

I wait for Your deliverance, O Hashem! (Bereishis 49:18) He prophesied that the Plishtim would put out his (Shimshon's) eyes, and that he would say (*Judges 16:28*) "*Remember me, I pray Thee, and strengthen me, I pray Thee, only this once etc.*" (Rashi)

The story Rashi refers to is recorded in Tanach as follows:

Then Shimshon called to Hashem, "O Hashem G-d! Please remember me, and give me strength just this once, O G-d, to take revenge of the Plishtim, if only for one of my two eyes." He embraced the two middle pillars that the temple rested upon, one with his right arm and one with his left, and leaned against them; Shimshon cried, "Let me die with the Plishtim!" and he pulled with all his might. The temple came crashing down on the lords and on all the people in it. Those who were slain by him as he died outnumbered those who had been slain by him when he lived.

Rashi in our passuk is explaining the words "I wait for Your deliverance, O Hashem!" as referring to Shimshon's plea that Hashem let him pull down the pillars of the temple upon him and all the Plishtim. This is hard to understand being that Shimshon was not asking Hashem that he be saved at all, rather that he die together with all the Plishtim. Perhaps we can explain this based on a deeper understanding of the tefillah, "I wait for Your deliverance, O Hashem" mentioned by Yakov in our passuk.

Dovid HaMelech uses a similar expression in his own tefillah to Hashem, "And I, in Your kindness have placed my trust, my heart rejoices in Your deliverance." (*Tehillim 13:4-6*) The *Medrash Socher Tov* points out that Dovid HaMelech did not say, "My heart rejoices in our salvation." Rather he said, "My heart rejoices in Your salvation." The medrash explains that in truth, when we are saved from calamity, it is as if Hashem Himself is being saved. Rav Chaim Volozhner explains, this is because whenever a Jew suffers, Hashem suffers with him, as the Mishna (Sanhedrin 6:5 regarding a rasha suffering his due punishment) states: "When a person suffers, Hashem says: My head hurts, My arm hurts. If this is how much Hashem is pained over the blood of reshaim that is spilled how much more so over the blood of tzadikim."

If the words "I wait for Your deliverance, O Hashem!" refers to Hashem's own deliverance being that "klal Yisroel's deliverance is His deliverance", then this tefillah can very seemly be referring to Shimshon's, when he prayed for the demise of all the Plishtim together with him, thereby saving klal Yisroel.

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