

THE REDEMPTIVE AWE OF MESSIAH

PRAY WITH US THROUGHOUT
THE TEN DAYS OF AWE IN 2024



Ten daily devotions exploring the Root of Sin, the Redemption of Messiah and how we can Respond in Prayer for the salvation of the Jewish people.





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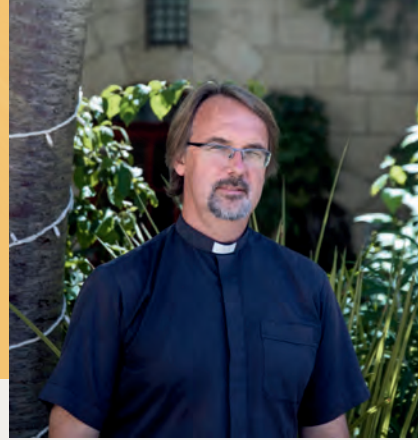
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WELCOME



**Rev Aaron Eime,
General Director CMJ UK**

Shalom and welcome to the Days of Awe Prayer Guide. Thank you for joining us and the Jewish people as we contemplate the redemptive awe of the Messiah leading up to Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement.

The Days of Awe, or in Hebrew, the יָמִים נוֹרָאִים *Yamim Noraim*, begin with *Rosh HaShanah* (ראש השנה) the 'New Year' in the Jewish calendar. In the Bible, this is referred to as the Feast of Trumpets or יוֹם תְּרוּעָה *Yom Teruah*. A key feature of *Yom Teruah* is the blowing of the shofar, the ram's horn, over a hundred times.

One of the purposes of sounding the shofar is to invoke the Holy Spirit to wake us up from spiritual slumber in preparation for Yom Kippur. Repentance is something we can and should do every day, however this season is a special time of personal introspection for Jewish people. Jewish tradition holds that, at this time, the Books of God are opened, in which are written the names and fates of all people. The mercies of God are new every morning and there is always time to repent, ensuring that our name would be counted in the Book of Life. This season is characterised by an increase in the intensity of personal prayer and repentance as well as extra acts of charity.

Aaron Eime



WHAT IS THIS PRAYER GUIDE?

The Days of Awe Prayer Guide is a devotional prayer booklet specifically designed to help you intercede for Jewish People. This year's guide is structured around the opening section of the traditional Ashkenazi Al Chet prayer from the Siddur, the Jewish prayer book. It is called the *Ashamnu*, which literally means 'we are guilty' and this prayer is said many times during Yom Kippur. It is an alphabetical acrostic confession of sin. Each of our ten devotions will be based around the words of this Jewish prayer and will follow the format below:

- Part of the Ashamnu Prayer - some words in Hebrew and English from the Ashamnu out of the Siddur
- The Root of Sin - a meditation on a Bible passage corresponding to the words of the Ashamnu prayer listed
- The Redemption of Messiah - a further thought drawing out the hope that Yeshua the Messiah provides through His redemption
- The Response of prayer – an exhortation as to how we can respond in prayer for the Jewish people at this time.

Together, let us be encouraged to pray for God's Spirit to work wonders in the hearts of the Jewish people (Exodus 15:11).

THIS YEAR'S FOCUS

The Ashamnu is prayed in the first person plural indicating that, while we may not have individually transgressed certain sins, we can be sure that our community has. We also acknowledge that our sins do not just affect us, but they also affect our community and nation. We recognise that, as the people of God, all our fates are intertwined.



One of the overshadowing themes on our minds, as we pray this year, will be the horrific events of October 7th. Since this terrible tragedy, which took the lives of more Jewish people in a single moment since the Holocaust, antisemitism is once again on the rise, almost unchecked. All Jewish people around the world have been affected and this season will bring deep soul searching for reasons and meaning. As believers in Yeshua, there is no better time to pray for Jewish people. Let us therefore petition God this season, praying that Jewish people, far and wide, will turn to the Living God, have their sins wiped out and encounter the redemptive awe of the Messiah.



Day ONE



Day One: Oliver Sims
Adam and Eve's Trespass; Genesis 3:6-9

TODAY'S WORDS FROM THE ASHAMNU PRAYER:

אֲשָׁמְנוּ *ashamnu* We have trespassed [against God and man, and we are devastated by our guilt];

בִּגְדָנוּ *bagadnu* We have betrayed [God and man, we have been ungrateful for the good done to us];

דִּבְרָנוּ דֹפִי *dibarnu dofi* We have stolen; We have slandered;



THE ROOT OF SIN

Today is Rosh Hashanah. It begins the Ten Days of Awe (Leviticus 23:23). Themes are the kingship of God and the creation of the world. Let us then consider what happened in the beginning. In the Garden, our first parents enjoyed close fellowship with God. Yet, on that infamous day, they chose to disobey. They trespassed and, in their guilt, they betrayed the One who had given them life. Dependency gave way to distance and distance gave way to destruction. The root of sin began to grow.

God calls out to them אַיֶּקָה? "ayyekah?," a Hebrew four letter word, yet a question that has echoed down the centuries; "Where are you?" God was calling to the lost. As Isaiah affirmed; 'your iniquities have separated you from your God' (Isaiah 59:2).



THE REDEMPTION OF MESSIAH

Yet this Jewish prophet speaks of hope that will break the curse: Messiah takes the burden of Adam's sin (Isaiah 53:10) becoming the asham, (guilt offering) for wayward humanity's rebellion. True shalom for Jews and also for Gentiles is now here (Ephesians 2:14).

In the garden of Gethsemane (meaning 'olive press') Jesus prayed. Just as the olives were pressed, issuing pure olive oil, He sweated drops of blood at the weight of the task before Him. And on the tree of Calvary, Jesus gave up His spirit (Luke 23:46) forgiving the theft there that Adam and Eve had committed, bringing blessing in the place of betrayal.

But it will be in another garden where life will, one day, be fully put right. In the Jewish mind, the afterlife is as the Garden of Eden, yet this is what we see in the book of Revelation (Revelation 22). Jesus spoke to the Jewish people who believed in Him (John 8:31-32), borrowing a theme from Isaiah 5 - He is the true vine (John 15). In Him tears are taken away, fruitfulness is found and Eden is restored.



THE RESPONSE OF PRAYER

Pray for our world, which is lost without the Lord. Intercede for communities and families. Pray that God would reveal Himself to Jewish people who are lost without the Messiah. Ask God to touch hearts and lives. Pray that as Jewish people consider the creation and the Creator on Rosh Hashanah, they would cry out to Him and find mercy in their time of need.

Day TWO

Day Two: John Arnold
Abram in Egypt;
Genesis 12:10-20



TODAY'S WORDS FROM THE ASHAMNU PRAYER:

דִּבְרָנוּ דְּפִי *Dibarnu* We have slandered;

הֶעֵוִינוּ *He'evynu* We have caused others to sin /
caused perversion;

וְהִרְשַׁעְנוּ *Hirsha'nu* We have caused others to commit sins for
which they are called רְשָׁעִים *r'shaim* wicked;



THE ROOT OF SIN

Genesis 12:10-20 records a low point for Abram. Fearing for his life, he asked Sarai to lie, potentially leading to adultery. Abram's request put Sarai and others at risk. Pharaoh and his household, innocent in the matter, suffered God's punishment due to Abram's fear. Yet his fear was not unfounded. The first famine in Scripture is mentioned here (Genesis 12:10). Jewish literature states, 'From the day when the heavens and the earth were created, the Holy One, blessed be He, had not brought into the world a famine but only in the days of Abraham, and not in any of the lands but only in the land of Canaan.' (Pirkei deRabbi Eliezer 26:4).

Abram exhibited earthly fears, which led to his sin amid Pharaoh's household. This scenario was repeated in Genesis 20 and 26, where lies brought God's wrath upon innocent people. The penitent Ashamnu includes, 'We have caused others to sin.' Abram's fear almost led Sarai, Pharaoh, and Abimelech to adultery causing suffering in Egypt and Gerar.



THE REDEMPTION OF MESSIAH

In the Gospels, we see Yeshua calling on God to heal broken relationships, to restore broken families and perform deeds of life that would bring the dead back to life. When we are suffering lack and when we are fearing, we should turn to the Lord. We should not let insecurity produce iniquity. Far from being distant and angry when we call upon Him, God, in Messiah Jesus, can redeem even the most awkward of situations. As with Abram, God's grace provides a path to repentance and healing for all involved.



THE RESPONSE OF PRAYER

Pray for the insecure at this time. Social situations that Jewish people find themselves in may lead them to sin because they feel they have no choice in the matter. Pray for those who may be susceptible to manipulation. Fear or animosity can cause ungodly reactions. Pray for Jewish mothers and grandmothers. Pray for a strengthening within families. Since October 7th, there is a window of time where Israel is facing what dependence on policies, politicians, or military can bring. But there is also an increase in fear. Pray that Yeshua would provide courage in difficult social, cultural and relational situations.

Day THREE



Day Three: Cariño Casas
The wilful sin of Achan;
Joshua 7:20-23

TODAY'S WORDS FROM THE ASHAMNU PRAYER:

זָדַנּוּ

Zadnu We have sinned wilfully / We have sinned with malicious intent;

חָמַסְנוּ

Chamasnu We have extorted (forcibly taken others' possessions);

טַפְּלֵנוּ שְׁקֵרָה

Tafalnu sheker We have accused falsely / added falsehood upon falsehood; We have joined with evil individuals or groups;



THE ROOT OF SIN

Before God defeated Jericho, Joshua repeatedly warned the people not to take anything for themselves. All spoil had been devoted to the LORD (Joshua 6:17).

However, Achan stole from God, sinned wilfully by coveting, forcibly taking what belonged to the LORD, and lying after hiding the spoil under his tent. Achan's unfaithfulness pushed God away from Israel's camp, for God cannot dwell with sin.

Achan was supposed to burn the spoil from Jericho. Instead, for taking the gold, silver, and the fancy cloak, Achan was burned with fire. Achan ultimately confessed, but only after the LORD called him out as the guilty one. But it was too late for him.



THE REDEMPTION OF MESSIAH

We all have a selfish impulse to take what delights the eyes but doesn't belong to us and the impulse to lie to save ourselves.

Amazingly, God sent another Joshua - Yeshua (short for Yehoshua) to call out our sin. But instead of condemning us to burn like Achan, Jesus steps in to heal. Experiencing every temptation we have ever had, Jesus did not sin, yet He dealt with it's root. When he surrendered to death on the cross, he swallowed up coveting and lying and now offers eternal life and love. We need only confess and ask for his help.



THE RESPONSE OF PRAYER

Pray for both Jews and Gentiles to admit wilful sin. Ask God to bring revelation so that there may be an acknowledgement of things coveted and stolen when no one is looking. Pray for Jewish people to be drawn back to the Bible where the God of Israel outlines His standards of morality. Pray that secular Jews would be attentive to their consciences, that they would cry out for God's mercy and that religious Jews would truly confess their sins to God while saying the Ashamnu. May God, in his mercy, open their eyes to Yeshua, the final atoning sacrifice.

Day FOUR

Day Four: Richard Harvey
Solomon's kingly advice to
the wayward; Proverbs
6:16-19



TODAY'S WORDS FROM THE ASHAMNU PRAYER:

יַעֲצֵנוּ רָע

Ya'atznu ra' We have given evil counsel /
harmful advice;

כִּזְבָּנוּ

Kizavnu We have deceived / been deceitful;



THE ROOT OF SIN

In Proverbs 6:16-19, Solomon addresses lying and deceitful hearts, behaviour that displeases the Lord. Sin in the human heart leads to harmful advice and deceit. God demands truthfulness and integrity. We must acknowledge our sins and the ways we have deceived others, as these actions damage our relationships with God and others (Jeremiah 9:3-9). The Al Chet and Ashamnu prayers helpfully detail each area of sin in our lives.



THE REDEMPTION OF MESSIAH

The Day of Atonement, as in Biblical times, is still a time of repentance and confession. It offers joy through spiritual renewal and reconciliation with God. During Yom Kippur, forgiveness from sins is sought. Yet Yeshua (Jesus) provides ultimate reconciliation, emphasising the need to forgive others as God forgives us (Matthew 6:12).

Between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, the Ten Days of Awe, seeking forgiveness from those we have wronged is crucial. The Siddur (Jewish Daily Prayer Book) includes a nightly prayer to forgive those who have wronged us, freeing us from resentment:

*"I hereby forgive anyone who has angered or provoked me or sinned against me, physically or financially or by failing to give me due respect, or in any other matter relating to me, involuntarily or willingly, inadvertently or deliberately, whether in word or deed: let no one incur punishment because of me."**

Yeshua's words on the cross, *"Father, forgive them, they know not what they do"* (Luke 23:34), guide us in our attitude of forgiveness. He taught us the practice of giving and receiving forgiveness for our sins. Let us follow His example:

"And forgive us our sins/debts, as we forgive those who sin against us." (Matthew 6:12)

**Jonathan Sacks Siddur, Koren Publishers, Jerusalem, 2009: 294-295.*



THE RESPONSE OF PRAYER

Pray for all to recognise the gravity of sin and the need for repentance. Pray for spiritual renewal and reconciliation with God during Yom Kippur. Ask God to give people forgiving hearts and to follow Yeshua's example. Intercede for Jewish people to seek opportunities to make amends and that God would restore relationships. Let us pray for Christians to repent of anti-Judaism and antisemitism. Pray too that the Gospel of forgiveness would take deep root reconciling Israelis and Palestinians.

Day FIVE

Day Five: Edith Sher
Youngsters' mockery and Elisha's
response; 2 Kings 2:23-25

TODAY'S WORDS FROM THE ASHAMNU PRAYER:

לְצַנּוּ *Latznu* We have mocked;

מְרַדְּנוּ *Maradnu* We have rebelled (against God and His Torah);



THE ROOT OF SIN

This passage seems to show that the prophet Elisha cursed some youths simply for taunting him. Worse still, God seems to condone Elisha's apparent pettiness. However, it's not as simple as it seems. The incident took place at Bethel where the northern kingdom's first king, Jeroboam, set up golden calves in rivalry to the Jerusalem temple. This idolatry clearly continued into Elisha's time. The youths of Bethel jeered, "Go up you baldhead." (2 Kings 2:23) This was no mere gibe. Baldness was one of the symbols of God's judgment (Isaiah 3:24). The youths were also implying, "If you are a man of God, why don't you go up to heaven like Elijah did?" Thus, they reviled a man they knew to be God's servant. God's punishment on them reveals that he will not be mocked.



THE REDEMPTION OF MESSIAH

The youths had learned wickedness from their parents but our inclination to sin goes all the way back to Eden and the original temptation of self-worship. Only faith in Yeshua's atoning sacrifice can break the cycle of sin. The Ashamnu prayer confesses, 'We have mocked, we have rebelled.' Sadly however, I recently came across a version tailored for modern Jewish youth that sounds almost as mocking as the youths of Elisha's time. Here are three examples:

- For the sin of comparing my life to others on social media
- For the sin of putting myself down instead of practising self-love.
- For the sin of late-night online shopping splurges.

Although scarcely representative of all Jewish youth, this trivialising of sin exposes the failure of many to recognise the holiness of God and the true nature of evil. May we evermore conform to the standards that Yeshua sets.



THE RESPONSE OF PRAYER

Pray that Jewish people will grasp that sin is not just acts of disobedience that can be itemised in a list at Yom Kippur, no matter how sincerely prayed, but a condition of the human heart. Pray that they will see that God, beyond repentance, requires an atoning sacrifice. Ask God to reveal Leviticus 17:11 (and Hebrews 9:22) as Jewish people reach out to Him. May they know that Messiah Yeshua is our atonement. Pray that God will bring comfort and healing to the Jewish people amidst rising antisemitism and that they will realise they can only depend on Him.

Day SIX

**Day Six: Gerry Cohen
The Golden Calf incident;
Exodus 32**



TODAY'S WORDS FROM THE ASHAMNU PRAYER:

נִאָצְנוּ

Ni'atznu We have provoked / caused God to be angry with us;

סָרַרְנוּ

Sararinu We have turned away (from God's Torah);



THE ROOT OF SIN

As we consider the mixed multitude of Jew and Gentile in the wilderness, we know that neither people were more guilty than the other. It is in turning away from God's Torah – in choosing self, in dethroning God, that the root of sin grows within us individually and as a community. It is in impatience - not trusting the perfect plans of the Almighty, that we build up our idols. Aaron sought to appease the people, and they offered what was precious materially. Judaism speaks of the need for teshuvah – a turning from sin in repentance. Just like the people in the wilderness, we too have 'turned away from God's Torah.'

Why would it matter? Because we must pay heed to the teaching of God as a lamp to our feet and a light to our path (Psalms 119:105).



THE REDEMPTION OF MESSIAH

In intervening on behalf of the people Moshe (Moses) shows humility and determination. Even after the deaths of 3,000 he reminds God of His promises to Abraham. Redemption comes through intervention. Yeshua, our Redeemer pleads on behalf of each of us. Like Moshe, He enters the Presence of the Almighty – but unlike Moshe, our Saviour brings no offering from the people. Instead, He is the offering Himself. By ourselves we tend not towards repentance for the heart is deceitful above all things (Jeremiah 17:9). Yet, when God makes a way, how can we not respond? We have an absolute certainty that there is One Greater than Moshe. Aaron brought excuses. Yeshua brought Himself.



THE RESPONSE OF PRAYER

Pray for repentance among God's People. Ask God that the One Greater than Moses will be revealed to them. As they go through the Days of Awe, hearing the promises of Scripture and the sounding of the Shofar that calls to repentance and praying that as a People there will be a turning towards God, may Jewish people truly find the Messiah of Peace. Pray for the Peace of Jerusalem that the Prince of Peace be revealed in the lives of many Jewish people, whether secular or religious. As the anniversary of October 7th falls during the Ten Days of Awe, may many find God to be their comfort, their strength, their Shepherd.

Day SEVEN

Day Seven: Kelvin Crombie
The zeal of Pinchas the Levite / the incident
of Zimri, Son of Salu; Numbers 25:6-18

TODAY'S WORDS FROM THE ASHAMNU PRAYER:

· עִינֵנוּ

Aveynu We have been perverse / sinned deliberately;

· פִּשְׁעֵנוּ

Pasha'nu We have acted maliciously / we have been
negligent in our performance of the commandments;



THE ROOT OF SIN

This rich portion of Scripture revolves around Zimri, Cozbi and Pinchas. As a son of a leader Zimri would have been aware of the stipulations of God's Kingdom 'Constitution' (Torah) that warned against sexual activity outside of marriage and relationships outside the covenant nation. Cozbi, the daughter of a Midianite leader, was a pawn used to entice Israel away from obeying their God-given 'Constitution'. Then there was Pinchas from the family of Levi, a man of zeal dedicated to upholding God's Torah.

Timelessly and tirelessly, the enemy of God is always attempting to entice us away from obeying God's Kingdom 'Constitution'. Here it was the lust of the flesh. Today too, we need to be alert and perhaps even radical in our responses, as was Pinchas. Blood had to be spilt to turn God's wrath away from Israel. 24,000 people perished – but how many more would have died had he not taken drastic intercessory action?



THE REDEMPTION OF MESSIAH

Ever since Adam and Hava (Eve) had disobeyed God's Kingdom 'Constitution' (See the entry on Day 1), God's wrath was upon humankind. Yet in His great love He was always seeking restored intimacy. For this, radical action was needed too. A righteous person, without אשם *asham* (guilt) who would be willing to incur the wrath of God and pay the ransom price to redeem humankind was needed. Who would free God's children from death's judicial sentence? Such a person was Yeshua - Jesus, God-incarnate, the perfect guilt offering. By His spilt blood, he eternally turned away God's wrath from our adamic race. This New Covenant far surpassed the covenant which was given to Pinchas. It promises not just the forgiveness of sin and iniquity, but also the restoration of relationship with Almighty God (Jeremiah 31:34).



THE RESPONSE OF PRAYER

Pray for Jewish people mixed up in new age teaching in our day. Ask God to reveal to them the need for a truly righteous high priest. Only One who is pure can forgive unclean acts. Pray for Jewish people caught up in secular worldly sin. Intercede that God would save the prostitutes and the drug addicts including in Israel and those in illicit sexual relationships everywhere. May God have mercy on His wayward people.

Day EIGHT

Day Eight: Lois Tverberg
Saul - A persecutor transformed;
Acts 9:1-2, 26:9-11

TODAY'S WORDS FROM THE ASHAMNU PRAYER:

צָרַרְנוּ *Tzarnu* We have persecuted / We have caused grief;

קִשִּׁינוּ עֵרָף *Kishiynu oref* We have been obstinate / We have been stiff-necked, refusing to admit that our suffering is caused by our own sins;



THE ROOT OF SIN

Being wrong is not terribly uncommon now, when we swim in an online sea of urban legends and AI fakery. Error almost seems like an innocent fault, until you see the terrible destruction that it can do.

The person who must have grieved most about his own destructive error was Paul. In Acts 26:9-11, he recounts how righteous zeal filled him with a murderous rage against the first messianic believers. He persecuted them, locked them up and cast death sentences upon them. What terrible remorse must have filled Paul when he encountered fellow-believers who had once suffered at his hand, or a family whose loved one had perished because of his deeds.

One thing we can learn from Paul is that when anger seizes our hearts, we can lose all perspective. We often shut down communication with those who disagree with us. Maybe even with God! Why? Because, honestly, outrage feels quite good! It is up to us to have sensitive, humble hearts to keep listening to God and Scripture for correction.



THE REDEMPTION OF MESSIAH

Christians studying their Jewish roots sometimes have this experience. Most of us have spent decades as believers before we discovered that we were wrong about Jesus' Jewish reality in important ways. We remember the sincerity of our ignorance and know it wasn't out of malice. Yet we seethe when we hear other people making the same errors that we once did. We need humility to realise that others are just like ourselves - flawed and prone to misjudgement.

Destructive error reached a shocking high after October 7th, when we saw the world fill with hatred and anger toward the Jewish people, despite their being victims of a horrifying attack. Certainly, we need to plead with God to use us to graciously bring truth and light to the situation - but start with correcting our own errors first.



THE RESPONSE OF PRAYER

Pray especially for religious Jewish people. Many Jewish people have a zeal and a genuine passion but it is directed often against Messiah Jesus. Just as with Paul ask God to give them a revelation of Jesus. Pray for softening of hearts amongst the Ultra-Orthodox. Pray for God to break in with his Spirit and melt even the hardest heart. Pray that God would use the passion of the religious rabbis to the glory of His messianic Kingdom.

Do the RIGHT thing

Day NINE

Day Nine: Theresa Newell
The Cunning of Cain; Genesis 4:1-16

TODAY'S WORDS FROM THE ASHAMNU PRAYER:

צָרָנוּ *Tzarnu* We have been wicked / we have committed sins for which we are called *rasha* [raising a hand to hit someone];



THE ROOT OF SIN

There is just one word from the Ashamnu prayer today; wickedness. Cain, the first-born of Adam and Eve, was the first born of a human mother, not created by God from mud or a rib. He was a new species born outside the barred gates of the Garden following the Great Rebellion.

Proclivity to sin came in 'Generation One.' At the first recorded offering to the LORD by Cain and his brother Abel, sinful self-righteousness exploded in Cain's heart. God favoured Abel's offering, but not Cain's whose indifferent 'discharging a duty' heart God knew. Cain submitted to anger, depression, jealousy, rivalry, and spite. "Why does everything work for Abel, and nothing works out for me?" he raged.

God initiated a dialogue with Cain: "If you turn and do what is right, you can be accepted, too. Do what is right and you will master sin." (Genesis 4:7). Despite God's personal counselling, Cain wickedly chose to be mastered by the hatred monster which led to history's first intentional murder of innocent Abel.



THE REDEMPTION OF MESSIAH

Cain cries too late, "My punishment is more than I can bear" (Genesis 4:13). The merciful God fixes a protective mark on the murderer so that none would kill him. Jesus confirmed this greatest of all mercy. "The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many" (Mark 10:45). God had made provision for Cain, and for us, by the shed blood of His Lamb, the mercy that stretches from eternity to eternity for "whosoever will."



THE RESPONSE OF PRAYER

Pray for God to send His Spirit during these Days of Awe. Ask God to reveal all jealousy, hatred, rivalry, spite and arrogance in hearts. May Jewish people truly embrace the peace of knowing Messiah as lives are offered up to Him (Romans 12:1). Pray especially for Jewish men and women in prison who have committed crimes – may Yeshua release them from their spiritual prison. May God reveal His message at this time - the sufficiency of the shed Blood of Yeshua which removes all wickedness from every worshipping heart.

Day TEN

Day Ten: Aaron Eime
Theme: Ahaz – Apostasy in action; 2
Kings 16:1-4, 2 Chronicles 28:1-4

TODAY'S WORDS FROM THE ASHAMNU PRAYER:

We have corrupted / we have committed sins which are the result of moral corruption;

תַּעֲבֹנוּ *Ti'avnu* We have been an abomination / We have committed sins which the Torah refers to as abominations;

תַּעֲיִנוּ *Ta'einu* We have gone astray;

תַּעֲתֵנוּ *Ti'ta'nu* We have led others astray;



THE ROOT OF SIN

King Ahaz was of the lineage and house of David, but instead of following in the example of his forefathers or listening to the wisdom of the prophets, Ahaz pursued evil. He abandoned the God of Israel for false deities and even sacrificed his own children (2 Kings 3:27). He erected pagan altars which caused other Israelites to follow his example and worship foreign gods.

Today is Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement (see Welcome page). As we close the Days of Awe on this day, the final words of the Ashamnu confessional prayer cause us to pause once again and reflect on how we have gone astray תָּעִינוּ *ta'einu* and how our actions have caused others to also stray תִּתְעִינוּ *tita'einu*. The first verb is active, meaning there are direct results of our personal sin. The second verb is passive indicating that the consequences of straying go beyond ourselves. Our actions impact others. Sometimes we like to think that what we do is personal and only we are affected. We use phrases like 'I didn't mean to' to justify the impact our actions have on those around us. However, intentional or not, the sins we commit have real and lasting consequences to our families and communities.



THE REDEMPTION OF MESSIAH

It is in the context of Ahab's appalling child sacrifice that the prophet Isaiah goes to Ahaz with the prophecy that *"unto us a child is born and a son given"* (Isaiah 9:6-7). Ahaz sacrificed his son through fire but in an amazing act of redemptive awe, God would provide His own Son.

When the Father forgives our personal sins through His Son, His redemptive activity also touches the community around us. We become witnesses of the Messiah's redemption to our family and friends. Our personal testimonies can impact the lives of many around us. It is Messiah who gives us a changed behaviour and a new love for others.



THE RESPONSE OF PRAYER

Let us pray today for forgiveness of the things we have done and the impact this has had on those around us. Intercede for Jewish 'LGBTQ+ groups.' Pray also for those perpetrating abortions in Israel. Pray for Jewish people to truly find belonging and forgiveness in Messiah Jesus. May broken hearts be restored and all who have gone astray be brought truly near to the God of Israel through Yeshua.

A MESSIANIC ASHAMNU PRAYER

Our God and the God of our forefathers may our prayer come before You, do not ignore our supplication. Ashamnu – We are guilty. We have been **[a]** afraid to trust. We have **[b]** betrayed. We have been **[c]** corrupt in our thinking and our actions. Yet, we are grateful that Yeshua took our guilt. He is the One who sanctifies us.

We have spoken **[d]** deceit, we have **[e]** erred from Your path. We have **[f]** found ways to sin against You. And yet in Your great mercy, we know that You graciously save.

We have been **[g]** greedy, we have **[h]** hated, we have committed **[i]** iniquity, we have tried to **[j]** justify ourselves. And yet in Your great mercy, we know that You carry the burden of our guilt. You restore the years that the locusts have eaten.

We have **[k]** kicked you aside. We have **[l]** loved falsehood. We have **[m]** murmured and complained. We have **[n]** neglected Your teaching. Yet in Your great mercy, You are Gracious and Good.

We have **[o]** openly denied You. We have been **[p]** passive. We have been **[q]** quick to accuse and become angry. And yet in Your mercy, You are willing to pardon us.

We have **[r]** resisted Your leading. We have **[s]** sinned against others. We have **[t]** turned towards the world. And yet in Your great mercy, You are the Righteous Lamb sacrificed to atone for us.

We have been **[u]** unresponsive and **[v]** vile in our thoughts. We have **[w]** wilfully strayed from Your Word and from Your instruction. Yet, You are interceding for us. By Your Spirit You restore our souls.

We have **[x]** existed as if You were not there. We have **[y]** yielded to temptation. We have been **[z]** zealous for the approval of man. Yet, we know that You are our King, the God of Truth. In Your great mercy we say to You, the One who dwells on high, who abides in the highest heavens - Thank You for Yeshua. Thank You for the grace You give to start again; clean, righteous and free.

Amen.

CLOSING THOUGHTS

Thank you for journeying together with us in prayer over the Ten Days of Awe. The prayer of the righteous avails much and, as we have humbled ourselves and beseeched the love and mercy of God, through the redemptive awe of Jesus, we can trust that He will do amazing things this season. As it is written;

"Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, to Him be glory in the assembly of the Messiah Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen."

Ephesians 3:20-21.

It is an honour to serve as the General Director of CMJ UK. And I look forward to continuing to walk together in this incredible ministry that is the Church's Ministry among Jewish people.

Aaron Eime





The Church's Ministry
among Jewish People

THE DAYS OF AWE
Prayer Guide

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