

A Song of David

Each of the two psalms recited as the Torah is carried around the congregation (one on Shabbat, one on weekdays) begins with the same Hebrew words—but in a different order. Psalm 24 begins לְדָוִד מְזִמּוֹר, literally “to David a psalm,” and Psalm 29 begins מְזִמּוֹר לְדָוִד, “a psalm to David.” The Midrash comments on this difference, saying that sometimes David would be so inspired that he immediately began writing, but at other times he had to struggle to find inspiration.