

# Mi Chamocha מִי כַמּוֹחָה

Introductory Prayers	<b>Sh'ma &amp; Its Blessings</b>	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" (חֵבֵר).



# Mi Chamocha מִי כַמּוֹחָה

Introductory Prayers

**Sh'ma & Its Blessings**

Amidah

Torah Service

Concluding Prayers

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 מי כמֹכָה בְּאֵלֶם יְיָ,

2 מי כמֹכָה נֶאֱדָר בְּקֹדֶשׁ,

3 נוֹרָא תְהִלָּת, עֲשֵׂה פֶלֶא.

**EVENING**

4 מְלָכוּתְךָ רָאוּ בְּנֵיךָ

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

5 בּוֹקֵעַ יָם

6 לִפְנֵי מֹשֶׁה (וּמִרְיָם),

7 זֶה אֱלֹהֵי עַנּוּ וְאָמְרוּ:

8 יְיָ יִמְלֹךְ לְעוֹלָם וָעֶד.

**MORNING**

4 שִׁירָה חֲדָשָׁה שִׁבְחוּ גְאוּלִּים

5 לְשִׁמְךָ עַל שִׁפְתֵי הַיָּם.

6 יַחַד כָּלֶם 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
--------	--------	------	------	--------------------	---------------

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

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

פְּלֵא?	עֲשֵׂה	תְּהִלָּת,	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
_____ children	saw	_____ power	

(וּמַרְיָם),	מֹשֶׁה	לְפָנַי	6	יָם	בּוֹקֵעַ	5
and _____,	_____	before		_____	split the	

וַאֲמָרוּ:	עָנוּ	אֵלַי	זֶה	7
saying:	we answered,	my _____,"	"This is	

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

### Word Bank

מַרְיָם	מֹשֶׁה	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
--------	--------	------	------	--------------------	-------------

שִׁירָה הַדְּשָׁה	שִׁבְחוֹ	גְּאוּלִּים	4
A new _____	praised	the redeemed ones	

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

יַחַד	כָּלָם	הוֹדוּ	וְהַמְלִיכוּ	וְאָמְרוּ:	7
Together	_____	gave thanks	_____ gave glorification,	saying:	

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

### Word Bank

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

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 Who is like You among the gods, Adonai?  
 2 Who is like You, great in holiness,  
 3 awe-inspiring in splendor, doing wonders?

### EVENING

- 4 Your children saw Your power  
 5 split the sea  
 6 before Moses (and Miriam),  
 7 "This is my God," we answered, saying:  
 8 Adonai will rule forever and ever!

### MORNING

- 4 A new song the redeemed ones praised  
 5 to Your name on the shore of the sea.  
 6 Together, everyone gave thanks  
 7 and gave glorification, saying:  
 8 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 Nachshon 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 בְּאֵלֶם יֵי,” 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 בְּאֵלֶם יֵי,

2 מִי כַמְכָה נֶאֱדָר בְּקֶדֶשׁ,

3 נֹרָא תִהְלֹת, עֲשֵׂה פֶלֶא.

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. טַבּוֹ):

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 נֶאֱדָר בִּקְדָשׁ,
- 3 נוֹרָא תְהִלָּתָהּ, עֲשֵׂה פֶלֶא.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★  
**EVENING** ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

- 4 מְלֻכּוֹתֶיךָ רָאוּ בְנֶיךָ
- 5 בּוֹקֵעַ יָם
- 6 לִפְנֵי מֹשֶׁה (וּמַרְיָם),
- 7 זֶה אֱלֹהֵינוּ וְאָמְרוּ:
- 8 יְיָ יִמְלֹךְ לְעוֹלָם וָעֶד.

 **MORNING**

- 4 שִׁירָה חֲדָשָׁה שִׁבְחוּ גְאוּלִים
- 5 לְשִׁמְךָ עַל שִׁפְתֵי הַיָּם.
- 6 יַחַד כָּלֵם 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

**S**hh, quiet your mind and take a moment to

**H**ear the world around you!

**M**ake the best of this second of silence:

**A**ny moment now, it will make us One.

### Sim Shalom

**S**end us peace, O Mighty God, whose

**I**nfinite wisdom guides us to

**M**ake peace possible wherever we go!

**S**ee the sunset over the

**H**ills, breathe the

**A**ir that lifts up the birds,

**L**augh with your sisters and brothers, and praise the

**O**ne whose everlasting love

**M**akes peace possible wherever we go!

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