

## **The Psalm Project**

*Discovering the Spiritual World through the Psalms*

Psalm 63

Rev. Dr. Michael Harvey Koplitz

**The Goal of this project:**

This research project will examine the 150 psalms for the spiritual awareness each Psalm offers. Each Psalm will be examined by its language and the commentary of the Sages. The spiritual awareness analysis will be done in alignment with Ari's definition of the Tree of life, the Book of Creation, and the Zohar. Each verse of the Psalm will be rewritten using the intent of the language and spiritual commentary to convey its spiritual lesson.

**The Main Resources:**

The Zohar

The Book of Creation

Ari's writing on the Tree of Life and the Ten Sefirot

The Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament

Samson Hirsch's commentary on the Psalms

Tehillim – Psalms – A new translation with a commentary anthologized from the Talmudic and rabbinic sources

Accordance Bible Software

Psalm 63

New American Standard 1995	Hebrew
<p><b>Psa. 63:0</b> A Psalm of David, †when he was in the wilderness of Judah.</p>	<p>Psa. 63:1 מִזְמוֹר לְדָוִד בְּהִיּוֹתוֹ</p>
<p><b>Psa. 63:1</b> O God, “You are my God; I shall seek You <sup>1</sup>earnestly;</p>	<p>בְּמִדְבָּר יְהוּדָה : 2 אֱלֹהִים  </p>
<p>My soul <sup>b</sup>thirsts for You, my flesh <sup>2</sup>yearns for You,</p>	<p>אֵלֵי אַתָּה אֶשְׁתַּחֲוֶה צְמֵאָה לְךָ  </p>
<p>In a ‘dry and weary land where there is no water.</p>	<p>נַפְשִׁי כָמָה לְךָ בְּשָׂרִי בְּאֶרֶץ-</p>
<p><sup>2</sup> Thus I have “seen You in the Sanctuary,</p>	<p>צְיָה וְעַיִן בְּלֵי-מַיִם : 3 בֵּן</p>
<p>To see Your power and Your glory.</p>	<p>בַּקֶּדֶשׁ חֲזִיתִיךָ לְרֵאוֹת עֵינֶיךָ</p>
<p><sup>3</sup> Because Your “lovingkindness is better than life,</p>	<p>וּכְבוֹדֶךָ : 4 כִּי-טוֹב חֲסִדֶךָ</p>
<p>My lips will praise You.</p>	<p>מִחַיִּים שְׂפָתַי יִשְׁבַּחֶינֶךָ : 5 כֵּן</p>
<p><sup>4</sup> So I will bless You “as long as I live; I will <sup>b</sup>lift up my hands in Your name.</p>	<p>אֲבָרְכֶךָ בְּחַיֵּי בְּשִׁמְךָ אֲשָׂא</p>
<p><sup>5</sup> My soul is “satisfied as with <sup>1</sup>marrow and fatness,</p>	<p>כַּפִּי : 6 כָּמוֹ חֶלֶב וְדֹשֵׁן תִּשְׂבַּע</p>
<p>And my mouth offers <sup>b</sup>praises with joyful lips.</p>	<p>נַפְשִׁי וְשִׁבְתִּי רִנְנוֹת יְהוָה-לִּי : 7</p>
<p><b>Psa. 63:6</b> When I remember You “on my bed,</p>	<p>אִם-זְכַרְתִּיךָ עַל-יְצוּעַי</p>
<p>I meditate on You in the <sup>b</sup>night watches,</p>	<p>בְּאֲשֵׁמֹרוֹת אֶתְהַנֶּה-בְּךָ : 8 כִּי-</p>
<p><sup>7</sup> For “You have been my help, And in the <sup>b</sup>shadow of Your wings I sing for joy.</p>	<p>תֵּינִת עֲזָרְתָּה לִּי וּבִצֵּל כְּנָפֶיךָ</p>
<p><sup>8</sup> My soul “clings <sup>1</sup>to You; Your <sup>b</sup>right hand upholds me.</p>	<p>אֶרְנֵן : 9 דָּבַקְתָּ נַפְשִׁי אֶחְרִיךָ</p>
<p><b>Psa. 63:9</b> But those who “seek my <sup>1</sup>life to destroy it,</p>	<p>כִּי תִמְכָּה יְמִינֶךָ : 10 וְהִמָּה</p>
	<p>לְשׂוֹאֵה יִבְקְשׁוּ נַפְשִׁי יָבֹאוּ</p>
	<p>בְּתַחְתֵּיּוֹת תְּאָרֶץ : 11 וַיִּגִּירָהוּ</p>
	<p>עַל-יְדֵי-חֶרֶב מִנֶּת שֶׁעֲלִים</p>
	<p>יִהְיוּ : 12 וְהִמְלִיךָ יִשְׁמַח בְּאֱלֹהִים</p>
	<p>יִתְהַלֵּל כָּל-הַנִּשְׂבַּע בּוֹ כִּי</p>
	<p>יִסְכַּר פִּי דוֹבְרֵי-שָׁקֶר :</p>

<p>Will go into the <sup>2b</sup>depths of the earth.</p> <p><sup>10</sup> <sup>1</sup>They will be <sup>2a</sup>delivered over to the power of the sword; They will be a <sup>3b</sup>prey for foxes.</p> <p><sup>11</sup> But the <sup>a</sup>king will rejoice in God; Everyone who <sup>b</sup>swears by Him will glory, For the <sup>c</sup>mouths of those who speak lies will be stopped.</p>	
--	--

## References

### **Psalm 63:0**

<sup>1</sup>1 Sam 22:5; 23:14

### **Psalm 63:1**

<sup>1</sup>Lit *early*

<sup>2</sup>Lit *faints*

<sup>a</sup>Ps 118:28

<sup>b</sup>Ps 42:2; 84:2; Matt 5:6

<sup>c</sup>Ps 143:6

### **Psalm 63:2**

<sup>a</sup>Ps 27:4

### **Psalm 63:3**

<sup>a</sup>Ps 69:16

### **Psalm 63:4**

<sup>a</sup>Ps 104:33; 146:2

<sup>b</sup>Ps 28:2; 143:6

### **Psalm 63:5**

<sup>1</sup>Lit *fat*

<sup>a</sup>Ps 36:8

<sup>b</sup>Ps 71:23

### **Psalm 63:6**

<sup>a</sup>Ps 4:4

<sup>b</sup>Ps 16:7; 42:8; 119:55

### **Psalm 63:7**

<sup>a</sup>Ps 27:9

<sup>b</sup>Ps 17:8

**Psalm 63:8**

<sup>1</sup>Lit *after*

<sup>a</sup>Num 32:12; Deut 1:36; Hos 6:3

<sup>b</sup>Ps 18:35; 41:12

**Psalm 63:9**

<sup>1</sup>Lit *soul*

<sup>2</sup>Lit *lowest places*

<sup>a</sup>Ps 40:14

<sup>b</sup>Ps 55:15

**Psalm 63:10**

<sup>1</sup>Lit *They will pour him out*

<sup>2</sup>Lit *poured out by*

<sup>3</sup>Lit *portion*

<sup>a</sup>Jer 18:21; Ezek 35:5

<sup>b</sup>Lam 5:18

**Psalm 63:11**

<sup>a</sup>Ps 21:1

<sup>b</sup>Deut 6:13; Is 45:23; 65:16

<sup>c</sup>Job 5:16; Ps 107:42; Rom 3:19

## Targum

**Psa. 63:1** A psalm of David, when he was in the wilderness in the territory of the tribe of Judah. <sup>2</sup> O God, you are my strength; I will arise in the morning in your presence; my soul thirsts for you, my flesh yearns for you, in a barren and weary land, without water. <sup>3</sup> Thus I have seen you in the holy place; purify me to see your strength and your glory. <sup>4</sup> For better is the favor that you show to the righteous in the age to come than the life you have given to the wicked in this age; therefore my lips will praise you. <sup>5</sup> Thus will I bless you in my life in this age; in the name of your word I will spread my hands in prayer in the age to come. <sup>6</sup> My soul will be satisfied as with fat and oil, and my mouth shall sing [with] lips of praise. <sup>7</sup> If I have remembered you on my bed, in the night-watch I will meditate on your word. <sup>8</sup> For you were a helper to me, and in the shade of your presence I will be glad. <sup>9</sup> My soul has followed close behind your Torah; your right hand has supported me. <sup>10</sup> But they will seek my soul for the grave; they will enter the lowest part of the earth. <sup>11</sup> They will fear him on account of the blow of the sword; they will be the portion of jackals. <sup>12</sup> And the king will rejoice in the word of God; all who swear by his word will sing praise, for the mouth of those who speak deceit will be stifled.

## Spiritual Awareness

### Introduction

David discloses his spiritual thirst while in the wilderness, pursued by Saul's men trying to kill him. He built a fortress of faith that shielded him from what was happening outside his hiding place.

### Verse one

David came to realize that the LORD is not impersonal. The LORD wants a relationship with all the souls on the earth.

**O God, You are my God; at early dawn will I seek You. My soul thirsts for You, my flesh longs for You in the barren land, and it grows faith without water.**

### Verses two & three

David developed a kind of spiritual perception of the heart rather than that of the eye. The LORD cannot be seen. However, the presence of the LORD through the Shekinah can be sensed. During David's isolation, his spirit could feel the presence of the LORD with him.

**Thus I have perceived You in the Sanctuary to see Your invincible power and glory.**

**The mercy and love from the Sefirah Chesed are better than life; thus, my lips were wont to praise you.**

Verse four

**בְּשֵׁםְךָ אֲשֶׁן כַּפָּי** (b'sheem'cha asa kafa) – “lift up my hands in your Name.” This phrase references the palm of the hand that is bent and about to close to grasp an object. A hand in this position, but empty, raised to God, symbolizes a plea to Him to supply us with what we lack.

**So will I also bless You now through my life; in Your Name shall I lift up my hands.**

Verse five

When David connected with the LORD, his spiritual thirst was satisfied.

**Then my soul shall be satisfied as with fat and marrow, and my mouth will praise Your mighty acts with joyous lips.**

Verses six & seven

David said that he felt the LORD's presence through the Shekinah while on a couch, which was most likely in the palace. He could feel the LORD's presence while in the cave.

**While [in days past] I remembered You upon my couch, I will now meditate upon You during night watches.**

**For You have been my help, and in the shadow of Your wings will I joyfully sing.**

Verse eight

**My soul cleaves after You; Your right hand has held me fast.**

Verse nine

Saul's men chased David into the Judean wilderness, and they believed that they would capture and kill David.

**But they seek my soul to destroy it; it shall go into the nethermost depths of the earth.**

Verse ten

**They who would have let it be spent by the sword shall be the prey of foxes.**

Verse eleven

Even with Saul's men chasing him, David still paid homage to his king. He was sincere in his thoughts about King Saul.

**But let the king rejoice in God, let anyone that swears by him glory; for the mouths of them that utter lies shall fall silent.**

## Complete Psalm Rewrite Emphasizing Spiritual Awareness

O God, You are my God; at early dawn will I seek You. My soul thirsts for You, my flesh longs for You in the barren land, and it grows faint without water.

Thus I have perceived You in the Sanctuary to see Your invincible power and glory.

The mercy and love from the Sefirah Chesed are better than life; thus, my lips were wont to praise you.

So will I also bless You now through my life; in Your Name shall I lift up my hands.

Then my soul shall be satisfied as with fat and marrow, and my mouth will praise Your mighty acts with joyous lips.

While [in days past] I remembered You upon my couch, I will now meditate upon You during night watches.

For You have been my help, and in the shadow of Your wings will I joyfully sing.

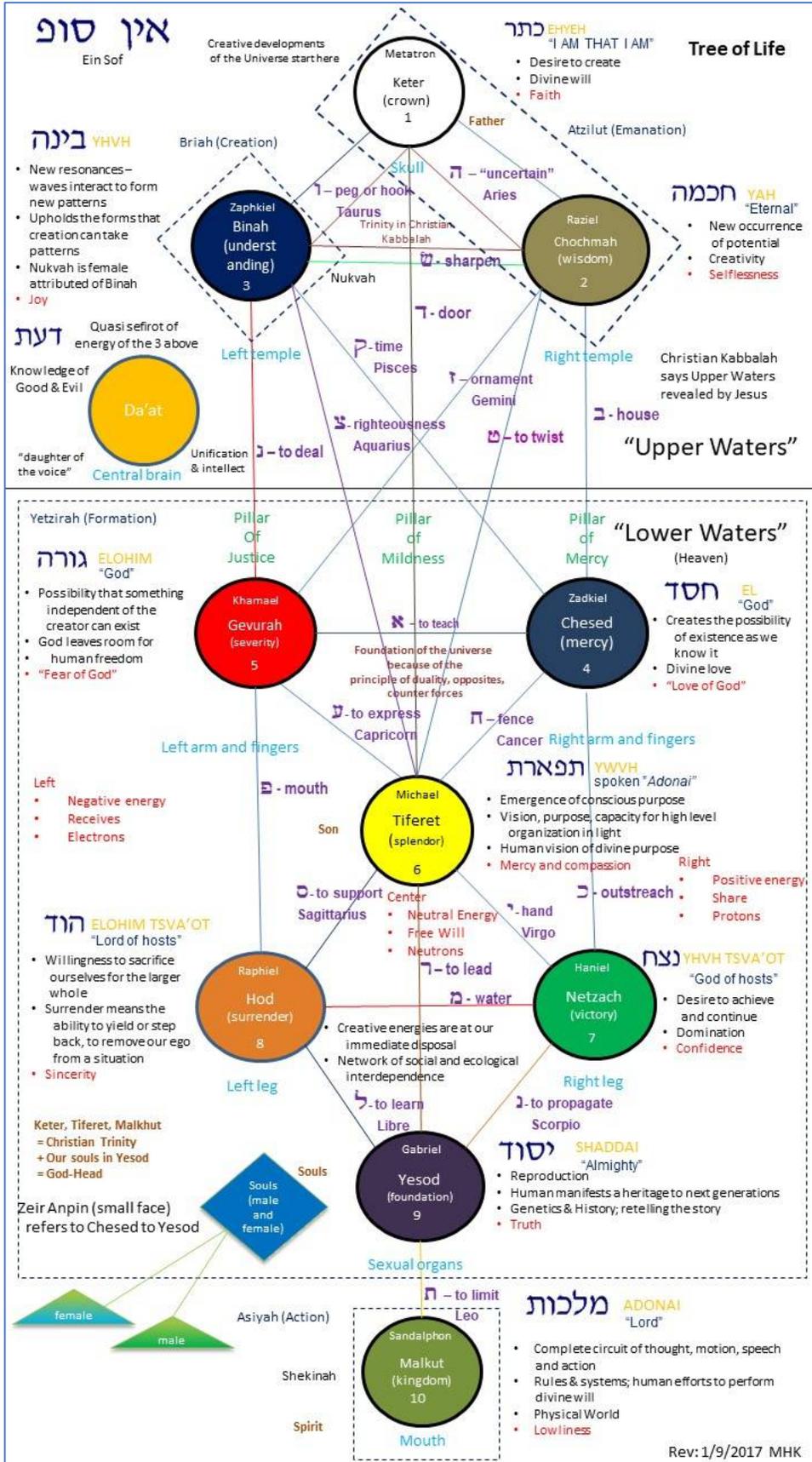
My soul cleaves after You; Your right hand has held me fast.

But they seek my soul to destroy it; it shall go into the nethermost depths of the earth.

They who would have let it be spent by the sword shall be the prey of foxes.

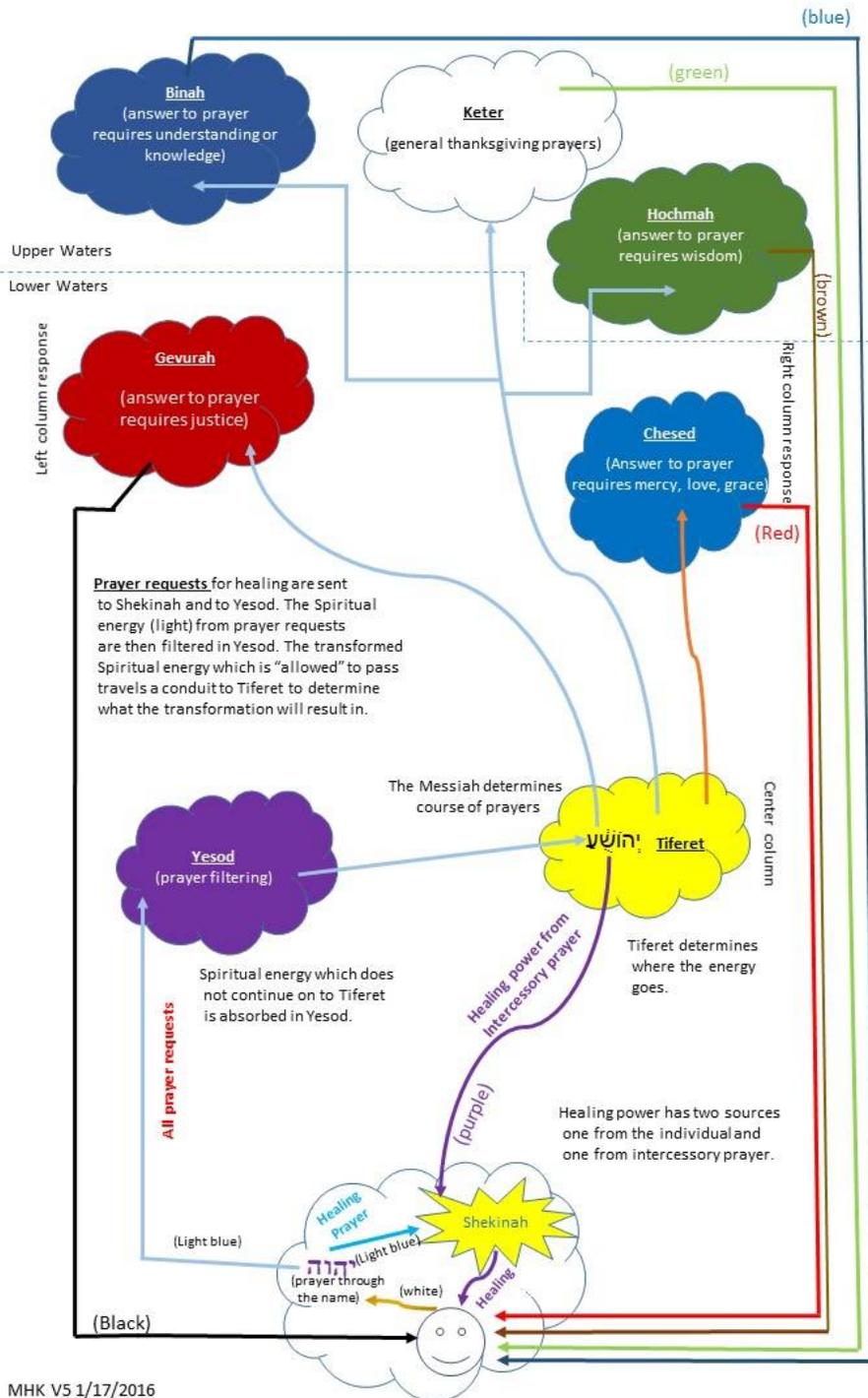
But let the king rejoice in God, let anyone that swears by him glory; for the mouths of them that utter lies shall fall silent.

## Appendix



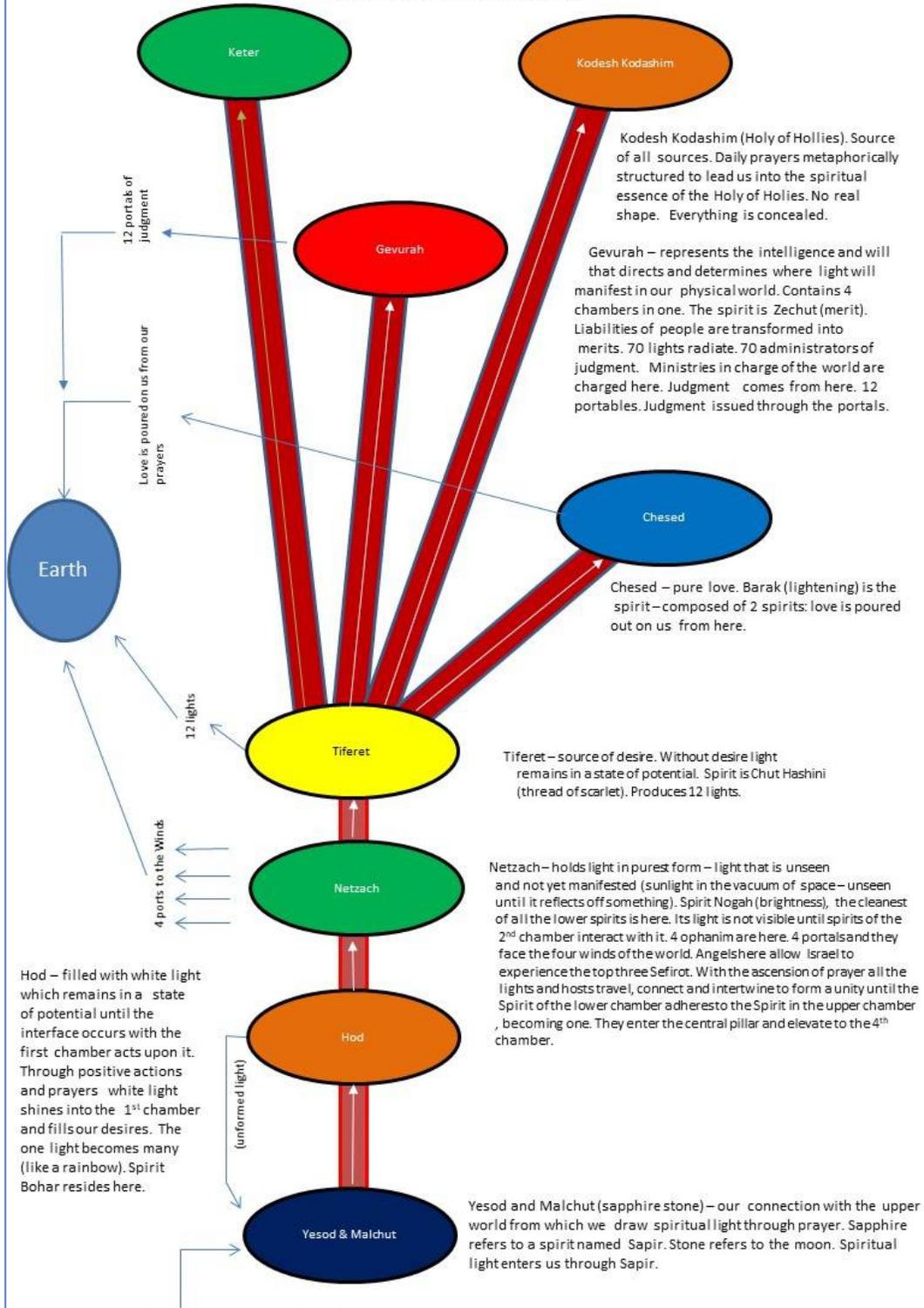
# Mystical Methodology to Prayer

All prayers result in spiritual energy which rises through the conduits that connect Sefirot realms. The "answer" to prayers is the transformation of spiritual energy from its original frequency to an appropriate frequency which will give the necessary results.



# Chambers of Aba and Ima of Briyah

Keter: prayers of thanksgiving come



MHK V1.1 6/23/14

