

# Maoz Tzur: Rock of Ages

Singing Translation by Rabbi Zalman Schachter-Shalomi

ב

My salvation's stronghold, fort, praising You is such delight.  
Build your House of Prayer, Lord, cleansed from idols after fight.  
You came to our assistance when we gave resistance.  
Then we sang a hymn of thanks for your aid's persistence.

ג

Ramparts, pyramids and forts Egypt had us build for them.  
We found no justice in their courts when they drowned our children.  
With grace beyond all measure, You redeemed Your treasure.  
You split the sea to help us flee, now *Pesach* is our pleasure.

ד

Dear to us Your Temple was, still we could not tarry there.  
Babylon's superior mass exiled us we knew not where.  
We drank that poisonous potion, were moved in that commotion.  
When we turned we were not spurned, but gave You our devotion.

ה

Keen was Haman's hate for us when he was in power.  
He vowed slaughter, death to us expecting us to cower.  
To pride, he kept clinging, despite brave Esther's singing.  
On that tree meant for me, Haman wound up swinging.

ו

Ionian, Hellenist and Greek did defile our holy place.  
God did aid the faithful meek who gave the enemy the chase.  
Then they found new meaning when they found in cleaning.  
In their toil some pure oil, Hanukkah's beginning.

ז

Holy aid extend to us and bring our planet's healing near.  
When Your foes oppress the earth, give all life compassion's ear.  
In oil-addiction dour, at our darkest hour,  
Bless the sun and everyone, make Messiah flower.

(NOTE: This version includes Rabbi Arthur Waskow's recommendations and revisions.)