

עֲלֵינוּ

Checklist:

- Reading: read *aleinu* without error
- Comprehension: Answer the questions in full, well thought out sentences
- Vocabulary: Do the root words exercises.

When you have completed the checklist, ask your teacher to test you to see if you are ready to move on to the next prayer.

Aleinu

עֲלֵינוּ לְשַׁבַּח לְאֲדוֹן הַכֹּל לְתַת גְּדֻלָּהּ לְיוֹצֵר בְּרֵאשִׁית
וְשֵׁלָא עֲשָׂנוּ כְּגוֹיֵי הָאָרְצוֹת וְלֹא שָׁמְנוּ כְּמִשְׁפָּחוֹת הָאֲדָמָה
וְשֵׁלָא שָׂם חֻלְקֵנוּ כְּהֵם וְגִרְלָנוּ כְּכֹל-הַמּוֹנִם
וְאַנְחָנוּ כּוֹרְעִים וּמְשַׁתַּחֲוִים וּמוֹדִים לְפָנֵי מְלֶךְ מַלְכֵי הַמְּלָכִים
הַקְּדוֹשׁ בְּרוּךְ הוּא

It is our obligation to praise the Sovereign of the universe, and proclaim the greatness of the Creator who has set us apart from the other families of the earth, giving us a destiny unique among the nations. We bend the knee and bow, acknowledging the supreme Sovereign, the Holy One of Blessing.

וְנֹאמַר וְהָיָה יְיָ לְמֶלֶךְ עַל כָּל הָאָרֶץ. בַּיּוֹם הַהוּא יְהִיָּה יְיָ אֶחָד
וְשֵׁמוֹ אֶחָד

Thus it has been said, Adonai will be Sovereign over all the earth. On that day, Adonai will be one, and God's Name will be one.

Comprehension

What are we thanking God for in this prayer? Do you find that problematic at all?

This prayer says it is our obligation to praise God. We also have obligations to our families, to our friends, and to ourselves. List one obligation you have to each of those categories of people (God, family, friends, self). Is any one of those categories different from the others?

Read the last line in English. Do you believe God will one day be sovereign over the whole Earth? What would that look like? Would you like that?

Vocabulary

Other people from other religions have called their gods “rulers of rulers.” In this prayer we called God the “ruler of the rulers of rulers.” Find the 3 word Hebrew phrase meaning “ruler of the rulers of rulers” in the prayer and write it here (hint – all 3 words will have the same Hebrew root).

There are two different words for bowing in this prayer, כּוֹרְעִים and

מִשְׁתַּחֲוִים. What do you think are the two different parts of bowing and why do you think both words appear here?

You’ve learned before what the Hebrew suffix —נִי means. What does it mean? How many times do you find it in the prayer – underline each one. What do you think it means about the prayer that so many words have that suffix?