

Mi Chamocha מִי כַּמוֹכָה

Introductory Prayers	Sh'ma & Its Blessings	Amidah	Torah Service	Concluding Prayers
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To-Do List:

- Answer the **Ready...Set...Prep!** questions on Page 2 with a *chevruta* partner
- Read the prayer in Hebrew (Page 3) with your *chevruta* partner
- Answer the **First Read** questions (Page 3) together
- Finish the prayer's translation (Pages 4-6) alone or together
- Answer the **Break It Down** questions (Pages 7-9) with your *chevruta* partner
- Answer the **Reading Questions** (Page 10) either on your own or together
- Now Practice!** Read & sing the prayer together, alone, and/or online (see Page 11)
- Do the **Get Creative!** activity on Page 12
- Read and sing the prayer to a teacher to sign off

chevruta

חֶבְרוּתָא

n. study companion.
Shares a root with the word "friend" (חבר).

Mi Chamocha מִי כַמּוֹחָה

Introductory Prayers	Sh'ma & Its Blessings	Amidah	Torah Service	Concluding Prayers
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Ready... Set... Prep!

The Sh'ma's section of the service concludes with a reminder of the joy the Israelites felt during the Torah's story of

redemption.

Note: Anything in a yellow box is something you need to read in order to answer the following questions!

The Torah tells three main types of stories:

1. Creation
2. Revelation
3. Redemption

Before the Sh'ma, we praise God for **Creation** in Yotzer Or. Sh'ma and V'ahavta represent **Revelation** – when God **revealed** the Torah and its laws and commandments to us. So it's only natural that this section of the service close with the third type of story we find in the Torah.

Work with a *chevruta* partner to answer the following questions!

1. What is "redemption"?

- In Google, type in "define:redemption" (without any spaces)
- What's the first definition of "redemption" it gives? _____

- What does that mean, **in your own words**? _____

2. What's the big story of Redemption in the Torah? (Google "Jewish holiday redemption" for a hint of what time of year we retell this story!) _____

3. Imagine you had just been freed and were standing at the parted sea with Moses, Miriam, and all the other Israelites. You are asked to add one line to the community's song to God about how happy they are. What would your line say? _____



Now read the whole prayer below out loud!
 The second paragraph changes a little depending on the time of day.
 Pay special attention to both versions – it has some challenging words!

1 מִי כַמֹּכָה בְּאֵלִים יְיָ,

2 מִי כַמֹּכָה נְאֻדָּר בְּקֹדֶשׁ,

3 נוֹרָא תְהִלָּתְךָ, עֲשֵׂה פְלָא.

EVENING

4 מְלַכּוֹתֶיךָ רָאוּ בְנֵיךָ

5 בּוֹקֵעַ יָם

6 לְפָנֶי מֹשֶׁה (וּמִרְיָם),

7 זֶה אֵלֵי עָנּוּ וְאָמְרוּ:

8 יְיָ יִמְלֹךְ לְעוֹלָם וָעֶד.

Some communities include Miriam too: ask your teacher if yours does!

MORNING

4 שִׁירָה חֲדָשָׁה שִׁבְחוּ גְאוּלִים

5 לְשִׁמְךָ עַל שְׁפַת הַיָּם.

6 יַחַד כָּלֵם הוֹדוּ

7 וְהִמְלִיכוּ וְאָמְרוּ:

8 יְיָ יִמְלֹךְ לְעוֹלָם וָעֶד.

First-Read Questions

1. What words do you already recognize?

Hebrew Word	I think that it means...

2. At first glance, what do you think this prayer is about? _____

Translation

Fill in the blanks of the translation of the first paragraph of the prayer using the Word Bank at the bottom!

Prefix	Suffix	Noun	Verb	Adjective / Adverb	Question Word
--------	--------	------	------	--------------------	---------------

יִי? יי?	בְּאֵלִים	כְּמִכָּה	מִי	1
Adonai?	among the _____,	like You	_____ is	

בְּקִדְּשׁ,	נְאֻדָּר	כְּמִכָּה	מִי	2
in _____,	great	like You	_____ is	

פְּלֵא?	עֲשֵׂה	תְּהַלֵּל,	נוֹרָא	3
wonders?	_____	in splendor,	awe-inspiring	

Word Bank

עֲשֵׂה	קִדְּשׁ	מִי	אֱלִים
doing (verb)	holiness (noun)	who (question word)	gods (not our God, other gods)

The translations above go **right-to-left** with the Hebrew text. Now write out the English translations for all the lines from **left-to-right**. The first one has been started for you! (Check your work on page 7!)

- _____ is like You
- _____
- _____

Fill in the blanks of the translation of the **EVENING** second paragraph of the prayer using the Word Bank at the bottom!

Prefix	Suffix	Noun	Verb	Adjective / Adverb	Preposition
--------	--------	------	------	--------------------	-------------

The word order in this line sounds strange in English – most of this line is done for you below!

בְּנֵי־דָ	רָאוּ	מִלְכוּת־דָּ	4
<u> </u> children	saw	<u> </u> power	

(וּמְרִים),	מִשָּׁה	לְפָנַי	6	יָם	בוֹקֵעַ	5
and <u> </u> ,	<u> </u>	before		<u> </u>	split the	

: וְאָמְרוּ:	עָנוּ	אֵלַי	זֶה	7
saying:	we answered,	my <u> </u> ,”	“This is	

! וְעַד!	לְעוֹלָם	יִמְלֹךְ	יְיָ	8
<u> </u> ever!”	<u> </u>	will rule	“Adonai	

Word Bank

מְרִים	מִשָּׁה	לְעוֹלָם	אֵל	יָם	-דָּ	-וְ/וְ-
Miriam (name)	Moses (name)	forever (adverb)	God (noun)	sea (noun)	your (pronoun/ suffix)	and (conjunction/ prefix)

The translations above go **right-to-left** with the Hebrew text. Now write out the English translations for all the lines from **left-to-right**. Part of it has been started for you!
(Check your work on page 7!)

4. children saw power
5. split the
6.
7.
8.

Fill in the blanks of the translation of the **MORNING** second paragraph of the prayer using the Word Bank at the bottom!

Prefix	Suffix	Noun	Verb	Adjective / Adverb	Preposition
--------	--------	------	------	--------------------	-------------

גְּאוּלִּים	שִׁבְּחוּ	שִׁירָה חֲדָשָׁה	4
the redeemed ones	praised	A new _____	

הַיָּם.	שֵׁפֶת	עַל	לְשִׁמְךָ	5
the _____.	shore of	on the	_____ Your name	

וְאָמְרוּ:	וְהִמְלִיכוּ	7
saying:	_____ gave glorification,	

הוֹדוּ	כָּלֵם	יַחַד	6
gave thanks	_____	Together	

וְעַד!	לְעוֹלָם	יִמְלֹךְ	יְיָ	8
_____ ever!	_____	will rule	Adonai	

Word Bank

שִׁירָה	לְעוֹלָם	כָּלֵם	יָם	לְ-	וְ-/וְ-
song (noun)	forever (adverb)	everyone (noun)	sea (noun)	to (preposition/prefix)	and (conjunction/prefix)

The translations above go **right-to-left** with the Hebrew text. Now write out the English translations for all the lines from **left-to-right**. The first one has been started for you! (Check your work on the next page!)

4. A new _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____

Mi Chamocha: Color-Coded for Meaning

The colors here are just to help you match each word to its English translation.

- 1 מי כְּמוֹכָה בְּאֵלִים יְיָ, Who is like You among the gods, Adonai?
 2 מי כְּמוֹכָה נְאֻדָּר בְּקֹדֶשׁ, Who is like You, great in holiness,
 3 נוֹרָא תְהִלָּתוֹ, עֹשֶׂה פְלֵא. awe-inspiring in splendor, doing wonders?

EVENING

- 4 מַלְכוּתְךָ רָאוּ בְּנֵיךָ Your children saw Your power
 5 בּוֹקֵעַ יָם split the sea
 6 לְפָנַי מֹשֶׁה (וּמִרְיָם), before Moses (and Miriam),
 7 זֶה אֱלֹהֵינוּ וְאָמְרוּ: "This is my God," we answered, saying:
 8 יְיָ יִמְלֹךְ לְעוֹלָם וָעֶד. Adonai will rule forever and ever!

MORNING

- 4 שִׁירָה חֲדָשָׁה שִׁבְחוּ גְאוּלִים A new song the redeemed ones praised
 5 לְשִׁמְךָ עַל שְׂפַת הַיָּם. to Your name on the shore of the sea.
 6 יַחַד כָּלֵם הוֹדוּ Together, everyone gave thanks
 7 וְהִמְלִיכוּ וְאָמְרוּ: and gave glorification, saying:
 8 יְיָ יִמְלֹךְ לְעוֹלָם וָעֶד. Adonai will rule forever and ever!

Break it Down

1. Underline at least two key Hebrew words in the prayer. Why did you choose them? _____

2. Almost all prayers fit into one of three types: **gratitude** (“THANK YOU, GOD!!!”), **praise** (“WOW, GOD, YOU’RE AMAZING!!”) or **petition** (“HELP!!!”). Which kind do you think this prayer is? _____

Why do you think so? (Use evidence from the translation & your own opinions!)

PERSONAL prayers are said because they address the INDIVIDUAL’s needs. Personal prayers can still be said with a community; the **subject matter** and **purpose** makes a prayer personal, not the way we say it.

COMMUNAL prayers are said to address the COMMUNITY’s needs. Some communal prayers can still be said alone; the **subject matter** and **purpose within the service** makes a prayer communal more than anything else.

Some prayers are a little of both, but this one leans very much in one direction.

3. Do you think this more a personal or a communal prayer? _____

Why do you think so? _____

4. In your own words, what question is being asked in lines 1-3? _____

5. What is the purpose of asking that question – (a) to find out information, or (b) to make a point? If it’s to make a point, what point is it making? _____

6. What had just happened in Jewish history when the Israelites first sang this prayer? _____

7. Why do you think we still praise God for this today? _____

Read the story below to answer the questions after it:

When the Israelites left Egypt in a hurry, they got to the edge of Yam Suf, the Sea of Reeds, and the Egyptian army was closing in behind them. Nobody knew what to do – turning back would mean either death or re-enslavement, going forward meant drowning. Moses asked God what to do, but at first there was no reply – he was just told to look into the water. One lone man named Nachson ben Aminadav had started to walk into the water. It went up to his ankles, then his knees, his waist, his shoulders. It hit his chin, and when Moses listened closely, he could hear the man saying, “מִי כַמְכָה בְּאֵלִים יְיָ” but then the water hit his lips, and he couldn’t make the sound of the letter כ clearly so it started to come out as “מִי כַמְכָה”... and just as the water passed his lips and hit his eyes, and Moses was sure the man would drown himself, the waters split from the very spot where Nachshon ben Aminadav was standing, and together, Moses and Nachshon led the Israelites on their march to the other side of the sea...

- Midrash (a story not in the Torah but told by the rabbis over the ages to “fill in the blanks” between stories in the Torah)

1 מִי כַמְכָה בְּאֵלִים יְיָ,

2 מִי כַמְכָה נֶאֱדָר בְּקֹדֶשׁ,

3 נֹרָא תְהִלָּת, עֲשֵׂה פְלֵא.

8. Look at the second word in Lines 1 and 2. What is the difference between them? _____
9. Now that you know the story of Nachshon, why do you think these words are different in that way? _____
- _____
- _____

Reading Questions

1. Draw lines between each syllable of the word below (ex. ט|בו):

גְּאוּלִּים

How many syllables are there total? _____

What does this word mean? _____

Who is that referring to? _____

2. Draw lines between each syllable of the word below:

וְהַמְלִיכוּ

How many syllables are there total? _____

3. The prefix “בְּ” can have multiple meanings. How many does it have in this prayer? _____

What are they? _____

4. The prefix “וְ” only has one meaning. What is it? _____

5. The suffix that means “you/your” can have two different spellings, both of which appear in this prayer. What are they?

1. _____

2. _____

6. Which lines *never* change, no matter the time of day?

___ 1 ___ 2 ___ 3 ___ 4 ___ 5 ___ 6 ___ 7 ___ 8

Practice, Practice, Practice!

- 1 מִי כַמּוֹכָה בְּאֵלִים יְיָ,
- 2 מִי כַמּוֹכָה נְאֻדָּר בְּקוֹדֶשׁ,
- 3 נוֹרָא תְהִלָּת, עֲשֵׂה פְּלֵא.

EVENING

- 4 מְלֻכּוֹתֶיךָ רָאוּ בְּנִיךָ
- 5 בּוֹקֵעַ יָם
- 6 לְפָנֶי מֹשֶׁה (וּמְרִים),
- 7 זֶה אֵלֵי עָנּוּ וְאָמְרוּ:
- 8 יְיָ יִמְלֹךְ לְעוֹלָם וָעֶד.

MORNING

- 4 שִׁירָה חֲדָשָׁה שֶׁבָּחוּ גְּאוּלִים
- 5 לְשִׁמְךָ עַל שִׁפְתֵי הַיָּם.
- 6 יַחַד בְּלִם הוֹדוּ
- 7 וְהִמְלִיכוּ וְאָמְרוּ:
- 8 יְיָ יִמְלֹךְ לְעוֹלָם וָעֶד.



Practice Online:

In **ShalomLearning**, practice with the JiTap soundboard directly in your browser!

Or open the **JiTap app** and search for “**Mi Chamocha**” to find the Tap-and-Hear soundboard to practice.

Or search **YouTube** for “**Mi Chamocha Prayer Karaoke**” – the videos should have a white background and black→blue letters.

Note: Mi Chamocha has a lot of different tunes! There are only karaoke videos and JiTaps for a few of the most common tunes, but if you can read the words really well, you can follow any tune your community uses!

Mi Chamocha: Get Creative!

Write an acrostic poem (where each line starts with the next letter in a word or phrase) for the prayer “Mi Chamocha” that **shows what the prayer, and the freedom it blesses God for, means to you.** (You can see two sample Prayer Acrostics on the next page if you need ideas!)

M _____

I _____

C _____

H _____

A _____

M _____

O _____

C _____

H _____

A _____

Sample Prayer Acrostics

Sh'ma

Shh, quiet your mind and take a moment to

Hear the world around you!

Make the best of this second of silence:

Any moment now, it will make us One.

Sim Shalom

Send us peace, O Mighty God, whose

Infinite wisdom guides us to

Make peace possible wherever we go!

See the sunset over the

Hills, breathe the

Air that lifts up the birds,

Laugh with your sisters and brothers, and praise the

One whose everlasting love

Makes peace possible wherever we go!

*Sh'ma & Sim Shalom Prayer Acrostics
by Rae Antonoff*