

צְדִיקִים

Prayer for the Righteous

Following the 12th prayer (called the Minim which is against the unrighteous) the Shemonei Esrei includes the prayer for the righteous. This follows the pattern of Psalm 75:11,

“And all the horns of the wicked He will cut off,
But the horns of the righteous will be lifted up.”

In this verse, the word “horn” is used symbolically to refer to one’s strength or influence. Thus, the 13th benediction seeks G-d’s blessing upon the righteous, beginning with the teachers/leaders, and including all within the congregation. The prayer itself goes like this:

Upon the righteous, upon the pious,
upon the elders of Your people the House of Israel,
upon the remnant of their scholars(scribes),
upon the righteous foreigners (גֵּרֵי הַצְּדִקָּה)
and upon us,
may Your mercy be aroused,
Adonai our G-d.
Grant bountiful reward
to all who truly trust in Your Name;
and place our lot among them forever,
and may we not be put to shame,
for in You we have put our trust.
Blessed are You, Adonai,
Support and Trust of the righteous.

Thus, the 13th benediction is a general prayer asking for G-d’s blessings upon all those who trust in Him, and who therefore walk according to His ways. Note carefully that the benediction includes both native born Jews and those who have attached themselves to Israel via faith in G-d. This shows us that in the early Judaisms (when these prayers were being formalized) the presence of G-d fearing Gentiles within the congregation of Israel was a common thing.

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Psalm 75:11