

“O Give Thanks”: A Hebrew Prayer Lesson

When King David brought the Ark of the LORD into Jerusalem, he delivered a new psalm to Asaph, saying, “O give thanks unto the LORD, for He is good, for His mercy endures forever” (1 Chronicles 16:34). Those words are found again in Psalms 106:16, 107:1, 118:1, and 136:1.

Today it is a common practice to pray David’s words of thanksgiving after the meal blessing “Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest; let these gifts to us be blessed.” Following is a lesson for praying “O Give Thanks...” in Hebrew. (The underlined syllables receive greater stress.)

hoh-doo

give thanks

lah-doh-nai

to the LORD

kee-tohv

for [He is] good

kee

because

leh-oh-lahm

forever

hk*us-doh

[is] His mercy

(*“hk” is a heavy “h” sound pronounced while clearing the throat)

The words in Hebrew appear as follows. Note that Hebrew reads from right to left, so the sequence seems reversed to those familiar with English.

כִּי-טוֹב

for [He is] good

לַיהוָה

to the LORD

הוֹדוּ

give thanks

חַסְדּוֹ

[is] His mercy

לְעוֹלָם

forever

כִּי

because

To listen to an audio recording by Abraham Shmuelof, a native of Jerusalem who converted from Judaism to Christianity, visit www.hausvater.org/prayers.