

DAY 13 | FORGIVEN

30 Days of Repentance + Heart Preparation • Make Room for God's Heart

Hebrew Word Study | Isaiah 1:16–18; Psalm 130:1–4

Companion Scriptures: Colossians 2:13–14; Ephesians 1:7–8

The central invitation

We do not have to hide the depths of our hearts from the God who offers forgiveness. The four passages move from honest confession and a cry for mercy to cleansing, redemption, and renewed life. God's grace is not a reward for presenting a flawless version of ourselves.

1 | Shani — scarlet (Isaiah 1:18)

The Hebrew shani refers to scarlet dye, historically associated with a dye-producing insect. The prophet contrasts a deeply visible stain with the astonishing promise of being made white as snow. Chaim Bentorah also offers an illustration about scarlet concealing wounds: even what people cannot see is not hidden from God's mercy. That historical illustration is a devotional interpretation, not the literal meaning of the Hebrew word.

Isaiah 1:16–17 calls people to stop doing wrong, seek justice, and defend the vulnerable. Forgiveness is not permission to ignore harm; God's cleansing invites a transformed life.

2 | Ma'amaqim — the depths (Psalm 130:1)

The Hebrew expression mima'amaqim means 'out of the depths,' from the root 'amaq, 'to be deep.' The image can evoke overwhelming trouble, guilt, or the deepest reaches of the heart. Bentorah's studies emphasize prayers that arise from genuine vulnerability rather than polished religious performance.

Psalm 130 begins not with an achievement but with a cry. We do not need to climb out of every difficult feeling before approaching God. We can bring our whole selves into His presence.

3 | Qol and shema' — voice and hearing (Psalm 130:2)

Qol means 'voice' or 'sound'; shema' means 'hear' or 'listen.' The psalmist asks God to attend to his pleading. Bentorah reflects on how a familiar voice conveys relationship, and how prayer can express more than carefully chosen words.

His imagery about 'wavelengths' is best understood as a metaphor for intimacy and attentiveness, not a scientific account of how God communicates. The devotional invitation is simple: pray truthfully, not performatively.

4 | Salach — forgiveness (Psalm 130:4)

Salach means 'to forgive' or 'to pardon.' In Psalm 130:4, forgiveness belongs to God and leads to reverent worship. Bentorah explores other similarly formed Hebrew words as images of separation, removal, release, and being lifted from a pit. Those images may enrich meditation, but they are not additional dictionary definitions of salach.

The New Testament companion passages bring this promise into focus: Colossians describes the record of debt canceled through Christ, while Ephesians describes forgiveness as an expression of the riches of God's grace. We do not earn our way into forgiveness; we receive what God graciously provides and respond with repentance and renewed obedience.

Bringing the words together

Scarlet: God sees even what is concealed.

Depths: We can cry out from the place where we actually are.

Voice: Honest prayer matters more than impressive language.

Forgiveness: God's mercy invites us out of guilt and into restored fellowship.

Forgiveness does not mean that every earthly consequence disappears or that harmed relationships are instantly repaired. It means guilt need not be our final identity before God. His grace makes repentance, restoration, and change possible.

Reflect

What have I been trying to hide, manage, or compensate for instead of bringing it honestly to God?

Do I pray from my heart, or do I sometimes try to sound like the person I think I should be?

What would change if I received forgiveness as grace rather than trying to earn it?

What concrete act of repentance or justice might follow from receiving that grace?

A thought to carry today

God's forgiveness reaches deeper than our failures, and His grace invites us to live differently—not to purchase His mercy, but because we have received it.

Source studies

[Sins as Scarlet \(2017\) — Chaim Bentorah](#)

[From the Depths \(2022\) — Chaim Bentorah](#)

[From the Depth \(2018\) — Chaim Bentorah](#)

[From the Depth \(2016\) — Chaim Bentorah](#)

[Voice \(2016\) — Chaim Bentorah](#)

[Hear My Voice \(2016\) — Chaim Bentorah](#)

[Many Faces of Forgiveness \(2015\) — Chaim Bentorah](#)

Original synthesis for Mixed Media Faith. Hebrew meanings are distinguished from the author's devotional illustrations.