, O **Master**, and shall glorify Your name. ¹⁰ For You are great and do wondrous things. You alone are God.

11-13

Teach me Your way, Adonai, that I may walk in Your truth. Unite my **heart** to fear Your name.

לב לבב
(lev) (levav)



I give thanks to You, O **Master**, my God, with all my **heart**, and I will glorify Your name forever. ¹³ For great is Your lovingkindness toward me, and You have delivered my soul from the depths of Sheol.

14-17

O God, insolent men have risen up against me; a band of ruthless men seeks my soul, and they do not set You before them. ¹⁵ But You, O **Master**, are a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness. ¹⁶ Turn to me and be gracious to me; give Your strength to Your servant, and save the son of Your maidservant. ¹⁷ Show me a sign for good, that those who hate me may see and be ashamed because You, Adonai, have helped me and comforted me.

REFERENCES:

Verse 2

Jeremiah 3:12 “Go, and proclaim these words toward the north, and say, “Return, faithless Israel’, declares Adonai. ‘I will not look on you in anger, for I am devout [חסיד, *chasid*], declares Adonai. I will not be angry forever.”

R’ S.R. Hirsch: חסיד [*chasid*] is the selfless man, who does not assert his own rights, his own advantages and his own personality; in short, [he is] one who “gives himself up” entirely... David says: “Guard my soul, for I let everything pass over me. I do not defend myself, nor do I fight for my rights.”

Isaiah 53:7 He was oppressed, and He was afflicted, yet He opened not His mouth. Like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so He opened not His mouth.

From the morning prayers: “My God, guard my tongue from evil and my lips from deceitful speech. To those who curse me, let my soul be silent; may my soul be to all like the dust. Open my heart to Your Torah and let my soul pursue Your commandments.” (From *The Koren Shalem Siddur*, p.134)

Verse 5

Exodus 34:6 Then Adonai passed by in front of him and proclaimed, “Adonai, Adonai, God, compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in lovingkindness and truth...”

Verse 8

Exodus 15:11 “Who is like You among the gods, O Adonai? Who is like You, majestic in holiness, awesome in praises, working wonders?”