

## Psalms 2<sup>nd</sup> lecture: Asaph and God's Domain

### Psalm 73 (74) — A Maskil of Asaph

<sup>1</sup> Why, O God, hast Thou cast us off forever? /  
Is Thy wrath enkindled against the sheep of Thy pasture?  
<sup>2</sup> Be mindful of Thy congregation (זָכֹר עֲדֹתֶיךָ), / which Thou didst purchase from of old,  
The staff of Thine inheritance, / which Thou didst-redeem,  
Mount Zion, where Thou dost abide.  
<sup>3</sup> Raise Thy hand to inflict eternal ruin /  
for all the evil the enemy has done to Thy sanctuary.  
<sup>4</sup> How Thine enemy hates Thee in the midst of Thine assembly. /  
Their banners they raise as signs (אֲתוֹת).  
<sup>5</sup> Their blows they rain down from on high / like hatchets in the thick of the forest.  
<sup>6</sup> And now they strike down the doors, / with axes and hammers.  
<sup>7</sup> They set fire to Thy sanctuary; / They pollute in the dirt the dwelling-place of Thy name  
<sup>8</sup> They say in their hearts, / “Let us destroy them altogether. /  
Let us abolish all the festal days of God from the land.”  
<sup>9</sup> Our own signs we do not see (לֹא־רָאִינוּ אֲתוֹתֵינוּ), / nor is there a prophet anymore.  
And no one knows how long it will last.  
<sup>10</sup> How long, O God, must the enemy prevail? /  
Does the adversary blaspheme Thy name forever?  
<sup>11</sup> Why dost Thou restrain Thine hand, / and hold back Thy right hand to Thy bosom?  
<sup>12</sup> For God is our King from ancient times, / working salvation in the midst of the earth.  
<sup>13</sup> Thou didst divide the sea in Thy strength; / and smashed heads of dragons in the waters.  
<sup>14</sup> Thou didst break to pieces the heads of the dragon /  
And gave him as food to the people of Ethiopia.  
<sup>15</sup> Thou didst open spring and torrent; /  
<sup>16</sup> The day is thine, and thine the night; / Thou didst make the daybreak and the sun.  
<sup>17</sup> Thou didst set all borders on the earth; / Summer and winter Thou has fashioned.  
<sup>18</sup> Remember this, O Lord — that the enemy reproaches Thee.  
O Lord. a gathering of fools blasphemes Thy name.  
<sup>19</sup> Oh, deliver not to beasts the souls that confess Thee! /  
And forget not forever the souls of the poor.  
<sup>20</sup> Have regard unto Thy covenant;  
for the dark places of the earth are full of violent houses.  
<sup>21</sup> Oh, let not the humble be put to shame! / Let the poor and needy praise Thy name.  
<sup>22</sup> Arise, O God, vindicate Thy cause; / Remember how the fool insults Thee daily.  
<sup>23</sup> Forget not the voices of Thine enemies; /  
Rising always is the pride of them that hate Thee.

## **Psalms 1<sup>st</sup> lecture: Torah Piety**

**Psalm 18 (19)** — The heavens recount (הַשָּׁמַיִם מְסַפְּרִים) the glory of God,  
and the firmament (הַרְקִיעַ) declares the work of his hands.

Day unto day expresses the message, and night unto night conveys understanding.  
There is neither speech nor words; and their voice is not heard,  
Through all the earth their voice goes out, and their words to the edge of the world.  
In them he placed a tent for the sun.  
Coming forth like a groom from his canopy, he rejoices like a giant to run his course.  
He leaves from the border of heaven, going around to the other end.  
There is no hiding from his heat.

The law of the Lord (תּוֹרַת יְהוָה) is perfect, restoring the soul;  
the testimony of the Lord is faithful, making the simple one wise.  
The precepts of the Lord are upright, giving joy to the heart.  
The command of the Lord is unblemished, enlightening the eyes.  
The fear of the Lord is holy, enduring forever and ever.  
The judgments of the Lord are true, and righteous altogether,  
more desirable than gold, more than much fine gold,  
sweeter than honey and the oozing honeycomb.

Thy servant also observes (נִזְהָר) them, in their observance is a great reward.  
But who can detect unwitting failures? Preserve me from hidden sins.  
From willful faults safeguard thy servant. Let them not rule over me.  
For then I shall be blameless, and free from great offenses.  
May the words of my mouth and the meditations of my heart  
be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.

**Psalm 1** — Blessed the man that wanders not in the counsel of the wicked,  
Nor takes a stand in the path (וּבְדֶרֶךְ) of sinners  
nor sit in the company of scorners.  
But his delight is in the Torah of the Lord,  
and on his Torah he meditates day and night.  
He shall be as a tree planted beside the streams of water,  
which brings forth its fruit in its season,  
and its leaves do not wilt; and whatever he does shall prosper.  
Not so the wicked, not so! Like the chaff that the wind blows away.  
The wicked shall not stand up in judgment,  
nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous.  
For the Lord knows the way (דֶּרֶךְ) of the righteous,  
but the way (דֶּרֶךְ) of the wicked shall perish.