

✓ "One time," said Rav Chaim, "when the security situation in Eretz Yisrael was precarious, I told a person to pray for salvation. He asked me, 'Can the *tefillah* of an individual really help to protect the whole community?'"

"I showed him a Midrash [Aggadas Bereishis §44] which relates that during a drought, R' Yehudah HaNasi decreed a public fast

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day for everyone to pray for rain. Everyone in the community prayed for rain, with the exception of one elderly woman, who had just fashioned an oven out of clay and was waiting for it to dry. She prayed that it not rain until her oven dried. Hashem listened to the woman, and it did not rain until her oven dried. We see from here that at times, the prayer of a single person can be more powerful than the prayers of an entire community."

