Reliving the Yom Kippur Temple Service Today, Part III Confessing (Vidduy) and Forgiving (Mechilah) on Yom Kippur – In Temple Times and Today

R. Dr. Shlomo Zuckier

Part I: Vidduy and Yom Kippur – Then and Now

1. Leviticus 16, Aharei Mot

1 YKWK spoke to Moses after the death of the two sons of Aaron who died when they drew too close to the presence of YKWK. YKWK said to Moses: Tell your brother Aaron that he is not to come at will into the Shrine behind the curtain, in front of the cover that is upon the ark, lest he die; for I appear in the cloud over the cover. Thus only shall Aaron enter the Shrine: with a bull of the herd for a sin offering and a ram for a burnt offering.—

He shall be dressed in a sacral linen tunic, with linen breeches next to his flesh, and be girt with a linen sash, and he shall wear a linen turban. They are sacral vestments; he shall bathe his body in water and then put them on.—

5 And from the Israelite community he shall take two he-goats for a sin offering and a ram for a burnt offering.

Aaron is to offer his own bull of sin offering, to make expiation for himself and for his household.

Aaron shall take the two he-goats and let them stand before YKWK at the entrance of the Tent of Meeting;

and he shall place lots upon the two goats, one marked for YKWK and the other marked for Azazel.

Aaron shall bring forward the goat designated by lot for YKWK, which he is to offer as a sin offering;

10 while the goat designated by lot for Azazel shall be left standing alive before YKWK, to make expiation with it and to send it off to the wilderness for Azazel.

Aaron shall then offer his bull of sin offering, to make expiation for himself and his household. He shall slaughter his bull of sin offering, and he shall take a panful of glowing coals scooped from the altar before YKWK, and two handfuls of finely ground aromatic incense, and bring this behind the curtain.

He shall put the incense on the fire before YKWK, so that the cloud from the incense screens the cover that is over [the Ark of] the Pact, lest he die.

He shall take some of the blood of the bull and sprinkle it with his finger over the cover on the east side; and in front of the cover he shall sprinkle some of the blood with his finger seven times.

15 He shall then slaughter the people's goat of sin offering, bring its blood behind the curtain, and do with its blood as he has done with

blood behind the curtain, and do with its blood as he has done with the blood of the bull: he shall sprinkle it over the cover and in front of the cover.

Thus he shall purge the Shrine of the impurity and transgression of the Israelites, whatever their sins; and he shall do the same for the

1. ויקרא פרק טז, פרשת אחרי מות

- (א) וִיְדַבֶּר יְלְנָלְ אֶל־מֹשֶׁה אַחֲרֵי מוֹת שְׁנֵי בְּנֵי אַהֲרֵו בְּקַרְבָתָם לִפְנִי־יִלְנָץ וַיָּמֶתוּ:
- (ב) וַיּאמֶר יְּקֹנְק אֶל־מֹשֶׁה דַּבֵּר אֶל־אַהָרָן אָחִידְּ וְאַל־יָבָא בְכָל־עֵת אֶל־הַקְּדֶשׁ מִבֵּית לַפָּרֶכֶת אֶל־ פְּנֵּי הַכַּפֹּרֶת אֲשֶׁר עַל־הָאָרֹן וְלָא יָמֹוּת כִּי בֶּעָנָן אַרָאָה עַל־הַכַּפְּרָת:
 - (ג) בְּזָאת יָבָא אַהַרָן אֶל־הַקֶּדֶשׁ בְּפַר בֶּן־בָּקֶר לְחַטֵּאת וָאֵיִל לִעֹלָה:
- ר) בְּתְּנֶת בַּּד לְדֶשׁ יִלְבָּשׁ וּמְכְנְסִי־בַדּ יִהְוָוּ עַל־בְּשְׁרוֹ וּבְאַבְנֵט בַּדֹ יִחְנֶּר וּבְמִצְנֶפֶת בַּד יִצְגָּף בְּשָׁרוֹ וּבְאַבְנֵט בַּדֹ יַחְגֹּר וּבְמִצְנֶפֶת בַּד יִצְגָּף בִּגְדִי־לְדָשׁ הַּם וְרָתַץ בַּמֵּיִם אֶת־בְּשָׁרָוֹ וּלְבַשֶּם:
 - (ה) וּמֵאֵת עֲדַת בְּנֵי יִשְׁרָאֵׁל יֵקֶּח שְׁנֵי־שְׁעִירֵי עִזָּים לְחַשָּאת וָאַיִל אָחָד לְעֹלֵה:

(וֹ) וְהַקֶּרִיב אַהֲרָוֹ אֶת־פֶּר הַחַּשְּׁאת אֲשֶׁר־לְוֹ וְכָפֵּר בַּעַדִוֹ וּבָעֵד בִּיתִוֹ:

- (ז) וְלָקָח אֶת־שְׁנֵי הַשְּׁעִירֶם וְהֶעֲמֶיד אֹתָם ׁ לְפְנֵי יִקֹּלֵק פַּתַח אָהַל מוֹעֵד:
- (ח) וְנָתַן אַהָּלוֹ עַל־שָׁנֵי הַשְּׁעִירֶם גֹּרָלְוֹת גּוֹרֶלאַחַד לִילְוֹק וגוֹרֵל אַחָד לעַזָאזַל:
 - (ט) וְהַקָּרִיב אַהָּרֹן אֶת־הַשְּׁעִּׁיר אֲשָׁׁר עָלֵה עָלֵיו הַגּוֹרָל לִילְוֶק וְעָשָׂהוּ חַשְּאת:
 - (י) וְהַשָּׁעִּיר אֲשֶׁר ּ עָלָה עָלֶיו הגּוֹרָל ֹלְעָזָאוֹל יֵצֶמד־תִי לֹפְגֵי יְלֹוָק לְכַפֵּר עָלֵיו לְשׁלַּח אֹתוֹ לַעַזְאוֹל הַמִּרְבָּרָה:

(יא) וְהַקְּרִיב אַהַרֹן אֶת־פֵּר הַחַטָּאתֹ אֲשֶׁר־לוֹ וְכָבֶּר בְּעַדוֹ וּבְעַד בֵּיתֵוֹ וְשָׁחֵט אֶת־פַּר הַחַטָּאת אשר־לו:

- (יב) וְלָקֵח מְלֹא־נְּמְחְתָּה גְּחָלִי־אֵשׁ מַעֻל הַמִּזְבֵּחׁ מִלֹּפְגֵי יְלֹּוָק וּמְלֹא חָפְנִיו קְטָׁרֶת סִמִּים דָּקָה וָהָבִיא מִבֵּית לַפָּרְכֶת:
- (יג) וְנָתַן אֶת־הַקְּטֶּרֶת עַל־הָאֵשׁ לִּבְנֵי יְלֹנֻקְ וְכָפָהו עָנָן הַקְּטֹׁרֶת אֶת־הַכַּפָּׂרֶת אֲשֶׁר עַל־הָעֵדְוּת וִלְאֹ יָמִוּת:
 - (יד) וְלָקחֹ מִדָּם הַפֶּׁר וְהִזְּה בְּאֶצְבֶּעוֹ עַל־פְּגֵי הַכַּפְּׁרֶת קֻדְמָה וְלֹפְגֵי הַכַּפְּׁרֶת יַזָּה שֶׁבַע־פְּעָמֵים מְן־הַדָּם בְּאַצְבַּעוֹ:
- (טו) וְשָׁחֵּט אֶת־שְׁעִיר הָחַטָּאת אֲשֶׁר לָעָּׁם וְהַבִּיאֹ אֶת־דָּמֹוֹ אֶל־מִבֵּית לַפָּרְכֶת וְעָשֵׂה אֶת־ דָמֹוֹ כַּאֲשֶׁר עָשָׂה לְדַם הַפָּּר וְהַגָּה אֹתָוֹ עַל־ הַכּפֹּרָת וִלִּפִנִי הַכִּפֹּרָת:

Tent of Meeting, which abides with them in the midst of their impurity.

When he goes in to make expiation in the Shrine, nobody else shall be in the Tent of Meeting until he comes out. When he has made expiation for himself and his household, and for the whole congregation of Israel,

he shall go out to the altar that is before YKWK and purge it: he shall take some of the blood of the bull and of the goat and apply it to each of the horns of the altar;

and the rest of the blood he shall sprinkle on it with his finger seven times. Thus he shall purify it of the defilement of the Israelites and consecrate it.

20 When he has finished purging the Shrine, the Tent of Meeting, and the altar, the live goat shall be brought forward.

Aaron shall lay both his hands upon the head of the live goat and confess over it all the iniquities and transgressions of the Israelites, whatever their sins, putting them on the head of the goat; and it shall be sent off to the wilderness through a designated agent.

Thus the goat shall carry on it all their iniquities to an inaccessible region; and the goat shall be set free in the wilderness.

And Aaron shall go into the Tent of Meeting, take off the linen vestments that he put on when he entered the Shrine, and leave them there.

He shall bathe his body in water in the holy precinct and put on his vestments; then he shall come out and offer his burnt offering and the burnt offering of the people, making expiation for himself and for the people.

25 The fat of the sin offering he shall turn into smoke on the altar. The one who set the Azazel-goat free shall wash those clothes and bathe the body in water—and after that may reenter the camp.

The bull of sin offering and the goat of sin offering whose blood was brought in to purge the Shrine shall be taken outside the camp; and their hides, flesh, and dung shall be consumed in fire.

The one who burned them shall wash those clothes and bathe the body in water—and after that may re-enter the camp.

And this shall be to you a law for all time: In the seventh month, on the tenth day of the month, you shall practice self-denial; and you shall do no manner of work, neither the citizen nor the alien who resides among you.

30 For on this day atonement shall be made for you to purify you of all your sins; you shall be pure before YKWK.

It shall be a sabbath of complete rest for you, and you shall practice self-denial; it is a law for all time.

The priest who has been anointed and ordained to serve as priest in place of his father shall make expiation. He shall put on the linen vestments, the sacral vestments.

He shall purge the innermost Shrine; he shall purge the Tent of Meeting and the altar; and he shall make expiation for the priests and for all the people of the congregation.

This shall be to you a law for all time: to make atonement for the Israelites for all their sins once a year. And Moses did as YKWK had commanded him.

- (טז) וְכפֶּר עַל־הַקְּּדֶשׁ מִטַּמְאֹתֹ בְּגֵי יִשְׂרָאֵׁל וּמִפְּשְׁעֵיהֶם לְכָל־ חַטֹּאתֶם וְכֵן יַעֲשֶׁהֹ לְאָהָל מוֹעֵׁד הַשֹּׁבֵן אִהָּם בְּתִוֹךְ טַמְאֹתֵם:
 - (יז) וְכָל־אָדֶּם לֹא־יִהְיֶהוּ בְּאָהֶל מוֹעֵׁד בְּבֹאֶוּ לְכַפֵּר בַּלֶדֶשׁ עַד־צֵאתֵוֹ וְכָפֶּר בַּעֲדוֹ וּבְעַד בֵּיתֹוּ וּבְעַד כָּל־קָתַל יִשְׂרָאֵל:
 - (יח) וְיָצָׂא אֶל־הַמִּזְבֶּח אֲשֶׁר לֹפְנֵי־יְלְּוָקְ וְכָפֶּר עָלֵיו וְלָקֵّח מִדָּם הַפָּר וּמִדָּם הַשָּׁעִיר וְנָתַן עַל־ קרְנִוֹת הַמִּזְבֵּח סָבִיב:
 - (יט) וְהֹוָּה עָלָיו מִן־הַדֶּם בְּאֶצְבָּעָוֹ שֶׁבַע פְּעָמֶים וְטָהַרוֹ וְקִדְּשׁׁוֹ מִשַּמְאִת בְּנֵי יִשְׁרָאֵל:
 - (כ) וְכִלָּהֹ מִכַּפֵּר אֶת־הַלֶּדָשׁ וְאֶת־אָהֶל מוֹעֵד וְאֶת־הַמִּוְבֵּחַ וְהַקְרֵיב אֶת־הַשָּׁעִיר הָחֵי:
- (כא) וְסָמֹדְ אָהָרֹן אֶת־שְׁתֵּי ידו יָדִיו עַּל רְאֹשׁ הַשְּׁעִירְ הַחֵּי וְהַתְּוַדָּה עָלָיו אֶת־כָּל־עֲוֹנֹת בְּנֵי יִשְׁרָאֵל וְאֶת־כָּל־כִּשְׁעֵיהֶם לְכָל־חַטֹאֹתֶם וְנָתָן אֹתָם עַל־רָאשׁ הַשְּׁעִיר וְשַׁלַּח בְּיַד־אִישׁ עִהָּי הַמִּדְבַּרָה:
- (כב) וְנָשָּׁא הַשָּׁעִיר עָלֵיו אֶת־כָּל־עֲוֹנֹתָם אֶל־ אֶרִץ גְּנַרָה וְשַׁלַּח אֶת־הַשָּׁעִיר בּמִּדְבָּר:
- (כג) וּבֶּא אַהָרֹן אֶל־אָכָל מוֹעַׁד וּפָשׁטֹ אֶת־בְּגְדֵי הַבָּּד אֲשֶׁר לָבֵשׁ בְּבֹאָוֹ אֶל־הַקֶּדָשׁ וְהִנִּיחָם שֵׁם: (כד) וְרָהַץ אֶת־בְּשָׁרָוֹ בַּמֵּיִם בְּטְקוֹם קְּדֹוֹשׁ וְלָבֵשׁ אֶת־בָּגָדֵיו וְיָצָׁא וְעָשָׁה אֶת־עְּלָתוֹ וְאֶת־עֹלַת הָעָּם וְכִפֵּר בַּעֲדָוֹ וּבָעַד הָעֵם:
 - (כה) וְאֶת חֵלֶב הָחַטָּאת יַקְטִיר הַמִּזְבֵּחָה:
 - (כוֹ) וְהַמְשׁלֵּח אֶת־הֵּשְּׁעִיר ֹּלְעְזָאוֹל יְכֹבֵּס בְּגָּדִיוּ וְרָחַץ אֶת־ בְּשָּׂרָוֹ בַּמֵּיִם וְאַחַרִי־כֵן יָכָוֹא אֶל־ המחוה:
- (כז) וְאֵת פַּר הְסַפְּאת וְאֵתו שְׁנִיר הַסַפְּאת אֲשֶׁר הּוּבָא אֶת־דָּמָם לְכַפֵּר בַּקְּדָשׁ יוֹצֵיא אֶל־מְחָוּץ לַמַחָגָה וְשֶׂרְפָּוּ בָאֵשׁ אֶת־עֹרֹתָם וְאֶת־בְּשָׂרָם וְאֶת־בְּרְשֵׁם:
- (כח) וְהַשֹּׁבֶף אֹתָּם יְכבֵּס בְּגָּדָּיו וְרָתַץ אֶת־בְּשָּׁרְוֹ בַּמֵּיִם וְאַחֲבִי־כֵּן יָבָוֹא אֶל־הַמַּחֲנֵה:
- (כט) וְהָיְתָה לָבֶם לְחַקָּת עוֹלֶם בַּחְׁדָשׁ הُשְׁבִיעִי בֶּעָשׁוֹר לַחִּדָשׁ הְעַנְּוּ אֶת־נַפְשְׁתֵיכֶּם וְכָל־מְלָאכָה לָא תַעֲשׁוּ הַאָּזְרָח וְהַגֵּר הָגַּר בִּתוֹכְבַם:
 - (ל) בְּי־בַּיָּוֹם הַזֶּהָ יְכַפֵּר עֲלֵיכֶם לְטַהַר אֶתְכֶם מִבֹּל ֹחַטָּאֹתֵילֵם לְבָנֵי יִלְנָק תִּטְהַרוּ:
 - (לא) שַׁבַּּת שַׁבָּתוֹן הִיאֹ לְלֶם וְעַנִּיתֶם אֶת־ נַפְשׁתֵיכֶם חַקָּת עוֹלֵם:
- (לב) וְכַפֶּׁר הַכּּהֵׁן אֲשֶׁר־יִמְשֵׁח אֹתוֹ וַאֲשֶׁר יְמַלֵּא אֶת־יָדֹוֹ לְכַהָן תָּחַת אָבֵיו וְלָבֵשׁ אֶת־בּּגְדֵי הַבָּד בָּגִדִי הַלְּדִשׁ:
 - (לג) וְכַפֶּר אֶת־מִקְדֵּשׁ הַקְּׁדֶשׁ וְאֶת־אָּהֶל מוֹעֲד וְאֶת־הַמִּזְבָּחַ יְכַפֵּר וְעַל הַכֹּהָנֵים וְעַל־כָּל־עַם הַקָּהָל יִכַבַּר:
- (לד) וְהֵיְתָה־זֹּאת לָכֶם לְחֵקֶת עוֹלֶם לְכַפֵּׁר עַל־ בְּגֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל מִכָּל־חַטֹּאתָם אַחַת בַּשָּׁנָה וַיַּעַשׁ כַּאֵשֵׁר צָנָה יִלִּוָק אָת־ מֹשֵׁה: פ

2. משנה מסכת יומא פרק ג משנה ח

[ח] בא לו אצל פרו ופרו היה עומד בין האולם ולמזבח ראשו לדרום ופניו למערב והכהן עומד במזרח ופניו למערב וסומך שתי ידיו עליו ומתודה וכך היה אומר אנא השם עויתי פשעתי חטאתי לפניך אני וביתי אנא השם כפר נא לעונות ולפשעים ולחטאים שעויתי ושפשעתי ושחטאתי לפניך אני וביתי ככתוב בתורת משה עבדך (ויקרא ט"ז) כי ביום הזה יכפר עליכם וגו' [ט] והן עונין אחריו ברוך שם כבוד מלכותו לעולם ועד:

2. Mishnah Yoma 3:8

The High Priest comes and stands next to his bull, and his bull was standing between the Entrance Hall and the altar with its head facing to the south and its face to the west. And the priest stands to the east of the bull, and his face points to the west. And the priest places his two hands on the bull and confesses. And this is what he would say in his confession: Please, God, I have sinned, I have done wrong, and I have rebelled before You, I and my family. Please, God, grant atonement, please, for the sins, and for the wrongs, and for the rebellions that I have sinned, and done wrong, and rebelled before You, I and my family, as it is written in the Torah of Moses your servant: "For on this day atonement shall be made for you to cleanse you of all your sins; you shall be clean before the Lord" (Leviticus 16:30). And the priests and the people who were in the courtyard respond after he recites the name of God: Blessed be the name of His glorious kingdom forever and all time.

3. משנה מסכת יומא פרק ד משנה ב

[ב] קשר לשון של זהורית בראש שעיר המשתלח והעמידו כנגד בית שלוחו ולנשחט כנגד בית שחיטתו בא לו אצל פרו שנייה וסומך שתי ידיו עליו ומתודה וכך היה אומר אנא השם עויתי פשעתי חטאתי לפניך אני וביתי ובני אהרן עם קדושך קדושך אנא השם כפר נא לעונות ולפשעים ולחטאים שעויתי ושפשעתי ושחטאתי לפניך אני וביתי ובני אהרן עם קדושך ככתוב בתורת משה עבדך (ויקרא י"ו) כי ביום הזה יכפר עליכם לטהר אתכם מכל חטאתיכם לפני ה' תטהרו והן עונין אחריו ברוך שם כבוד מלכותו לעולם ועד:

3. Mishnah Yoma 4:2

The High Priest tied a strip of crimson wool upon the head of the scapegoat and positioned the goat opposite the place from which it was dispatched, i.e., near the gate through which it was taken; and the same was done to the goat that was to be slaughtered, opposite the place of its slaughter. He comes and stands next to his bull a second time, and places his two hands upon it, and confesses. And this is what he would say: Please God, I have sinned, I have done wrong, and I have rebelled before You, I and my family and the children of Aaron, your sacred people. Please God, grant atonement, please, for the sins, and for the wrongs, and for the rebellions that I have sinned, and done wrong, and rebelled before You, I, and my family, and the children of Aaron, your sacred people, as it is written in the Torah of Moses, your servant: "For on this day atonement shall be made for you to cleanse you of all your sins; you shall be clean before the Lord" (Leviticus 16:30). And they, the priests and the people in the Temple courtyard, respond after him upon hearing the name of God: Blessed be the name of His glorious kingdom forever and all time.

4. משנה מסכת יומא פרק ו משנה ב

[*]בא לו אצל שעיר המשתלח וסומך שתי ידיו עליו ומתוודה וכך היה אומר אנא השם עוו פשעו חטאו לפניך עמך בית ישראל אנא בשם כפר נא לעונות ולפשעים ולחטאים שעוו ושפשעו ושחטאו לפניך עמך בית ישראל ככתוב בתורת משה עבדך לאמר (ויקרא טז) כי ביום הזה יכפר עליכם לטהר אתכם מכל חטאתיכם לפני ה' תטהרו והכהנים והעם העומדים בעזרה כשהיו שומעים שם המפורש שהוא יוצא מפי כהן גדול היו כורעים ומשתחוים ונופלים על פניהם ואומרים ברוך שם כבוד מלכותו לעולם ועד:

4. Mishnah Yoma 6:2

The Yom Kippur service continues: The High Priest comes over to the scapegoat, places both his hands upon it, and confesses. And he would say as follows: Please, God, Your people, the house of Israel, have sinned, and done wrong, and rebelled before You. Please, God, grant atonement, please, for the sins, and for the wrongs, and for the rebellions that they have sinned, and done wrong, and rebelled before You, Your people, the house of Israel, as it is written in the Torah of Moses Your servant, saying: "For on this day atonement shall be made for you to cleanse you of all your sins; before the Lord you shall be purified" (Leviticus 16:30). And the priests and the people standing in the Temple courtyard, when they would hear the Explicit Name emerging from the mouth of the High Priest, when the High Priest did not use one of the substitute names for God, they would kneel and prostrate themselves and fall on their faces, and say: Blessed is the name of His glorious kingdom forever and ever.

5. ספרא אחרי מות פרשה ב סוף פרק א

(ב) ואיל אחד לעולה, רבי אומר איל אחד הוא האמור כאן והוא האמור בחומש הפיקודים, רבי אלעזר ברבי שמעון אומר שני אילים הם, אחד אמור כאן ואחד אמור בחומש הפיקודים, והקריב אהרן את פר החטאת אשר לו, שלא יביא משל ציבור, יכול לא יביא משל ציבור שאין ציבור מתכפרים בו, אבל יביא משל אחיו הכהנים שהרי אחיו הכהנים מתכפרים בו תלמוד לומר אשר לו, וכפר בעדו ובעד ביתו, זה וידוי דברים, יכול כפרה לומר אשר לו, וכפר בעדו ובעד ביתו, זה וידוי דברים, יכול כפרה בדמים הריני דן נאמר כפרה בפר ונאמר כפרה בשעיר, מה כפרה האמורה בשעיר וידוי דברים חוץ מדמים.

- (ג) אם נפשך לומר והקריב אהרן את פר החטאת אשר לו וכפר בעדו ובעד ביתו ועדיין לא נשחט.
- (ד) כיצד היה מתודה אנא השם עויתי פשעתי חטאתי לפניך אני וביתי אנא השם כפר נא לעונות ולפשעים ולחטאים שעויתי ושפשעתי ושחטאתי לפניך אני וביתי ככתוב בתורת משה עבדך לאמר כי ביום הזה יכפר עליכם לטהר אתכם מכל חטאתיכם לפני ה' תטהרו, ואומר והתודה עליו את כל עונות בני ישראל ואת כל פשעיהם לכל חטאותם דברי רבי מאיר, וחכמים אומרים עונות אילו הזדונות, פשעיהם אילו המרדים, חטאתם אילו השגגות מאחר שהוא מתודה על הזדונות ועל המרדים חוזר ומתודה על השגגות, אלא כך היה מתודה אנא השם חטאתי עויתי ופשעתי לפניך אני וביתי, אנא השם כפר נא לחטאים ולעונות ולפשעים שחטאתי ושעויתי ושפשעתי לפניך אני וביתי ככתוב בתורת משה עבדך לאמר כי ביום הזה יכפר עליכם לטהר אתכם, ועונים אחריו ברוך שם כבוד מלכותו לעולם ועד.

5. Sifra, Aharei Mot, Chapter 2, end of Section 1

"And one ram for a burnt offering." Rabbi says: "It is the same ram mentioned here and in the Book of Numbers." Rabbi Elazar, son of Rabbi Shimon, says: "They are two different rams—one mentioned here and one mentioned in the Book of Numbers." "And Aaron shall bring the bull of the sin offering which is his"—this teaches that he should not bring from the public [offerings]. One might think that he should not bring from the public because the public does not atone through it, but he should bring from his fellow priests since they are atoned through it. The text teaches "which is his" [to indicate otherwise]. One might think that if he does not bring it, it is still valid, but the text teaches again "which is his." "And he shall atone for himself and for his household"—this refers to the confession of words. One might think the atonement is through blood, but I derive it as follows: It says "atonement" regarding the bull and "atonement" regarding the goat. Just as the atonement regarding the goat is through confession of words and not through blood, so too the atonement regarding the bull is through confession of words and not through blood.

- (3) If you wish to say, "And Aaron shall bring the bull of the sin offering which is his, and he shall atone for himself and his household," and it has not yet been slaughtered.
- (4) How did he confess? "Please, O Lord, I have sinned, transgressed, and committed iniquity before You, I and my household. Please, O Lord, atone for the sins, transgressions, and iniquities that

I have sinned, transgressed, and committed before You, I and my household, as it is written in the Torah of Moses Your servant: 'For on this day He will atone for you to cleanse you from all your sins before the Lord, you shall be purified.'" And it says, "And he shall confess over it all the sins of the children of Israel, and all their transgressions in all their sins." These are the words of Rabbi Meir. The Sages say: "Sins" refers to intentional sins, "transgressions" refers to rebellious acts, and "sins" refers to inadvertent sins. Since he confesses for intentional sins and rebellious acts, he goes back and confesses for inadvertent sins. Rather, this was his confession: "Please, O Lord, I have sinned, transgressed, and committed iniquity before You, I and my household. Please, O Lord, atone for the sins, transgressions, and iniquities that I have sinned, transgressed, and committed before You, I and my household, as it is written in the Torah of Moses Your servant: 'For on this day He will atone for you to cleanse you.'" And they would respond after him: "Blessed be the name of His glorious kingdom forever and ever."

6. ספרא אחרי מות פרשה ב

(ט) *והקריב אהרן את פר החטאת אשר לו*, זהו שאמרו שלא יביא משל ציבור, וכפר בעדו ובעד ביתו זהו וידוי דברים, כיצד היה מתודה אנא השם חטאתי עויתי ופשעתי לפניך אני וביתי ובני אהרן עם קודשך ככתוב בתורת משה עבדך לאמר כי ביום הזה, והם עונים אחריו ברוך שם כבוד מלכותו לעולם ועד.

6. Sifra, After the Death, Chapter 2

"And Aaron shall bring the bull of the sin offering which is his." This teaches that he should not bring from the public. "And he shall atone for himself and for his household"—this is the confession of words. How did he confess? "Please, O Lord, I have sinned, transgressed, and committed iniquity before You, I and my household and the sons of Aaron, Your holy people, as it is written in the Torah of Moses Your servant: 'For on this day...'" And they would respond after him: "Blessed be the name of His glorious kingdom forever and ever."

7. ספרא אחרי מות פרשה ד סוף פרק ד

... וסמך אהרן את שתי ידיו על ראש השעיר...

(ו) והתודה עליו, זה ווידוי דברים, כיצד היה מתודה אנא השם חטאו עוו פשעו לפניך עמך בית ישראל, אנא השם כפר נא לחטאים ולעוונות ולפשעים שחטאו ושעוו ושפשעו לפניך עמך בית ישראל ככתוב בתורת משה עבדך כי ביום הזה יכפר וגו' והם עונים אחריו ברוך שם כבוד מלכותו לעולם ועד. (ז) אין לי אלא וודייהם ספיקותיהם ואנסיהם ושגגותיהם מנין, ת"ל עוונות לכל עוונות, פשעיהם לכל פשעיהם, חטאתם לכל חטאתם, יכול אף חייבי חטאות ואשמות עמהם תלמוד לומר אותם, אותם על ראש השעיר, ואין חייבי חטאות ואשמות על ראש השעיר.

7. Sifra, After the Death, Chapter 4, end of Section 4

"And Aaron shall lay both his hands on the head of the goat..." (6) "And he shall confess over it"—this refers to the confession of words. How did he confess? "Please, O Lord, Your people, the house of Israel, have sinned, transgressed, and committed iniquity before You. Please, O Lord, atone for the sins, transgressions, and iniquities that Your people, the house of Israel, have sinned, transgressed, and committed before You, as it is written in the Torah of Moses Your servant: 'For on this day He will atone...'" And they would respond after him: "Blessed be the name of His glorious kingdom forever and ever." (7) I only know about their intentional sins. From where do I know about their doubtful sins, their forced transgressions, and their inadvertent sins? The text says, "iniquities"—for all iniquities; "transgressions"—for all transgressions; "sins"—for all sins. One might think this also includes those obligated for sin and guilt offerings. The text teaches: "them"—"them" on the head of the goat, but not those obligated for sin and guilt offerings on the head of the goat.

8. תוספתא מסכת יומא (כפורים) (ליברמן) פרק ד הלכה יד

מצות וידוי ערב יום הכפורים עם חשיכה אבל אמרו חכמים מתודה אדן קודם שיאכל וישתה שמא תטרף דעתו בתוך אכיל'
ושתיה ואף על פי שהתודה קודם שיאכל וישתה צריך שיתודה לאחר אכילה ושתיה שמא אירע דבר קלקלה בסעודה ואף על פי
שהתודה לאחר אכילה ושתיה צריך שיתודה ערבית ואף על פי שהתודה ערבית צריך שיתודה שחרית ואף על פי שהתודה
שחרית צריך שיתודה במוסף ואף על פי שהתודה במוסף צריך שיתוד' במנחה ואף על פי שהתודה במנחה צריך שיתודה
בנעילה שמא אירע בו דבר קלקלה כל היום כולו היכן הוא אומרן אחר תפלה והעובר לפני התיבה אומרה ברביעית ר' מאיר או'
מתפלל שבע וחותם בוידוי וחכמים או' מתפלל שבע ואם רצה לחתום בוידוי חותם וצריך לפרוט את החטא דברי ר' יהודה בן
פתירא שנ' אנא חטא העם הזה חטאה גדולה ר' עקיבא אומ' אין צריך אם כן למה נאמ' ויעשו להם אלי זהב אלא כך אמ' המקום
מי גרם להם שיעשו להם אלי זהב אני שהרביתי להם זהב

8. Tosefta, Tractate Yoma (Kippurim), Lieberman 4:14

The mitzvah of confession [is recited] on the eve of Yom Kippur, just before nightfall. But the Sages said one must confess before eating and drinking, lest his mind be disturbed during the meal. Even though he confessed before eating and drinking, he must confess again after the meal, lest something untoward occurred during the meal. Even though he confessed after the meal, he must confess during the evening [prayer]. Even though he confessed during the evening prayer, he must confess during the morning prayer. Even though he confessed during Musaf, he must confess during the afternoon prayer. Even though he confessed during Musaf, he must confess during the afternoon prayer. Even though he confessed during the afternoon prayer, he must confess during the Ne'ilah service, lest something untoward occur throughout the day. Where does he say it? After the prayer, and the prayer leader says it in the fourth [blessing]. Rabbi Meir says: "He prays seven blessings and concludes with the confession." The Sages say: "He prays seven blessings, and if he wants to conclude with the confession, he may." And it is necessary to specify the sin. These are the words of Rabbi Yehuda ben Beteira, as it says: "Please, this people has committed a great sin." Rabbi Akiva says: "It is not necessary [to specify]. If so, why does it say 'they made a golden calf'? The Holy One, Blessed be He, said: 'Who caused them to make a golden calf? I did, by giving them so much gold.'"

Part II: Selichah, Mechilah, and Kapparah - Then and Now

9. ספר ויקרא פרק ד פסוק כ

ַנְשָׁה לַפַּר כַּאֲשֶׁר עֲשֶׁה לְפַר הַחָּטָּאת כַּן יַעֲשֶׁה־לְוֹ וְכָפֵּר עַלְהֵם הַכֹּהוֹ וְנָסְלַח לְהַם:

9. Leviticus 4:20

He shall treat this bull as he treated the [first] bull of the purification offering; he shall treat it the same way. Thus the priest shall effect purgation for them that they may be forgiven.

10. Jacob Milgrom, Leviticus, I.256

When the object of *kipper* is a person... it is never expressed as a direct object but requires the prepositions 'al or be'ad." Rather, the expiation is a purging of the sancta (as above), and it is *from* (mi-) the sins (and their attendant miasma/impurity) for the benefit of and therefore on behalf of (be'ad/'al) the sinner.

11. ויקרא פרק טז פסוקים טז-יז

ָּוְכֶבֶּר עַל־הַקְּדֶשׁ מִשַּמְאֹתֹ בָּגַי יִשְׁרָאֵׁלֹ וּמִפְּשְעִיהֶם לְכָל־ חַטּאתֶם וְכֵן יַצְשֶׁהֹ לְאָהֶל מוֹעֵּׁד הַשֹּׁבֵן אִהָּם בְּתִוֹךְ טֵמְאֹתֶם: וְכָל־אָדֵם לֹא־יִהְיֵהוּ בָּאָהֶל מוֹעַד בְּבֹאָוֹ לְכַבֵּר בַּקְדֵשׁ עַד־ צֵאתָוֹ וְכָבֵּר בַּעִד בִּיתֹוֹ וּבְעַד כַּל־קָהַל יִשְׂרָאֵל:

11. Leviticus 16:16-17

Thus he shall purge the adytum of the pollution and transgressions of the Israelites, including all of their sins; and he shall do likewise for the Tent of Meeting, which abides with them in the midst of their pollution.

No one shall be in the Tent of Meeting when he goes in to effect purgation in the adytum until he comes out. Thus he shall effect purgation for himself and his household and for the entire congregation of Israel.

12. Milgrom, *Leviticus*, I.254-56)

Whom or what does [the *hattat*] purge? Herein lies the first surprise: it is not the offerer of the sacrifice... When the object of *kipper* is a person... it is never expressed as a direct object but requires the prepositions 'al or be'ad. Both signify "on behalf of"... If not the offerer, what then is the object of the *hatta't* purgation? The above considerations lead to only one answer: that which receives the purgative blood: the sanctuary and its sancta. By daubing the altar with the *hatta't* blood or by bringing it inside the sanctuary (e.g., 16:14-19), the priest purges the most sacred objects and areas of the sanctuary on behalf of the person who caused their contamination by his physical impurity or inadvertent offense.

13. Shlomo Zuckier, "Flesh and Blood: The Reception of Biblical Sacrifice in Selected Talmudic Sources in Comparative Context," Yale University, 2020, p. 182

To consider the cases of the verb \$\pi\$.\$\tau\$. in rabbinic literature is to search for a disappearing verb. While over 50 incidences of the root appear in the Bible, one is hard-pressed to find any non-citation appearance of the verb in Tannaitic literature.... Most of the cases enumerated here appear in legal contexts – whether in the realm of prescribed sacrifices or oaths, each of which very clearly build on Biblical cases, while a minority are somewhat more oblique references to biblical narratives.

14. ויקרא פרק ה פסוק יח

(יח) וְהַבִּיא אַיִל תָּמִים מִן־הַצָּאן בְּעָרְכָּךָּ לְאָשָׁם אָל־הַכּּהָן וְכִפֶּר עָלָיו הַכֹּהֵן עַל שִׁגְנְתְוֹ אֲשֶׁר־ שָׁגָג וְהָוּא לְאֹ־יָדֻע וְנְסְלַח לְוֹ:

14. Leviticus 5:18

He shall bring to the priest a ram without blemish from the flock, or the equivalent, as a guilt offering. The priest shall make expiation on his behalf for the error that he committed unwittingly, and he shall be forgiven.

15. ספרא ויקרא - דבורא דחובה פרשה יב פרק כא הלכה ב

והוא לא ידע ונסלח לו, הא אם ידע אין מתכפר לו, הא למה הדבר דומה לעגלה ערופה, שאף על פי שנתערפה ואחר כך נמצא ההורג הרי זה יהרג.

15. Sifra, Dibbura de-Hovah 12(21):2

"And he did not know, and he is <u>forgiven</u> (ונסלה לו) [after bringing an *asham taluy*]" (Lev 5:18) – but if he knew [i.e. he was later informed that what he ate was certainly not kosher], he is not <u>atoned</u> by it [מרכפר לו) [and thus he now is liable to bring a *hattat* offering]. What is this matter similar to? To a broken-necked calf [which atones for a murder where the culprit is unknown], that even though it was beheaded, if the murderer is found afterwards, he is killed.

16. Shlomo Zuckier, "Flesh and Blood," pp. 192-193

The root ס.ל.ה only appears in 13 Yerushalmi and 21 Bavli passages. Of these, many simply cite biblical verses without engaging the ס.ל.ה term, others use the verb simply to indicate that a wrongdoing has been committed that requires ס.ל.ה, and others simply cite Tannaitic passages without significant analysis beyond the earlier materials.

17. תלמוד בבלי מסכת זבחים דף לז עמוד ב דף לח עמוד א

סברי להו כבית הלל, דאמרי: אף חטאת שנתנה מתנה אחת כיפר...תלמוד לומר: וכפר וכפר, (מפני הדין) וכפר - אף על פי שלא נתן אלא שלש, וכפר - אף על פי שלא נתן אלא אחת. והאי מיבעי ליה לגופיה! אמר רבא: בר אדא מרי אסברה לי, אמר קרא: וכפר... ונסלח, זו היא כפרה זו היא סליחה.

17. Babylonian Talmud Tractate Zevahim 37b-38a

They agree with Beit Hillel, who say: 'Even a *hattat* offering for which one placed one placing [of blood, out of the four prescribed ones], it atoned...

The verse teaches "and he atones... and he atones" (Lev. 4:20,26,31), [teaching]: "and he atones" – even if he only placed [the blood] three times; "and he atones" – even if he only placed [the blood] two times; "and he atones" – even if he only placed [the blood] one time. But we need this [each case of "and he atones"] to teach the matter itself [that one must sprinkle blood in the first place]!?

Rava said: Bar Ada my master explained to me: The verse says "and [the priest] atoned (כ.פ.ר) and [the offerer] is forgiven (סליחה) "(Lev 4:20) – atonement (כפרה) is identical to forgiveness (סליחה) (lit., "this is atonement this is forgiveness").

18. שמונה עשרה, סידור אשכנז

סלח לנו אבינו כי חטאנו מחל לנו מלכנו כי פשענו כי מוחל וסולח אתה. ברוך אתה ה' חנון המרבה לסלוח.

18. Shemoneh Esrei, Ashkenazic Liturgy

"Forgive us father, for we have sinned... for you are well-forgiving... Blessed are you Lord, gracious one who forgives greatly,"

19. מסכתות קטנות מסכת סופרים פרק יט הלכה ד

ביום הכיפורים... וחותם, **מוחל** וסולח לעוונותינו ולעונות עמו ישראל ברחמים ומכפר על פשעיהם מלך על כל הארץ מקדש ישראל ויום צום הכיפורים והזמנים ומקראי קודש

19. Tractate Soferim 19:4

On the Day of Atonement... one closes [the fourth blessing as follows: Blessed are you, O Lord, our God] forgoing and forgiving for our sins and for the sins of His nation Israel with mercy, and atoning for their violations, king of the whole earth, sanctifier of Israel and the day of the fast of atonement and the times and holy convocations.

20. סדר רב עמרם גאון (הרפנס) תפילת ערבית של ליל יום הכיפורים

כי אתה סולחן לישראל **ומוחלן** לשבטי ישורון ודברך אמת וקים לעד, ומבלעדיך אין לנו מלך **מוחל** וסולח אלא אתה. בא"י מלך מוחל ולעונותינו ולעונות עמו בית ישראל ומעביר אשמותינו בכל שנה ושנה, מלך על כל הארץ מקדש ישראל ויום דרפורים.

21. Siddur Rav Amram Gaon (9th century), Evening Prayer for Yom Kippur

For you are a forgiver to Israel and a forgoer for the tribes of Jeshurun, and your word is truth and everlasting, and without You we have no forgoing and forgiving king, only You. Blessed are you, O Lord, a King forgoing and forgiving our sins and the sins of His nation the House of Israel, who passes on our guilt every year, king of the whole earth, sanctifier of Israel and the day of atonement.

22. תלמוד ירושלמי (וילנא) מסכת ראש השנה פרק ד

ר' יעקב בר אחא ר"ז חנין בר בא בשם רב צ"ל האל הקדוש ר' בא בשם אבא בר רב חונה צ"ל האל הקדוש ומרבה לחלות

22. Jerusalem Talmud, Rosh Hashanah 4:6

Rabbi Yaakov bar Aha, Rav Zeira Hanin bar Ba [said] in the name of Rav: 'one should say "the holy God." Rav Ba [said] in the name of Abba bar Rav Hunah: 'one should say "the holy God, who forgives greatly."

23. Gary Anderson, Sin: A History, p. 5

In his seminal work *The Symbolism of Evil*, Paul Ricoeur takes this point one step further. In his view, philosophers have no direct and unmediated access to the semantic content of ideas such as fault, sin,

error, and their consequent rectification (that is, what we call "forgiveness"). All that stands at our disposal are metaphors that serve as building blocks for larger narrative complexes. To understand what a sin is, one must begin with the terminology deployed by a particular writer. Once one grasps the concrete nature of these metaphors, one can see how they are deployed in narratives.

24. ירמיהו פרק ב

- (כא) וְאַנֹכִי נְטַעְתֵּיךְ שֹֹרֶק כָּלְה זָרַע אֲמֶת וְאֵיךְ נֶהְפַּכְתִּ לִי סוּרֵי הַגָּפֶן נָכְריֵה:
- (כב) כָּי אָם־הְּכַבְּסִי בַּנְּׁתֶר וְתַרְבִּי־לָןְד בֹּרֵית נִ**כְהָם עֵוֹנֵדְ לְפַנִּי** נָאָם אַלֹנֵי יִלּוֵק:
- (כג) אֵיך תאמִר׳ לְא נִטְמֵאתִי אַחֲרֵי הַבְּעָלִים לְא הָלֶּכְתִּי רְאָי דַרְבֵּךְ בַּגַּיִא דְעִי מֶה עָשֻׂית בִּכְרָה קַלָּה מְשֶׁרֶכֶת דְּרָבֵיהָ:

24. Jeremiah 2:21-23

I planted you with noble vines, All with choicest seed; Alas, I find you changed Into a base, an alien vine!

Though you wash with natron And use much lye, Your guilt is ingrained before Me —declares the Lord God.

How can you say, "I am not defiled, I have not gone after the Baalim"? Look at your deeds in the Valley, Consider what you have done! Like a lustful she-camel, Restlessly running about,

25. תהלים פרק נא

- (ג) חָנֵנִי אֱלֹהִים כָּחַסְדֶּךְ כָּרָב רַחַמִּיךְ מְחָה פְשָׁעֵי:
 - (ד) הרבה הַרֵב כַּבְּסֵנִי מֵעֵוֹנֵי וְמַחַטַּאתֵי טַהַרֵנִי:

25. Psalms 51:3-4

Have mercy upon me, O God, as befits Your faithfulness; in keeping with Your abundant compassion, blot out my transgressions.

Wash me thoroughly of my iniquity, and purify me of my sin;

26. ויקרא פרק ה פסוק א

(א) ונפשׁ כּי־תחטֹא ושמעה קוֹל אלה והוּא עד אוֹ ראה אוֹ ידע אם־לוֹא יגיד **ונשׂא עוֹנוֹ**:

26. Leviticus 5:1

If a person sins, as he has heard a public imprecation, and—although able to testify as one who has either seen or learned of the matter—if he does not give information, **he bears his sin**.

27. ישעיהו פרק א

- (ב) שָׁמִעוּ שָׁמַיִם וְהַאָזֵינִי אֶׁרֵץ כֵּי יִלְוָק דְבֵּר כַּנִים גִדְּלְתִּי וְרוֹמַמְתִּי וְהָם פֵּשְׁעוּ בִי:
 - (ג) יָדָע שׁוֹר ֹ לְּנֵהוּ וַחֲמָוֹר אֵבְוּס בְּעָלֵיו יִשְׂרָאֵל ֹלְאׁ יָדַׁע עַמָּי לְאׁ הִתְבּוֹנְן:
- (ד) הָוֹיו גָּוֹי חֹטֵא **עַם כֶּבֶד עַוֹּן** זֶרַע מָרַעִּים בַּנֵים מַשְּׁחִיתֵים עַזְבָוּ אֶת־יִקֹּוֹק נָאֲצֶוּ אֵת־קְדָוֹשׁ יִשְׂרָאֵל נָזְרוּ אָחְוֹר:

27. Isaiah 2:2-4

Hear, O heavens, and give ear, O earth, For the Lord has spoken: "I reared children and brought them up— And they have rebelled against Me!

An ox knows its owner, An ass its master's crib: Israel does not know, My people takes no thought." Ah, sinful nation! **People heavily burdened with iniquity**! Brood of evildoers! Depraved children! They have forsaken the Lord, Spurned the Holy One of Israel, Turned their backs [on Him].

28. שמות פרק י

- (טז) וַיְמַהֵר פּרֶעָה לִקְרָא לְמֹשֶׁה וְלְאַהָּרָן וּיֹאמֶר חָטֵאתִי לִילּוֵק אֵלְהִיכֵם וַלְכֵם:
- (יז) וְעַתָּה שֵׂא גַא חַטְאתִי אָדְ הַפְּעָם וָהַעְתִּירוּ לִילְוָק אֱלֹהַיכֵם וְיַסֶר מְעַלֵּי רַק אֶת־הַמֵּוֶת הַזָּה:

28. Exodus 10:16-17

Pharaoh hurriedly summoned Moses and Aaron and said, "I stand guilty before the Lord your God and before you.

Lift my sin just this once, and plead with the Lord your God that He but remove this death from me."

29. מיכה פרק ז

- (יח) מִי־אֵל כַּמוֹדְ נִשֵּׁא עַוֹן וַעֹבֵר עַל־פֶּׁשֶׁע לְשָׁאֵרִית נַחַלַתִוֹ לֹא־הָחָזִיק לַעַדֹ אַפֿוֹ כִּי־חַפֵץ חָסֶד הָוֹא:
 - (יט) יָשְוֹב יְרָחֲמֵׁנוּ יִכְבָּשׁ עֲוְנֹתֵינוּ וְתַשְׁלֵּיִדְ בִּמְצֵּלְוֹת יָם כָּל־חַטֹאוֹתָם:
 - (כ) תַּתַּן אֲמֶתֹּ לִיַעַקֶּב חָסָד לְאַבְרָהָם אֲשֶׁר־נִשְׁבַּעִתָּ לֹאֲבֹתִינוּ מִימִי קָדָם:

29. Micah 7:18-19

Who is a God like You, Forgiving iniquity And remitting transgression; Who has not maintained His wrath forever Against the remnant of His own people, Because He loves graciousness!

He will take us back in love; He will cover up our iniquities, You will hurl all our [lit. their] sins Into the depths of the sea.

You will keep faith with Jacob, Loyalty to Abraham, As You promised on oath to our fathers In days gone by.

30. ויקרא פרק טז

- (כ) וְכַלָּהֹ מִכַּפֵּר אֶת־הַלֶּדֶשׁ וְאֶת־אָהֶל מוֹעֻד וְאֶת־הַמִּזְבֵּח וְהַקְרָיב אֶת־הַשָּׁעִיר הָחֵי:
- (כא) וְסָמַּדְ אַהָרֹן אָת־שְׁתַּי ידו יָדָיו עַּל רָאשׁ הַשְּׁעִיר הַחַיּ וְהִתְנַדָּה עָלָיו אֶת־כָּל־עֲוֹנֹת בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל וְאָת־כָּל־פִּשְׁעֵיהֶם לְכָל־חַטּאתֶם וּכִאּ וְסָמַדְ אָתִּי עָתִי הַשְּׁעִיר וְשִׁלָּח בְּיֵד־אֵישׁ עָתִי הַמִּדְבָּרָה:
 - (כב) וְנַשַּׂא הַשַּׁעִיר עַלִיו אָת־כַּל־עוֹנֹתָם אָל־אָרץ גְזָרָה וְשְׁלַח אָת־הַשַּׁעִיר בַּמְדְבַּר:

30. Leviticus 16:20-22

When he has finished purging the Shrine, the Tent of Meeting, and the altar, the live goat shall be brought forward.

Aaron shall lay both his hands upon the head of the live goat and confess over it all the iniquities and transgressions of the Israelites, whatever their sins, putting them on the head of the goat; and it shall be sent off to the wilderness through a designated man.

Thus the goat shall carry on it all their iniquities to an inaccessible region; and the goat shall be set free in the wilderness.

31. ישעיהו פרק מ

- (א) נַחָמָוּ נַחָמָוּ עַמֵּי יֹאמַר אֵלהַיכָם:
- (ב) דַּבָּרוֹ עַל־לֶב יִרוּשֶׁלֶם וְקראָוּ אֱלֵיהַ כֵּי מֵלְאָה צְבַאָּה כֵּי **וִרְצֵה עוֹנֵה** כֵּי לַקְחָה מִיֵּד יִקְנִׁק כְּכְּלִיִם בְּכַל־חַטאֹתֵיהַ:

31. Isaiah 40:1-2

Comfort, oh comfort My people, Says your God.

Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and declare to her that her term of service is over, That her iniquity is expiated; For she has received at the hand of the Lord double for all her sins.

32. ויקרא פרק כו

- (לב) וַהַשָּׁמֹתֵי אַנִי אֶת־הָאָרֵץ וְשַׁמְמָוּ עַלֵּיהַ אִיבִיכֶּם הַיּשָׁבִים בַּהּ:
- (לג) וְאֶתְכֶם אֱזֶרֶה בַגּוֹיִם וַהָריקֹתִי אַחֲריכֶם חֶרֶב וְהָיְתָה אַרְצְכֶם שְׁמְמֶּה וְעָרִיכֶם יִהְיִּוּ חָרְבָּה:
- ַלד) אַז **תּרְצֶּה** הָאָרֵץ אֶת־שַׁבָּתֹהֶיהָ כָּל יָמֵי הָשַׁבְּהֹ וְאַתַּם בְּאַרֵץ אֹיָבִיכֶם אָז תִּשְׁבַּת הָאָרֵץ וְ**הַרְצָּת** אֶת־שַׁבְּתֹתֵיהָ:
 - (לה) כַּל־יָמֵי הָשַׁמַּה תִּשְׁבָּת אֵת אֲשֶׁר לְאֹ־שַׁבְתָה בִּשַׁבְּתֹתִיכָם בִּשְׁבִתְּב עַלֵיהָ:
- (לו) וָהַנִּשָׁאָרֵים בַּבֶּב וָהַבֵּאתִי מֹּרֶךְ בִּלְבַבָּב בְּאַרְצָּת אֹיִבֵיהָם וָרָדַף אֹתָּם קוֹל עַלֵה נִדַּף וְנַסְוּ מְנֵסַת־חֵרֵב וְנָפְלוּ וְאֵין רֹדֵף:
 - (לז) וְכָשֶׁלָוּ אִישֹ־בָּאָחֶיו כְּמִפְּנִי־חֶרֶב וְרֹדֵף אָיִן וְלֹא־תָהָיֶה לָכֶם תִּקוּמָה לפְנֵי אִיְבֵיכֶם:
 - (לח) וַאֲבַדְתָּם בַּגוֹיֻם וְאָכְלָה אֶתְכֶּם אֱרֶץ אֹיְבֵיכֶם:

- (לט) וָהַנָּשָׁאַרִים בַּכָּם יִפַּקוּ בַּעֲוֹנֶם בָּאַרְצָת אֹיָבֵיכֵם וַאַף בַּעוֹנָת אַבֹתָם אָתַּם יִמַקוּ:
- (מ) וְהַתְוַדוּ אֶת־עֲוֹנָם וְאֶת־עֲוֹנָם בְּמַעֲלָם בְּמַעֲלָם אֲשֶׁר מֶעֲלוּ־בֵי וְאֵּף אֲשֶׁר־הֶלְכָוּ עִמָּי בְּקֵרִי:
- (מא) אַף־אֲנִי אֵלֶךְ עִמֶּם בְּלֶּרִי וְהָבֵאתִי אֹתֶּם בְּאֶרֵץ אֹיְבִיהֶם אוֹ־אָז יִכָּנַע לְבָבָם הֶעָרֵל וְאָז יִּרְצִוּ אַת־עֵוֹנֵם:
 - (מב) ווַכַרְתַּי אֶת־בָּרִיתִי יַעַקוֹב וִאַף אֶת־בִּרִיתִי יִצְחָׁכ וְאַף אֶת־בִּרִיתִי אַבְרָהֶם אֶזָכָּר וְהָאֶרֵץ אֶזְכָּר:
- ָנְמָג) וְהָאָרֶץ מַעָּזָב מֵהֶם **וְתָרֶץ** אֶת־שַׁבְּתֹהֶיהָ בָּהְשַׁמָּה מֵהֶם וְהָם יִ**רְצִּוּ** אֶת־עֲוֹנָם יַעַן וּבְיַעַן בְּמִשְׁפָּטִי מָאָׁסוּ וְאֶת־חֻקֹּתַי גָּעֲלָה נַפְשֵׁם:
 - (מד) וְאַף־גַּם־זֹאת בָּהִיוֹתֶّם בָּאֶרֶץ אִיְבֵיהֶם לִא־מְאַסְתִּים וְלֹא־גְעַלְתִּים לְכַּלֹּתֶם לְהַפֵּר בְּרִיתִי אָתָם כֶּי אֲנֵי יִלְוָק אֱלֹהֵיהֶם:

32. Leviticus 26

I will make the land desolate, so that your enemies who settle in it shall be appalled by it.

And you I will scatter among the nations, and I will unsheath the sword against you. Your land shall become a desolation and your cities a ruin.

Then shall the land make up for its sabbath years throughout the time that it is desolate and you are in the land of your enemies; then shall the land rest and make up for its sabbath years.

Throughout the time that it is desolate, it shall observe the rest that it did not observe in your sabbath years while you were dwelling upon it.

As for those of you who survive, I will cast a faintness into their hearts in the land of their enemies. The sound of a driven leaf shall put them to flight. Fleeing as though from the sword, they shall fall though none pursues.

With no one pursuing, they shall stumble over one another as before the sword. You shall not be able to stand your ground before your enemies,

but shall perish among the nations; and the land of your enemies shall consume you.

Those of you who survive shall be heartsick over their iniquity in the land of your enemies; more, they shall be heartsick over the iniquities of their fathers;

and they shall confess their iniquity and the iniquity of their fathers, in that they trespassed against Me, yea, were hostile to Me.

When I, in turn, have been hostile to them and have removed them into the land of their enemies, then at last shall their obdurate heart humble itself, and they shall atone for their iniquity.

Then will I remember My covenant with Jacob; I will remember also My covenant with Isaac, and also My covenant with Abraham; and I will remember the land.

For the land shall be forsaken of them, making up for its sabbath years by being desolate of them, while they atone for their iniquity; for the abundant reason that they rejected My rules and spurned My laws.

Yet, even then, when they are in the land of their enemies, I will not reject them or spurn them so as to destroy them, annulling My covenant with them: for I the Lord am their God.

33. Gary Anderson, Sin: A History, p. 8-9

As Baruch Schwartz has noted in rabbinic texts, "The sinner is called *h'ayyab*, or 'obligated,' because he must repay his debt [h'ob]. The one who owes [h'ayyab] a sin-offering or a reparation offering must pay with the respective form of sacrifice; the one who owes a beating must pay with a lashing of his body; the one who owes death must pay with his life; and the one who owes the penalty of extirpation [karet] must pay after his death."...

Once it becomes a commonplace to think of sin as debt, the idea that virtuous activity generates a credit appears. The very idiom of rabbinic Hebrew supports this, because the antonym for the term $h \circ b$ (debt) is zekut (credit).

34. דניאל פרק ד

(כד) לָהַן מַלְכָּל יִשְׁפַּר עליך עַלָּדְ וחטיך נחַטָאַדְ בָּצִדְקָה פָּרֶיק נעַוַיַתְדְ בָּמָחָן עַנַיִן הַן תַּהַנְא אַרְכָה לִשְׁלוֹתְדְ:

34. Daniel 4:24

Therefore, O king, may my advice be acceptable to you: Redeem your sins by charity and your iniquities by generosity to the poor; then your serenity may be extended."

35. Gary Anderson, Sin: A History, p. 27-8

In Aramaic the word for a debt that one owes a lender, $h \cdot oba$, is the standard term for denoting sin. This term comes into Second Temple Hebrew and has the same double meaning. The idea of sin as a weight is rarely found in rabbinic Hebrew, having been replaced by the idea of sin as a debt. One can clearly see this transformation by examining how the various Aramaic translations of the biblical text (Targums) treat the phrase nas'a a'won. In almost every instance where nas'a a'won means "to bear the weight of a sin," we find the Aramaic idiom qabbel h'oba, "to assume a debt."....

Conversely, everywhere we find *nas a a won* with the meaning "to bear away a sin," we find the Aramaic idiom *s baq h oba*, "to remit a debt." Like its English equivalent, the Aramaic verb denotes an individual who refrains from collecting on an obligation or payment that is due him. As such it connotes a gracious deed in that a right holder graciously waives his right to collect what is due.

.63 ויקרא פרק ה פסוק א

(א) וְנַפֶּשׁ כֵּי־תָחָטָא וְשַׁמְעַה קוֹל אַלָּה וְהָוּא עָּד אָוֹ רַאָה אָוֹ יִדְע אָם־לְוֹא יַגִּיד וְ**נְשֵּׂא עוֹנוֹ:**

36. Leviticus 5:1

If a person sins, as he has heard a public imprecation, namely, against one who withholds testimony. and—although able to testify as one who has either seen or learned of the matter—if he does not give information, he bears his sin

73. תרגום אונקלוס ויקרא פרק ה פסוק א

(א) ואנש ארי יחוב וישמע קל מומי והוא סהיד או חזא או ידע אם לא יחוי ויקביל חוביה:

37. Translation of Ongelos, Leviticus 5:1

If a person is guilty, as he has heard a public imprecation, and—although able to testify as one who has either seen or learned of the matter—if he does not give information, he **receives his debt**.

38. Gary Anderson, Sin: A History, p. 28

This linguistic move is not simply that of the Aramaic Targum; it is equally well grounded in rabbinic Hebrew. In the Mishnah one who is at fault is said to be h ayyab, that is, in possession of a particular h ob, or debt, that must be repaid.

39. Gary Anderson, Sin: A History, p 29-31

Let us consider four representative examples: (1) the payment of a bill [para hov, puranut], (2) the act of collecting payment [gavah], (3) the state of being indebted [hayyav], (4) and the act of releasing someone from the obligation to repay a debt....

(4) The act of releasing someone from the obligation to repay a debt: The verb *mah al* means "to cancel a bond of indebtedness" in its literal sense (*s baq* is its equivalent in Aramaic) and "to forgive a sin" in a metaphoric sense.