

Rabbi's Reflections - Thursday, January 1, 2026
Shalom {{firstName}},

Rabbi Trail: I'm writing this on New Year's Eve, a holiday that does not exist in Judaism. In fact, the orthodox rabbis resist it like Christian pastors resist Halloween. In Israel (like in Europe) it is called "Sylvester." <https://germangirlinamerica.com/why-is-it-called-silvester-and-other-new-years-traditions-in-germany/> Anyway, Happy New Year everybody!

I want to ask you all to do something I've never asked before. During 2025 I sent more than 290,000 emails. Here's the ask... I would love for more people to have an opportunity to become familiar with the Jewish/Hebrew perspective of the Scriptures. Do you know anyone else who would? It is a wonderful thing to have your devotional life enhanced. Reading a daily devotional is a great spiritual discipline (as you know). Here is the link to invite people to sign up. syknox.org then scroll down to the very bottom where it says, "subscribe." There, "that was easy!" Blessings for a great 2026! End RT.

Psalms **Psalm 42:10(9),11(10) – Part 7**

Psalm 42:10(9) I will say to God my Rock: "Why have You forgotten me? Why do I go about mourning, under the oppression of the enemy?" 11(10) As with a crushing in my bones, my adversaries taunt me, by saying to me all day, "Where is your God?"

The previous verse (Psalm 42:9) ended with these three Hebrew words, "T'filah L'EL Chayai," meaning "a prayer to the God of my life." Our two verses today are that prayer. Sadly, that prayer is a series of complaints. Life does have its ups and downs. The blessed assurance from God is that He will be with us through the storms of life.

Psalm 46:2(1b) God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.

Here is a link to Psalm 46:2 put to music in Hebrew... <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Doo-4ujBnuc>

Once again we turn to Isaiah who prophesied the truth... **Isaiah 43:2 When you pass through the waters, I will be with you, or through the rivers, they will not overflow you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned, nor will the flame burn you. 3a For I am Adonai your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.**

We will see tomorrow that David ends Psalm 42 similarly with positive and encouraging declarations. Shalom shalom.

Daily Bread, reading plan by Lars Enarson (<https://www.thewatchman.org/>)

Thu 1-Jan-2026 12th of Tevet, 5786

Ge 49:19-26 2 Sa 17 Ps 89 Lk 11:1-28 (2 Co 12)