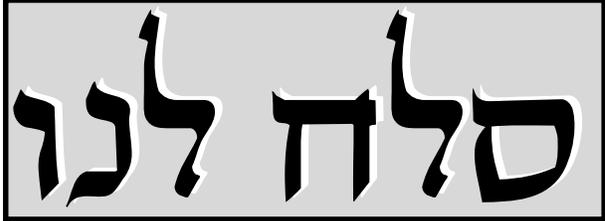


סְלַח לָנוּ

Prayer for Pardon

The Prayer for Pardon is the sixth prayer of the Eighteen Benedictions, or the Shemonei Esrei. It begins with the words סְלַח לָנוּ, *s'lach lanu*, which mean “forgive us.” The prayer goes like this:



“Pardon us, our Father, for we have sinned; forgive us, our King, for we have transgressed; because You are Forgiver and Pardoner. Blessed are You, Adonai, Gracious One, Who pardons abundantly.”

This follows the same pattern as the prayer given to the Talmudim by Yeshua. He taught them to address their prayer to “Our Father in heaven” and to include the request “. . . and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.”

As we come to HaShem in prayer, it is important that we come humbly, seeking forgiveness for any sins we have committed. Sometimes when we have sinned, we think that our Father in heaven will not receive us when we come to Him to ask His forgiveness. But that’s because we have forgotten how merciful He is. He is so pleased with the payment which Yeshua our Messiah made for our sins that He is ready and willing to forgive us if we just come to Him in humility. The Prophet Isaiah put it this way:

“Let the wicked forsake his way, And the unrighteous man his thoughts; And let him return to Adonai, And He will have compassion on him; And to our G-d, For He will abundantly pardon.” Isaiah 55:7

One of our Sages gave this illustration: “To an earthly king, a man goes full, and returns empty; but to G-d, he goes empty, and returns full.” (*Pesikta Rab.* 185a)

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