

Return Unto Me for I Have Redeemed You

“I have blotted out your transgressions like a thick cloud and your sins like a mist. Return to Me, for I have redeemed you. Sing, O heavens, for Adonai has done it! Shout, depths of the earth! Break forth into singing, mountains, forest, and every tree in it! For Adonai has redeemed Jacob and will be glorified through Israel” (Isa. 44:22-23).

“⁷From the days of your ancestors you have turned aside from My statutes, and have not kept them. Return to Me, and I will return to you,” says Adonai-Tzva’ot. Yet you say: “How should we return?” (Mal 3:7)

“Seek יהוה while he is available, call on him while he is still nearby. Let the wicked person abandon his way and the evil person his thoughts; let him return to יהוה, and he will have mercy on him; let him return to our God, for he will freely forgive.’ (Isaiah 55:6,7) When does this apply to an individual? Rabbah bar Avuhah said: These are the ten days between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur” (Rosh Hashanah 18a).

24 Sins That Create a Great Spiritual Canyon Between God and Sinners

- A. Four sins so great that God blocks the sinner’s way toward repentance:
 1. Causing the multitude to sin or preventing them from performing a mitzvah
 2. Enticing an individual to sin
 3. Standing idly while one’s child—or anyone else he can influence—slides into the path of sin
 4. One who says, “I will repent later” or “I will sin and Yom Kippur will atone for me”
- B. Five sins or attitudes that by their very nature, stand in the way of repentance, because they make it very difficult for the sinner to accept the need to repent or to heed the admonition to do so:
 1. One who separates himself from the community
 2. One who disputes the wise men from his time
 3. One who disparages (depreciates, belittles or discredits) the commandments
 4. One who insults his teachers
 5. One who hates admonitions
- C. Five sins that prevent someone from repenting, because these sins involve other people, and the sinner will not know of whom he must beg forgiveness or to whom he must return property:
 1. One who curses a crowd, so that he does not know to whom to apologize
 2. One who shares in stolen goods, without knowing the victim
 3. One who does not announce or return stolen property
 4. One who persecutes the poor and the homeless, who remain anonymous
 5. One who accepts bribes, so he cannot know the extent of his miscarriage of justice
- D. Five sins from which it is difficult to repent because the violator considers them so trivial that they are not even sins:
 1. One who eats from a meal that does not suffice for his hosts
 2. One who uses the security deposit of poor people
 3. One who looks at immoral and obscene displays, and deludes himself into feeling that he has not committed an immoral act.
 4. One who glorifies himself through a disparaging comparison with another person, even though his comrade was not present to suffer embarrassment
 5. One who suspects another unjustly
- E. Five sins that entice the transgressor to commit them constantly and that become irresistible to him:
 1. Gossip-mongering
 2. Slander
 3. Anger
 4. Harboring evil thoughts
 5. Associating with the wicked