

“Yizkor: Talking About Death (with each other and G-d)” (Source Sheet)

Yahnatan Lasko | Beth Messiah Congregation | 6 Iyyar 5778 | April 21, 2018

- (If passage is a prayer) What is this prayer asking for?
(If Scripture verses) Why might this have been incorporated into the Yizkor service?
- What sorts of beliefs does this selection evidence?
- What effect might praying a prayer like this serve for a community which has undergone a tragedy or trauma (like the Jews of Chmielnicki), either immediately after the event or years (even generations) later?
- What sorts of responses does this selection produce in you? Are there things that you resonate with? Questions that are raised? Things you object to?
- What might characterize a uniquely Messianic Jewish approach to this passage?

יִזְכּוֹר ('יִזְכּוֹר' לַאֲבִי) Yizkor (for a father)

יִזְכּוֹר אֱלֹהִים נִשְׁמַת אָבִי מוֹרִי (שֵׁם הָאָב	<i>Yizkor Elohim nishmat avi mori</i>
בֶּן שֵׁם אָבִיו) שֶׁהָלַךְ לְעוֹלָמוֹ, בְּעִבּוֹר	<i>[name of the father] ben [name of his</i>
שְׁאֵתָן בְּלִי נֶדֶר צְדָקָה בְּעֵדוֹ. בִּשְׁכַר זֶה	<i>father] she'halakh l'olamo, ba'avur</i>
תֵּהָא נִפְשׁוֹ צְרוּרָה בְּצִרוֹר הַחַיִּים עִם	<i>she'eten b'li neder tz'daka ba'ado.</i>
נִשְׁמַת אַבְרָהָם יִצְחָק וְיַעֲקֹב, שָׂרָה	<i>Bis'char zeh t'hei nafsho tizrurah</i>
רִבְקָה רָחֵל וְלֵאָה, וְעִם שְׂאֵר צְדִיקִים	<i>bitzror hachayim im nishmat</i>
וְצְדִיקָנוֹת שְׁבִגְן עֵדֶן. וְנֹאמַר אָמֵן.	<i>Avraham, Yitzhak, v'Ya'akov, Sarah,</i>
	<i>Rivkah, Rachel, v'Leah, v'im sh'ar</i>
	<i>tzaddikim v'tzidkaniyot she'b'gan</i>
	<i>eiden. V'nomar: Amen.</i>

Remember, God, the soul of my father, my teacher [the name of the father] son of [the name of his father], who went to his world, because I will - without making a vow - give charity for him. In recompense for this, let his soul be bound with the Binding of life (God), with the soul of Avraham, Yitzchak and Ya'akov, Sarah, Rivkah, Rachel and Leah, and with the other righteous men and women in the Garden of Eden. And let us say, Amen.

***El Malei Rachamim* | אֵל מָלֵא רַחֲמִים | “G-d, Full of Mercies”**

אֵל מָלֵא רַחֲמִים, שׁוֹכֵן בַּמְרוֹמִים, הַמַּצֵּא מְנוּחָה נְכוֹנָה עַל כְּנָפֵי הַשְּׁכִינָה, בְּמַעְלֵת קְדוּשִׁים וְטְהוּרִים כְּזֹהַר הַרְקִיעַ מְזֻהָרִים, אֶת נִשְׁמַת (שֵׁם הַנִּפְטָר בֵּת שֵׁם אָבִיה) שֶׁהִלָּךְ לְעוֹלָמָהּ, בְּעִבּוֹר שְׁבִלֵי נֶדֶר אֶתֶּן צְדָקָה בְּעַד הַזְכָּרַת נִשְׁמָתָהּ, בְּגֵן עֵדֶן תִּהְיָ מְנוּחָתָהּ, לֵכֵן בְּעַל הַרַחֲמִים יִסְתִּירָהּ בְּסִתֵּר כְּנָפָיו לְעוֹלָמִים, וְיִצְרֹר בְּצִרּוֹר הַחַיִּים אֶת נִשְׁמָתָהּ, יי הוּא נִחְלָתָהּ, וְתִנּוּחַ בְּשָׁלוֹם עַל מִשְׁכָּבָהּ. וְנֹאמֶר אָמֵן.

O God, full of mercy, who dwells on high, establish proper rest upon the wings of the Divine Presence, on the levels of the holy and pure ones [who] shine like the splendor of the firmament, [for] the soul of (the name of the departed, son of the name of his father) who went to his world, because I will - without making a vow - give charity for the memory of his soul; let his rest be in the Garden of Eden. Hence, Master of mercy, cover him in the cover of His wings forever and bind his soul with the Binding of life (God). God is his inheritance and let him rest upon his place of repose in peace. And let us say Amen.

***El Malei Rachamim* (Messianic Jewish rendition)**

Created by Rabbi Russell Resnik¹

God, full of compassion, who dwells on high - God of forgiveness, who is merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in lovingkindness - grant pardon of transgressions, nearness of salvation, and perfect rest beneath the shadow of your divine presence, in the exalted places among the holy and the pure, who shine as the brightness of the firmament, to our loved one who has gone to his eternal home. We beseech you, O Lord of compassion, remember on his behalf the sacrifice of Messiah Yeshua. Open to him the gates of righteousness and light. Shelter him forever under the shadow of your wings, and let his soul be bound up in the bond of eternal life. The Lord is his inheritance; may he rest in peace. And let us say, Amen.

¹ Related in private email communications. Used by permission.

***Av HaRachamim* | אב הרחמים | “The Father of Mercies”**

The Father of mercy who dwells on high in His great mercy
will remember with compassion
the pious, upright and blameless
the holy communities, who laid down their lives
for the sanctification of His name.
They were loved and pleasant in their lives
and in death they were not parted.
They were swifter than eagles and stronger than lions
to carry out the will of their Maker,
and the desire of their steadfast God.
May our Lord remember them for good
together with the other righteous of the world
and may He redress the spilled blood of His servants
as it is written in the Torah of Moses the man of God:
"O nations, make His people rejoice
for He will redress the blood of His servants
He will retaliate against His enemies
and appease His land and His people".
And through Your servants, the prophets it is written:
"Though I forgive, their bloodshed I shall not forgive
When God dwells in Zion"
And in the Holy Writings it says:
"Why should the nations say, 'Where is their God?'"
Let it be known among the nations in our sight
that You avenge the spilled blood of Your servants.
And it says: "For He who exacts retribution for spilled blood
remembers them
He does not forget the cry of the humble".
And it says:
"He will execute judgement among the corpse-filled nations
crushing the rulers of the mighty land;
from the brook by the wayside he will drink
then he will hold his head high".

Prayer for the Victims of the Holocaust

Our Father, our King, Power, God of the spirits of all flesh, give proper rest upon the wings of the Divine Presence, on the levels of the holy and pure ones [who] shine like the splendor of the firmament, [for] the souls of the six million Jews, men and women, boys and girls, that were exterminated and slaughtered and asphyxiated and buried alive by the hands of enemy monsters in the exile of Europe. All of them are holy and pure; among them were luminaries and righteous people, 'cedars of Lebanon' and giants of Torah. Let their rest be in the Garden of Eden. Hence, Master of mercy, bind their souls with the Binding of life (God). God is their inheritance. And remember for us their sacrifice and let their merit stand for us and for all of Israel. Let the earth not cover their blood and let there not be a place [sufficient] for their cries. In their merit, let the dispersed of Israel return to their possession; and let the holy ones be an everlasting memory - their righteousness in front of Your eyes. May they come to peace, [and] rest upon their places of repose. And let us say Amen.

Remember, God, all of the souls of all of the congregations of the House of Israel in the exile of Europe, that were raised upon the pyre during the years of the Holocaust, 5700-5705. Six million men and women, boys and girls, youths and maidens, the old and the infant, that were exterminated and slaughtered with terrible cruelty and murdered, through mass murder in the places of their residence, in cities and in villages; and the remainder transported to concentration camps and slain with terrible and strange ways of killing and burnt to ashes in the fiery ovens of the terrible extermination camps in Germany and in Poland and in other lands; by the hands of the murderous German nation together with their helpers, the murderers from other nations, who were of one mind to destroy, to exterminate, and to do away with the Jewish people, and to erase the memory of Judaism, and to terminate all who are called by the name of Israel.

Power of vengeance, Judge of the earth, please remember the rivers of blood that were spilled like water, the blood of fathers and sons, mothers and their babes, our rabbis and their students; and pay back upon the enemies of Your people seven times their due. Let not the invocation of 'Shema Yisrael' be silent from those that were taken to [their] death; and raise up the howls of the tortured ones in front of the throne of Your honor, to - speedily in our days and in front of our eyes - avenge the blood of Your holy and pure sons and daughters, who did not merit to [receive] a Jewish funeral. As it is written (Deuteronomy 32:43), "for the blood of His servants will He

avenge, and He will pay back vengeance on His enemies, and His land will atone for His people."