**10 Fun Facts about Yishtabach**

1. *Yishtabach* is the gateway prayer from *Pesukei D’Zimra* into the *Shema* section of the morning prayers. This symbolizes the gateway going from the waiting room of the King’s palace into the throne room.
2. Even though it is a blessing, it does not start with the word *Boruch* because it is the second part of the blessing that began with *Boruch She’Omar.*
3. First letters of the words in the opening sentence spells “Shlomo”. Some attribute *Yishtabach’s* origin to Shlomo HaMelech.
4. During *Yishtabach* one should feel like he is about to enter into the sanctuary of the king. Therefore we find three times the combination of the words *Eil* (Master of the World)and Melech (King of the World).
5. The highlight of *Yishtabach* is the 15 terms of praise to Hashem. This number 15 represents the 15 steps to the Beis Hamikdash.
6. 15 is also the number of generations from Avraham, the father of the Jewish people until Shlomo, who built the Beit Hamikdash, a symbolism of the Jewish people’s maturity.
7. There are also 15 chapters of Psalms that begin with the word Shir Hamaalot, 15 steps in the Pesach Seder, and 15 lines in Dayeinu.
8. The number 15 is made up of the letters *Yud* (10) and *Hey* (5) which spell Yah ( י-ה), the name of Hashem/the Shechina. The number 10 represents completion and holiness (10 Commandments,10 needed for a minyan). 5 represents the ability to receive, grasp and hold onto that holiness (5 fingers, 5 Books of Torah). Many Hebrew verbs for physical pleasure contain the letters *Yud* and *Hey*.
9. The source of these terms of praise are from a Midrash describing the emotions of the Jewish nation when they were crossing the Yam Suf (Sea of reeds) after leaving Mitzrayim.
10. Yishtabach ends “He who chooses songs of praise, King and Living God of the world”. The term Living God, Eil Chei, is also found in Psalms (42:3) in the verse “My soul thirsts for Hashem, the living God.” and is also alluded to in the Torah (Devarim 4:4) “You who cleave to Hashem are alive”. The meaning behind this name is that it is through our relationship with Hashem that a person maintains his passion, vitality and zest for life.