

## Malchuyot: “Under God”

### 1) The Pledge of Allegiance - August 1892, Francis Bellamy (1855-1931)

"I pledge allegiance to my Flag and the Republic for which it stands, one nation, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

"I pledge allegiance to **the flag of the United States of America**, and to the republic for which it stands, one nation **under God**, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

### 2) The Koren Sacks Rosh HaShana Mahzor, p. 588-591

The idea of God as Supreme King entails that no human ruler or government has absolute authority. Every nation is “under God,” meaning that God’s command establishes the moral limits of power...Without the constraint of the idea that above all human kings is the Divine King, all power tends to corrupt, and absolute power corrupts absolutely.

### 3) Esther 3:2

All the king’s courtiers in the palace gate knelt and bowed low to Haman, for such was the king’s order concerning him; but Mordecai would not kneel or bow low.

וְכָל עַבְדֵי הַמֶּלֶךְ אֲשֶׁר בְּשַׁעַר הַמֶּלֶךְ פָּרְעִים  
וּמִשְׁתַּחֲוִים לְהֵמֶן כִּי כֹן צִוָּה לוֹ הַמֶּלֶךְ וּמֶרְדֵּכַי לֹא  
יִכְרַע וְלֹא יִשְׁתַּחֲוֶה.

### 4) Rashi on Esther 3:2

**Kneeled and prostrated themselves.** Because he made himself as a god; therefore, “but Mordechai would neither kneel nor prostrate himself.”

פָּרְעִים וּמִשְׁתַּחֲוִים. שָׁעָשָׂה עֲצֻמוֹ אֱלֹהִים, לְפִיכָךְ,  
וּמֶרְדֵּכַי לֹא יִכְרַע וְלֹא יִשְׁתַּחֲוֶה:

### 5) Babylonian Talmud Rosh Hashanah 32a

The Gemara asks: **These ten** verses of **Kingship, to what do they correspond?** **Rabbi Yehuda HaNasi said:** They correspond to the ten praises that David said in the book of Psalms. The Gemara asks: **There are many** more praises than that in the book of Psalms. The Gemara answers that he means **those in which it is written by them: “Praise Him with the blast of the shofar”** (Psalms 150:3). In that chapter the phrase “Praise Him” appears ten times.

הֲנִי עֹשֶׂרָה מַלְכוּת פְּנִינָה מִי אָמַר רַבִּי פְּנִינָה עֹשֶׂרָה  
הַלְלוּיִם שְׁאָמַר דָּוִד בְּסִפְרֵי תְהִלִּים הַלְלוּיִם טוֹבָא הוּוּ  
הַנֶּךְ דְּכִתִּיב בְּהוּ הַלְלוּהוּ בְתַקְעָ שׁוֹפָר