

THE PRAYER OF A TZADDIK

The prayers and blessings of a *tzaddik* are compared to a pitchfork. This is because just as a pitchfork turns over the grain on the threshing floor and tosses it from one place to another, the *tzaddik's* (merit empowers his) prayers to turn over, so to speak, the Lord's Attribute of Harsh Judgment, replacing it with the Attribute of Mercy.

Situations that appear permanently mired in a place of despair can be uprooted by a *tzaddik's* prayers.

Even during the world's most sweeping display of Divine judgment – the flood that the Lord brought to destroy the world – the prayers of a *tzaddik* (Noah) were heeded. The Torah states that the waters of the flood began to recede because God remembered Noah. One sage explains that although the name *Elohim* represents God's attribute of strict justice, it was turned to mercy by the prayers of Noah, whom the Torah identifies as a *tzaddik*.

Throughout the Bible, *tsaddikim* have prayed for many things. In turn, the Lord heard their prayers and answered them. The same can be said for prayers even in our day and time.

POINTS TO PONDER

Just as Noah prayed for the flood waters to recede, tzaddikim have been effectively praying for the welfare of others.

The tzaddik's prayers are compared to a pitchfork, because they can take a situation and uproot it from a place of Divine judgment and "toss it" into the realm of mercy.

One can tap into the power of the tzaddik's prayer.

Numbers 12:13 So Moses cried out to the LORD, saying, "O God, pray heal her!" (TNK)