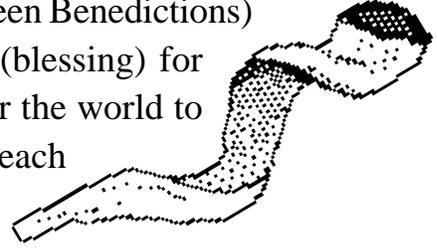


קִיבוּץ גְּלוֹת

“Gather the Exiles”

The Tenth Blessing of the Shemonei Esrei (Eighteen Benedictions) is known as “Gather the Exiles” and is a berachah (blessing) for G-d’s promise to bring back His people from all over the world to eventually reside in Israel, the Promised Land. Like each of the Benedictions, *Kibbutz Galiot* ends with a berachah to HaShem for who He is, and what He has promised to do:



Sound the great shofar for our liberty,
and raise a banner to gather our exiles,
and gather us together from the four corners of the earth.
Blessed are You, Adonai
Gatherer of the dispersed of His people Israel.

It is said for the Jewish people that no matter where we are going, we are heading toward Jerusalem. Our G-d has given us a Land, the Land of Israel, that is why we call it the Promised Land. But we have not always done what G-d has told us to do. Sometimes we have disobeyed Him, and even said that He is not our Master. We have worshipped false gods, and given honor to false gods, honor which should go only to Him.

Adonai told us through our Teacher, Moses, that if we disobeyed Him and would not turn from our sin, He would make us leave our wonderful Land, and put us in the land of our enemies. But He also promised us that wherever we are sent, if we pray to Him and ask for His forgiveness, then He would hear us and bring us back to our Land. Every time we pray this prayer, we are asking HaShem to “raise a banner” so that all of Israel, and those who have attached themselves to Israel to worship the One true G-d, would be gathered together in the Land of our Fathers.

In fact, the banner which G-d holds up for all of Israel to see, is a banner which asks us all to repent, or to be sorry for our sins and the way that we have turned away from G-d and worshipped false gods. He is waiting for us all to come to Him and seek forgiveness. When we all honestly come to HaShem and tell Him that we are sorry for not obeying Him—He has promised He will bring us back. And we know He will keep His word.

And He will lift up a
standard for the
nations, And will
assemble the banished
ones of Israel, And will
gather the
dispersed of Judah
From the four corners
of the earth.



Isaiah 11:12