

PRAYER POINTS

RECURRING SPIRITUALITY

Once in a while, that for which one must usually work hard is suddenly within easier reach. This is true not only for the things of this world, but also for the spiritual benefits emanating from Heaven. The concept of a propitious time is this “limited-time-only” offer on spiritual attainments, such as prayer.

King David alludes to the existence of this in the verse from Psalm 69:14: “But as for me, may my prayer to you, Lord, be at a favorable time.” The sages explain that the verse teaches that there are times that are more propitious for our prayers to be accepted in Heaven. They teach that midnight is considered one of these times.

The question remains, however, as to what is the inherent power of a particular period of time that makes it a propitious time. The favorable atmosphere of midnight was established when the Almighty chose that moment to execute the final plague against the Egyptians. One rabbi explains how the event, which occurred thousands of years ago, recreates itself night after night, generation after generation. Rather than thinking of time as an entity that keeps moving forward, he says, our days and seasons move in cycles. Each day and hour is invested with spiritual attributes that reassert themselves into our world as that day and hour arrive once more.

This explains why every Shabbat is invested with the holiness of the very first one, why every Shavuot contains within itself the potential for the incredible elevation experienced during the Giving of the Torah, and why every midnight is laden with the potential for the Almighty’s mercy and compassion.

During each propitious moment, the world is charged with the relevant attribute as surely as a wireless connection charges the air within its radius. However, only when one taps into the connection does its existence become apparent. Despite the fact that one may not feel the intense spiritual forces contained in these moments, they are there, embedded in creation. Each one of these moments is a gift, packaged as a slice of time, given to us to unwrap and put to its most exalted use.

POINTS TO PONDER

King David teaches the concept of praying during these propitious moments in time.

During a propitious moment, spiritual attainments that might seem out of reach at other times are suddenly more accessible to us.

A propitious moment is imbued with the same measure of spiritual power every time it recurs on the calendar.

Psalm 69:14 As for me, may my prayer come to You, O LORD, at a favorable moment; O God, in Your abundant faithfulness, answer me with Your sure deliverance. ¹⁵ Rescue me from the mire; let me not sink; let me be rescued from my enemies, and from the watery depths. ¹⁶ Let the floodwaters not sweep me away; let the deep not swallow me; let the mouth of the Pit not close over me. ¹⁷ Answer me, O LORD, according to Your great steadfastness; in accordance with Your abundant mercy turn to me; ¹⁸ do not hide Your face from Your servant, for I am in distress; answer me quickly. ¹⁹ Come near to me and redeem me; free me from my enemies. (TNK)