

The Jew and Prayer

An overview of the roots, purpose and practice of Jewish prayer.

by Lazer Gurkow

Lesson 2: The Individual and the Community

Joel Chapter 1:14

קְדָשׁוּ-צוֹם	Proclaim a fast
קְרְאוּ עֲצָרָה	call an assembly
אָסְפוּ זְקֵנִים	Assemble all the elders
כָּל יְשֵׁבֵי הָאָרֶץ	and all the inhabitants of the land
בֵּית יְהוָה אֵלֵי הֵיכֶם	to the house of G-d your LORD
וְזַעֲקוּ, אֵל-יְהוָה	and cry out to your LORD

2 Chronicles Chapter 20:4

וַיִּקְבְּצוּ יְהוּדָה	And the Judeans gathered
לְבַקֵּשׁ מִיְהוָה	to seek help from the LORD
גַּם מִכָּל-עָרֵי יְהוּדָה	from all the cities in Judea
בָּאוּ לְבַקֵּשׁ אֶת-יְהוָה	they all came to plead before G-D

2 Chronicles Chapter 20:5

וַיַּעֲמֵד יְהוֹשָׁפָט	and Jehoshaphat stood
בְּקֶהֶל יְהוּדָה וְיִירוּשָׁלַם	in the assembly of Judah and Jerusalem
בְּבַיִת יְהוָה	in the house of G-D

Exodus Chapter 15:1

אָז	At that time
יְשִׁיר-מֹשֶׁה וּבְנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל	Moses and the children of Israel sang
אֶת-הַשִּׁירָה הַזֹּאת, לַיהוָה	this song of praise to G-D

Alter Rebbe's Shluchan Aruch 52:1

תפלת צבור The congregational prayer
 היא רצויה ומקובלת לעולם is always received favorably [on High]
 שנאמר as it is written:
[quoting from Job 36:5]
 כביר לא ימאס [G-d is] great and will not despise
 [the community's prayers.]
 ואומר and it is also said
[quoting from Psalms 55:19]
 פדה בשלום נפשי redeem my soul in peace
 מקרב לי כי ברבים היו עמדי from conflict for the community was with me

Hosea Chapter 14:3

וְנִשְׁלְמָה פְּרִים, שְׁפָתֵינוּ: (The words uttered by) our lips will replace the bullocks
 (that were offered on the alter)