

After the reading of Megillas Esther we recite the piyut of Shoshanas Yaakov: *The rose of Yaakov thrilled with joy and exulted when they beheld Mordechai garbed in royal blue. You were their salvation forever, their hope in every generation, to make known that all who trust in You shall not be shamed, nor shall all those who place hope in You be disgraced forever.*

The question is asked: “You were” is past tense, therefore it should say, “You are their salvation forever.” Why does it instead say, “You were their salvation forever?” It seems that in Hashem’s salvation of Klal Yisroel in the story of Purim lies their salvation from every predicament until the end of time. How is this so?

The Rambam explains the reasoning behind the establishment of Purim as follows: The prophets with the assembly of Sages, enacted and commanded to read the Megillah in its proper time, in order to proclaim the praise of Hashem and the salvation that He brought about for us, and that He responded when we called out. (The mitzvah was created) in order that we should bless Him and praise Him and in order to make known to future generations that the promise made to us in the Torah – “For who is the great nation whose G-d is close to it like Hashem our G-d at any time that we call out to Him?” – is true... (Mishne Torah, Introduction) For in the story of Purim, the seforim write, Klal Yisroel’s annihilation was even decreed in Heaven above, and nevertheless the salvation was brought about through Bitachon, as the Medresh (Esther Rabah 9:1) describes the turning point in Klal Yisroel’s salvation, “Hashem turned to the pain of the yesomah (Esther) who had Bitachon in Him...”

The gift of the salvation of Purim is a gift that keeps on giving, being that it is the key to our salvation in every situation for all eternity. For it “makes known to future generations that the promise made to us in the Torah – ‘For who is the great nation whose G-d is close to it like Hashem, our G-d at any time that we call out to Him?’ – is true...!” This is the meaning behind the words of Shoshanas Yaakov: **“You were their salvation forever, their hope in every generation,”** for through Your salvation even then, You **“make known that all who trust in You shall not be shamed, nor shall all those who place hope in You be disgraced forever.”**

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