

**Prayer to Accompany the Dying**  
**Study and Discussion with Rabbi Nancy Flam**  
**Congregation B'nai Israel • November 1, 2020**

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לך פי שלחך יי. לך וני יהיה עמך. יי אלהיו עמו  
ויצל. (שלוש פעמים).

יברכה יי וישמרה. יאר יי פניו אליה ויחנה. ישא  
יי פניו אליה וישם לה שלום.

מימינה מיבאל, משמאלה גבריאל, מלפניה  
אוריאל, מאחריה רפאל, ועל ראשה שכנת אל.  
חונה מלאך יי סביב ליראיו ויחלצם. חוק ואמץ,  
אל תערץ ואל תחת, פי עמך יי אלהיה בכל אשר  
תלך. מה תשתוחחי נפשי ומה תהמי עלי, הוחילי  
לאלהים, פי עוד אודנו ישועות פני ואלהי. בנשר  
יעיר קנו על גזליו ירחף, פראש כנפיו, יקחהו, ישאהו  
על אברתו. עורי צפון ובואי תימן, הפיחי גני קלו  
בשמיו, יבא דודי לגנו ויאכל פרי מגדיו. פתחו  
שערים, ויבא גוי צדיק, שומר אמונים. יי ישמרה מכל  
רע, ישמר את נפשה. יי ישמר צאתה ובואה מעתה  
ועד עולם.

ו. אם רואים שנפשו יוצאת, יעמדו על רגליהם ויביטו בפניו  
ויאמרו בקול רם:

יי מלה, יי מלה, יי ימלוך לעולם ועד.  
ברוך שם כבוד מלכותו לעולם ועד. (שלוש פעמים).  
יי הוא האלהים. (שבע פעמים).  
שמע ישראל, יי אלהינו יי אחד. (שבע פעמים).

Go, for God is sending you. Go, and God will be with you. Adonai his [her] God be with him [her], and let him [her] ascend.

May God bless you and protect you. May the light of God's face shine upon you and be gracious to you. May God lift up God's face upon you and give you peace.

At your right hand, Michael; at your left hand, Gabriel; before you, Rafael; behind you, Uriel; and above your head, Shekhinah/the Divine Presence.

The angel of Adonai encamps around those who are God-fearing and rescues them.

Be strong and take courage, and do not be terrified or dismayed, for Adonai your God is with you wherever you go.

Why so downcast, my soul, why disquieted within me? Have hope in God. I will yet praise Him, my ever-present help, my God.

As an eagle who rouses her nestlings, flutters over her young, spreads out her wings and takes them, bearing them on her pinions.

Awake, O north wind, Come O south wind! Blow upon my garden, that its perfume might spread. Let my beloved come to his garden and eat its precious fruits.

Open the gates, that the righteous people may enter, those who keep faith.

God will guard you from all harm; God will guard your soul; God will guard your going out and your coming in, now and forever.

*If they see that the soul is separating from the body, they stand up, look into the person's face and say out loud:*

God reigned, God reigns, God will reign.

Blessed be God's name whose glorious kingdom is throughout space and time. (3 times)

Adonai is God. (7 times)

Hear O Israel, Adonai our God, Adonai is One. (7 times)

## The Inter-Textual Texture

The meaning of the liturgy exists not so much in the liturgical text *per se* as in the interaction between the liturgical text and the biblical intertext. Meaning, in the mind of the reader, takes place between texts rather than within them.

■ Reuven Kimmelman

Out of this confrontation of texts comes the new meaning of the verse...when the reader can identify the sources upon which a particular piece of work is based, the meaning is enriched.

■ Jeffery Hoffman

Go, for God is sending you. (I Samuel 20:22)

### I Samuel 20:12 – 23: Jonathan’s love for David, and his sending him away

(12) Then Jonathan said to David, “By the LORD, the God of Israel! I will sound out my father at this time tomorrow, [or] on the third day; and if [his response] is favorable for David, I will send a message to you at once and disclose it to you. (13) But if my father intends to do you harm, may the LORD do thus to Jonathan and more if I do [not] disclose it to you and send you off to escape unharmed. May the LORD be with you, as He used to be with my father. (14) Nor shall you fail to show me the LORD’s faithfulness, while I am alive; nor, when I am dead, (15) shall you ever discontinue your faithfulness to my house—not even after the LORD has wiped out every one of David’s enemies from the face of the earth. (16) Thus has Jonathan covenanted with the house of David; and may the LORD requite the enemies of David!” (17) Jonathan, out of his love for David, adjured him again, for he loved him as himself. (18) Jonathan said to him, “Tomorrow will be the new moon; and you will be missed when your seat remains vacant. (19) So the day after tomorrow, go down all the way to the place where you hid the other time, and stay close to the Ezel stone. (20) Now I will shoot three arrows to one side of it, as though I were shooting at a mark, (21) and I will order the boy to go and find the arrows. If I call to the boy, ‘Hey! the arrows are on this side of you,’ be reassured and come, for you are safe and there is no danger—as the LORD lives! (22) But if, instead, I call to the lad, ‘Hey! the arrows are beyond you,’ then leave, **for the LORD has sent you away.** (23) As for the promise we made to each other, may the LORD be [witness] between you and me forever.”

Go, and God will be with you. (I Samuel 17:37)

**1 Samuel 17: 31 – 40: David’s resolve to fight Goliath, a simply clad lad with a slingshot**

(31) The things David said were overheard and were reported to Saul, who had him brought over. (32) David said to Saul, “Let no man’s courage fail him. Your servant will go and fight that Philistine!” (33) But Saul said to David, “You cannot go to that Philistine and fight him; you are only a boy, and he has been a warrior from his youth!” (34) David replied to Saul, “Your servant has been tending his father’s sheep, and if a lion or a bear came and carried off an animal from the flock, (35) I would go after it and fight it and rescue it from its mouth. And if it attacked me, I would seize it by the beard and strike it down and kill it. (36) Your servant has killed both lion and bear; and that uncircumcised Philistine shall end up like one of them, for he has defied the ranks of the living God. (37) The LORD,” David went on, “who saved me from lion and bear will also save me from that Philistine.” “**Then go,**” Saul said to David, “**and may the LORD be with you!**” (38) Saul clothed David in his own garment; he placed a bronze helmet on his head and fastened a breastplate on him. (39) David girded his sword over his garment. Then he tried to walk; but he was not used to it. And David said to Saul, “I cannot walk in these, for I am not used to them.” So David took them off. (40) He took his stick, picked a few smooth stones from the wadi, put them in the pocket of his shepherd’s bag and, sling in hand, he went toward the Philistine.

Adonai his [her] God be with him [her], and let him [her] ascend.  
(2 Chronicles 36:23)

**2 Chronicles 36: 22 – 23**

(22) And in the first year of King Cyrus of Persia, when the word of the LORD spoken by Jeremiah was fulfilled, the LORD roused the spirit of King Cyrus of Persia to issue a proclamation throughout his realm by word of mouth and in writing, as follows: (23) “Thus said King Cyrus of Persia: The LORD God of Heaven has given me all the kingdoms of the earth, and has charged me with building Him a House in Jerusalem, which is in Judah. Any one of you of all His people, **the LORD his God be with him and let him go up.**”

Be strong and take courage, and do not be terrified or dismayed, for Adonai your God is with you wherever you go.  
(Joshua 1:9)

After the death of Moses the servant of the LORD, the LORD said to Joshua son of Nun, Moses' attendant: "My servant Moses is dead. Prepare to cross the Jordan, together with all this people, into the land that I am giving to the Israelites. Every spot on which your foot treads I give to you, as I promised Moses. Your territory shall extend from the wilderness and the Lebanon to the Great River, the River Euphrates [on the east]—the whole Hittite country—and up to the Mediterranean Sea on the west. No one shall be able to resist you as long as you live. As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will not fail you or forsake you. Be strong and resolute, for you shall apportion to this people the land that I swore to their fathers to assign to them. But you must be very strong and resolute to observe faithfully all the Teaching that My servant Moses enjoined upon you. Do not deviate from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go. Let not this Book of the Teaching cease from your lips, but recite it day and night, so that you may observe faithfully all that is written in it. Only then will you prosper in your undertakings and only then will you be successful.

הָלוֹא צְוִיתִיךָ מִסֵּךְ וְאֶמֶץ אֶל־מַעְרָץ וְאֶל־מַחֲוֹת כִּי עִמָּךְ יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ בְּכֹל אֲשֶׁר תֵּלֵךְ:

I charge you: **Be strong and resolute; do not be terrified or dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.**"

Questions for Discussion:

1. Why might Joshua need to hear this message from God at this time?
2. What might a dying person familiar with this passage hear in this verse?
3. How does this passage speak of both death and life, ending and continuity?
4. What metaphors or particular words resonate with you as powerful?
5. In what ways does this verse reinforce and/or add anything new to the whole tapestry of verses?

### For Further Study

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May God bless you and protect you. May the light of God's face shine upon you and be gracious to you. May God lift up God's face upon you and give you peace. (Num. 6: 24 – 26)

At your right hand, Michael; at your left hand, Gabriel; before you, Rafael; behind you, Uriel; and above your head, Shekhinah/the Divine Presence. (Siddur – Bedtime Shema Service)

The angel of Adonai encamps around those who are God-fearing and rescues them. (Psalm 34:8)

Be strong and take courage, and do not be terrified or dismayed, for Adonai your God is with you wherever you go. (Joshua 1:9)

Why so downcast, my soul, why disquieted within me? Have hope in God. I will yet praise Him, my ever-present help, my God. (Psalm 43:5)

As an eagle who rouses her nestlings, flutters over her young, spreads out her wings and takes them, bearing them on her pinions. (Deut. 32:11)

Awake, O north wind, Come O south wind! Blow upon my garden, that its perfume might spread. Let my beloved come to his garden and eat its precious fruits. (Song of Songs 4:16)

Open the gates, that the righteous people may enter, those who keep faith. (Isaiah 26:2)

God will guard you from all harm; God will guard your soul; God will guard your going out and your coming in, now and forever. (Psalm 121: 7 - 8)