

1) Verses from Leviticus formed into a prayer by Rabbi Starr

דַּבֵּר אֶל-כָּל-עַדְת בְּנֵי-יִשְׂרָאֵל וְאָמַרְתָּ אֲלֵהֶם קְדוּשִׁים תִּהְיוּ.¹

Speak to all of the people of Israel, and say to them, You shall be holy;

בַּעֲשׂוֹר לַחֹדֶשׁ הַשְּׁבִיעִי הַזֶּה יוֹם הַכִּפּוּרִים הוּא מִקְרָא-קֹדֶשׁ יִהְיֶה לָנוּ

וְנַעֲוֶה אֶת-נַפְשֹׁתֵינוּ לְכַפֵּר עֲלֵינוּ.²

On the tenth day of this seventh month there shall be a day of atonement; it shall be a holy gathering to us; and we shall afflict our souls to make an atonement for ourselves.

נִפְשׁ אִו כָּל עַדְת יִשְׂרָאֵל תַּחֲטָא בְשִׁגְגָה וְנוֹדְעָה הַחֲטָאת אֲשֶׁר חָטְאָה

וְהִתְוֹדְתָהּ וּבִקְשָׁה סְלִיחָה וְנִסְלְחָה.

If an individual or the whole congregation misses the mark through ignorance and the congregation is made aware of their sin, they should acknowledge their mistake, request forgiveness and be forgiven.

וְלֹא נִכְחַשׁ בְּעַמִּיתֵינוּ וְנִשְׁבַּע עַל-שִׁקְר עַל-אֲחַת מִכָּל אֲשֶׁר-יַעֲשֶׂה הָאָדָם

לְחַטָּא בְהֵנָה.³

1. Leviticus 19:2

2. Leviticus 23:27-28

3. Leviticus 5:21

Let us not deceive our neighbor; if we do deceive our neighbor we shall admit our wrong, and atone for our sin.

לֹא נִפְנוּ אֶל־הָאֱלֹהִים⁴ לֹא אֱלֹהֵי מַסֵּכָה וְלֹא כֶסֶף.

We shall not turn to idols, neither molton gods nor money.

לֹא נִגְנוֹב וְלֹא־נִכְחַשׁ וְלֹא־נִשְׁקַךְ אִישׁ בְּעַמִּיתוֹ⁵.

We shall not steal; we shall not deal deceitfully or falsely with one another.

לֹא נַעֲשֶׂה עוֹל בַּמִּשְׁפָּט בַּמִּדָּה בַּמִּשְׁקָל וּבַמְּשׁוֹרָה⁶:

We shall not falsify measures of length, weight, or capacity.

לֹא־נַעֲשֶׂק אֶת־רֵעֵינוּ וְלֹא תִגְזֹל.

We shall not defraud our fellow.

לֹא־תִלֵּין פְּעֻלַּת שְׂכִיר אֲתָנוּ עַד־בֹּקֶר⁷.

The wages of a laborer shall not remain with us until morning.

4. Leviticus 19:4
5. Leviticus 19:11
6. Leviticus 19:35
7. Leviticus 19:13

לֹא נַעֲשֶׂה עוֹל בְּמִשְׁפָּט לְאִנְשָׁא פְּנֵי-דָל וְלֹא נִהְדָּר פְּנֵי גָדוֹל בְּצִדֵּק

נִשְׁפָּט עִמֵּיתָנוּ.⁸

We shall not render an unfair decision: nor favor the poor nor show deference to the rich; we shall judge our kins fairly.

וּנְקַצֵּר אֶת-קִצְרֵי אֲרָצֵינוּ לֹא נִכְלֶה פֶּאֶת שְׂדֵינוּ לְקֶצֶר לְעֲנִי וְלִגֵּר נַעֲזֹב

אֹתָם.⁹

When we reap the harvest of our land, we shall not harvest up to the corners of our field; rather we shall leave them to the poor, and to the stranger;

לֹא נַעֲמֹד עַל-דַּם רֵעֵינוּ.¹⁰

We shall not profit by the blood of our neighbor.

לֹא נִקְלֹל חֵרֶשׁ וְלִפְנֵי עוֹר לֹא נִתֵּן מִכְשָׁל.¹¹

We shall not insult the deaf, nor place a stumbling block before the blind.

8. Leviticus 19:15
9. Leviticus 19:9-10
10. Leviticus 19:16
11. Leviticus 19:14

כְּאֶזְרַח מִמְּנוּ יִהְיֶה לָנוּ הַגֵּר | הַגֵּר אֲתָנוּ מִשְׁפָּט אֶחָד יִהְיֶה לָנוּ¹². וְאֵהְבֵנוּ

לֹא כְּמִינוּ¹³.

The stranger who resides with us shall be to us as one of our citizens. We will love our neighbor as yourself.

אֵלֶּה הֵם מוֹעֲדֵי. שֵׁשֶׁת יָמִים תַּעֲשֶׂה מְלָאכָה וּבַיּוֹם הַשְּׁבִיעִי שַׁבַּת שַׁבְּתוֹן

מִקְרָא-קֹדֶשׁ¹⁴.

These are my feasts: Six days shall work be done; but the seventh day is the sabbath of rest, a holy gathering.

וּבַחֲמִשָּׁה עָשָׂר יוֹם לַחֹדֶשׁ הַזֶּה חַג הַמַּצּוֹת לִי שִׁבְעַת יָמִים מַצּוֹת

נֹאכֵל¹⁵:

And on the fifteenth day of the same month is the Feast of Unleavened Bread to Gd. Seven days we shall eat unleavened bread.

טו וּנְסַפֵּר לָנוּ מִמַּחֲרַת הַשַּׁבָּת נִסְפָּר חֲמִשִּׁים יוֹם¹⁶.

12. Leviticus 24:22
 13. Leviticus 19:34
 14. Leviticus 23:2-3
 15. Leviticus 23:5-6
 16. Leviticus 23:15-16

We shall count from the next day after the sabbath to the next day after the seventh sabbath shall we count fifty days.

בַּחֹדֶשׁ הַשְּׁבִיעִי בְּאַחַד לַחֹדֶשׁ יִהְיֶה לָנוּ שִׁבְתֹּן זְכוֹרֹן תְּרוּעָה
מִקְרָא-קֹדֶשׁ¹⁷.

In the seventh month, in the first day of the month, we shall have a sabbath, a memorial of blowing of shofars, a holy gathering.

בְּעֶשְׂוֹר לַחֹדֶשׁ הַשְּׁבִיעִי הַזֶּה יוֹם הַכִּפּוּרִים הוּא מִקְרָא-קֹדֶשׁ יִהְיֶה לָנוּ
וְנַעֲנֶה אֶת-נַפְשֹׁתֵינוּ לְכַפֵּר עֲלֵינוּ¹⁸.

On the tenth day of this seventh month there shall be a day of atonement; it shall be a holy gathering to us; and we shall afflict our souls to make an atonement for ourselves.

בַּחֲמִשָּׁה עָשָׂר יוֹם לַחֹדֶשׁ הַשְּׁבִיעִי הַזֶּה חַג הַסֻּכּוֹת¹⁹.

The fifteenth day of this seventh month shall be the Feast of Booths.

דַּבֵּר אֶל-כָּל-עַדַת בְּנֵי-יִשְׂרָאֵל וְאָמַרְתָּ אֲלֵהֶם קְדָשִׁים תִּהְיוּ כִּי קָדוֹשׁ²⁰.

Speak to all of the people of Israel, and say to them, You shall be holy; for I am holy.

17. Leviticus 23:24

18. Leviticus 23:27-28

19. Leviticus 23:34

20. Leviticus 19:2

2) **Rabbi Shmuly Yanklowitz**

“It is easy to scream and blame others (politicians, neighbors, detractors). However, instead of blaming others, we need to look inward and ask if we are doing enough ourselves. It is not an easy question to ask. We may prefer to blame others instead. We may prefer to judge others in order to avoid judging ourselves. We are not allowed to do that. Analyze and learn, we must.”

3) **Rabbi Shmuly Yanklowitz**

“Perhaps the biggest change we can make in our own lives is to become ready to change. The ever-changing world we live in requires us to assess our own needs and the needs of others everyday anew. In order to truly take care of our souls and support others, we have to change-constantly. Only then are we able to give back. That is what it means to take care of our souls.....Part of maturation of the spirit is managing complexity. The evil in our world might numb us, but it might also awaken us to rise and fight for kindness and justice; lack of justice might infuriate us, but it might also deepen our relationship to Gd and our understanding of our own responsibility.”