

Reading for healing (Isaiah 38: 9-20)

Rabbi Tzvi Hirsh, ZT"l, in the book 'Likutei Tzvi' says that this prayer was given to King Hezekiah from the heavens, and whoever says this prayer with tears for himself or others in need, when sick or at time of troubles would be healed and saved from harsh judgments decreed in heavens. King Hezekiah was very righteous and glorified the name of Hashem in all his ways. This prayer cured him when he was very ill.

9. מִכְּתָב, לְחִזְקִיָּהוּ מֶלֶךְ-יְהוּדָה, בְּחִלּוֹתָו, וַיְחִי מִחֲלָיו.

9. The writing of Hezekiah, king of Judah, after he had been ill, and had got better from his disease.

10. אָנִי אֶמְרָתִי, בְּדָמֵי יָמַי אֵלֶכָה--בְּשַׁעְרֵי שְׂאוּל; פִּקְדָתִי, יָתֵר שְׁנוֹתַי.

10. I said, In the quiet of my days I am going down into the underworld: the rest of my years are being taken away from me.

11. אָמְרָתִי לֹא-אֶרְאֶה יְהוָה, יְהוָה בְּאֶרֶץ הַחַיִּים; לֹא-אֲבִיט אָדָם עוֹד, עִם-יוֹשְׁבֵי חָדָל.

11. I said, I will not see HaShem, even HaShem in the land of the living: I will not see man again or those living in the world.

12. דּוֹרִי, נִסַּע וְנִגְלָה מִנִּי--בְּאֶהָל רַעִי; קִפְדָתִי כְּאִיֹּדֶג חַיִּי מִדָּלָה יִבְצַעֲנִי, מִיּוֹם עַד-לַיְלָה תִּשְׁלִימֵנִי.

12. My resting-place is pulled up and taken away from me like a herdsman's tent: my life is rolled up like a linen-worker's thread; I am cut off from the cloth on the frame: from day even to night you give me up to pain.

13. שׁוֹיִתִּי עַד-בֹּקֶר בְּאָרִי, בֶּן יִשָּׁבֵר כָּל-עֲצָמוֹתַי; מִיּוֹם עַד-לַיְלָה, תִּשְׁלִימֵנִי.

13. I am crying out with pain till the morning; it is as if a lion was crushing all my bones.

14. כְּסוֹס עָגוּר בֶּן אֶצְפָּצֶף, אֶהְגֶּה בַּיּוֹנָה; דָּלוּ עֵינַי לְמָרוֹם, אֲדַנִּי עֲשָׂקָה-לִי עֲרִבְנִי.

14. I make cries like a bird; I give out sounds of grief like a dove: my eyes are looking up with desire; O HaShem, I am crushed, take up my cause.

15. מָה-אֲדַבֵּר וְאֶמֶר-לִי, וְהוּא עָשָׂה; אֲדַדְּהָ כָּל-שְׁנוֹתַי, עַל-מֵרֶנְפְּשִׁי.

15. What am I to say? seeing that it is he who has done it: all my time of sleeping I am turning from side to side without rest.

16. אֲדַנִּי, עָלֵיהֶם יַחֲיוּ; וְלִכְּל-בָּהֶן חַיֵּי רוּחִי, וְתַחֲלִימֵנִי וְהַחֲיֵנִי.

16. O HaShem, for this cause I am waiting for you, give rest to my spirit: make me well again, and let me come back to life.

17. הִנֵּה לְשָׁלוֹם, מֵר-לִי מֵר; וְאַתָּה חָשַׁקְתָּ נַפְשִׁי, מִשַּׁחַת בְּלִי, כִּי הִשְׁלַכְתָּ אַחֲרֵי גִוָּה, כָּל-חַטָּאִי.

17. See, in place of peace my soul had bitter sorrow. but you have kept back my soul from the underworld; for you have put all my sins out of your memory.

18. כִּי לֹא שָׂאוֹל תּוֹדֶךָ, מָוֶת יְהַלְלֶךָ; לֹא-יִשְׁבְּרוּ יוֹרְדֵי-בוֹר, אֶל-אַמְתֶּךָ.

18. For the underworld is not able to give you praise, death gives you no honour: for those who go down into the underworld there is no hope in your mercy.

19. חַי חַי הוּא יוֹדֶךָ, כְּמוֹנֵי הַיּוֹם; אָב לְבָנִים, יוֹדִיעַ אֶל-אַמְתֶּךָ.

19. The living, the living man, he will give you praise, as I do this day: the father will give the story of your mercy to his children.

20. יְהוָה, לְהוֹשִׁיעֵנִי; וּנְגִנוֹתַי נִגְנֶן כָּל-יְמֵי חַיֵּינוּ, עַל-בֵּית יְהוָה.

20. O HaShem, quickly be my saviour; so we will make my songs to corded instruments all the days of our lives in the house of HaShem.