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Teshuvah - Chapter Three

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1 Each and every person has merits and sins. A person whose merits exceed his sins is [termed] righteous. A person whose sins exceed his merits is [termed] wicked. If [his sins and merits] are equal, he is termed a Beinoni.

The same applies to an entire country. If the merits of all its inhabitants exceed their sins, it is [termed] righteous. If their sins are greater, it is [termed] wicked. The same applies to the entire world.

בְּל אֶחָד וְאֶחָד מִבְּנֵי הָאָדָם יֵשׁ לוֹ זְכִיּוֹת וַעֲוֹנוֹת. מִי שֶׁזְּכִיּוֹתְיו יְתֵרוֹת עַל עֲוֹנוֹתִיו צַדִּיק. וּמִי שֶׁעֲוֹנוֹתִיו יְתֵרוֹת עַל זְכִיּוֹתִיו רָשָׁע. מֶחֱצָה לְמֶחֱצָה בֵּינוֹנִי. וְכֵן הַמְּדִינָה אִם הִיוּ זְכִיּוֹת בָּל יוֹשְׁבֶיהָ מְרָבּוֹת עַל עֲוֹנוֹתֵיהֶן הָבִי זוֹ צַדֶּקֶת. וְאִם הִיוּ עֲלֹל עֲוֹנוֹתֵיהֶם מְרָבִּין הָבִי זוֹ צַדֶּקֶת. וְאִם הִיוּ עֲוֹנוֹתֵיהֶם מְרָבִּין הָבִי זוֹ רְשִׁעָה. וְכֵן כָּל הַעֹוֹנוֹתֵיהֶם מְרָבִּין הָבִי זוֹ רְשָׁעָה. וְכֵן כָּלֹ הַעֹוֹנִים כְּלוֹ:

If a person's sins exceed his merits, he will immediately die because of his wickedness as [Jeremiah 30:14] states: "[I have smitten you...] for the multitude of your transgressions."

Similarly, a country whose sins are great will immediately be obliterated as implied by [Genesis 18:20]: "The outcry of Sodom and Amorah is great....

In regard to the entire world as well, were its [inhabitants'] sins to be greater than their merits, they would immediately be destroyed as [Genesis 6:5] relates: "God saw the evil of man was great... [and God said: `I will destroy man....']"

This reckoning is not calculated [only] on the basis of the number of merits and sins, but also [takes into account] their magnitude. There are some merits which outweigh many sins as implied by [I Kings 14:13]: "Because in him, there was found a good quality." In contrast, a sin may outweigh many merits as [Ecclesiastes 9:18] states: "One sin may obscure much good."

The weighing [of sins and merits] is carried out according to the wisdom of the Knowing God. He knows how to measure merits against sins.

אָדָם שֶׁעֲוֹנוֹתָיוֹ מְרָבִּין עֵל זְכֵיּוֹתִיוֹ מִיְּד הוּא מַת בְּרִשְׁעוֹ שֶׁנָּאֶמַר עַל רֹב עֲוֹנֵדְ. וְכֵן מְדִינָה שֶׁעֲוֹנוֹתֶיהָ מְרָבִּין מִיְּד הִיא אוֹבֶדֶת שֶׁנָּאֱמַר (בראשית יח כ) "זַעֲקַת סְדֹם וַעֲמֹרָה פִּי רְבָּה" וְגוֹ'. וְכֵן כָּל הָעוֹלָם כָּלוֹ אִם הִיוּ עֲוֹנוֹתִיהֶם מְרָבִּין מִזְּכִיּוֹתִיהֶן מִיָּד הֵן נִשְׁחָתִין שֶׁנָּאֲמַר (בראשית ו ה) "וַיִּרְא ה' כִּי רַבְּה רְעַת הָאָדָם". וְשִׁקּוּל זֶה אֵינוֹ לְפִי מִנְיַן הַזְּכִיּוֹת הָאָדָם". וְשִׁקּוּל זֶה אֵינוֹ לְפִי מִנְיַן הַזְּכִיּוֹת הְבָּנֶד כַּמָּה עֲוֹנוֹת שֶׁנָּאֱמַר (מלכים א יד יג) "יַעַן נְמְצָא בוֹ דְּבָר טוֹב". וְיֵשׁ עְוֹן שֶׁהוּא בְּנָגָד כַּמְּה זְכִיּוֹת שֶׁנָּאֱמֵר (קהלת ט יח) "וְחוֹטֵא בָּמְה זְכִיּוֹת שֶׁנָּאֲמֵר (קהלת ט יח) "וְחוֹטֵא בְּדַעְתוֹ שֶׁל אֵל דֵעוֹת וְהוּא הַיּוֹדֵע הֵיאַדְּ בְּדַעְתוֹ שֶׁל אֵל דֵעוֹת וְהוּא הַיּוֹדֵע הֵיאַדְּ Anyone who changes his mind about the mitzvot he has performed and regrets the merits [he has earned], saying in his heart: "What value was there in doing them? I wish I hadn't performed them" - loses them all and no merit is preserved for him at all as [Ezekiel 33:12] states "The righteousness of the upright will not save him on the day of his transgression." This only applies to one who regrets his previous [deeds].

Just as a person's merits and sins are weighed at the time of his death, so, too, the sins of every inhabitant of the world together with his merits are weighed on the festival of Rosh HaShanah. If one is found righteous, his [verdict] is sealed for life. If one is found wicked, his [verdict] is sealed for death. *A Beinoni's* verdict remains tentative until Yom Kippur. If he repents, his [verdict] is sealed for life. If not, his [verdict] is sealed for death.

בְּל מִי שָׁנִּחַם עַל הַמִּצְוֹת שֶׁעְשָׂה וְתָהָה עַל הַוְּכִיּוֹת וְאָמֵר בְּלְבּוֹ וּמֵה הוֹעַלְתִּי בַּעְשִׂיָּתְן הַלְוַאִי לֹא עְשִׂיתִי אוֹתְן הָבִי זֶה אָבֵּד שָּׁנְשִּיִּתְן הַלְוַאִי לֹא עְשִׂיתִי אוֹתְן הָבִי זֶה אָבֵּד שָׁנְּאָתְ הַלְּוֹאִי לֹא עְשִׂיתִי אוֹתְן הָבִי זֶה אָבָּד שָׁנָּאָת כִּלְּן וְאֵין מַוְכִּיִרִם לוֹ שׁוּם זְכוּת בְּעוֹלְם שָׁנָּאָמֵר (יחזקאל לג יב) "וְצִדְקַת הַצַּדִּיק לֹא תַצִּילְנֵּוּ בְיוֹם רִשְׁעוֹ", אֵין זֶה אֶלָּא בְּתוֹהֶה עַל הָראשׁוֹנוֹת. וּכְשָׁם שְׁשׁוֹקְלִין זְכֵיּוֹת אָדָם וַעֲוֹנוֹת כָּל אֶחָד וְאָּחָד מִבְּאֵי הָעוֹלְם עִוֹנְוֹת כָּל אֶחָד וְאָחָד מִבְּאֵי הָעוֹלְם עִם זְכִיּוֹם טוֹב שֶׁל רֹאשׁ הַשְּׁנָה. מִי שִׁנִּמְצָא צַדִּיק נֶחְתָּם לְחַיִּים. וּמִי שֶׁנְמְצָא עָּחָתָה. וְהַבֵּינוֹנִי תּוֹלִין אוֹתוֹ עַד רְשָׁע נֶחְתָּם לְמִיתָה. וְהַבֵּינוֹנִי תּוֹלִין אוֹתוֹ עַד יִם הַבְּפּוֹרִים אִם עְשָׂה תְּשׁוּבָה נֶחְתָּם לְחַיִּים לְחִיִּם לִּאוֹ נָחִתָּם לְמִיתָה:

4 Even though the sounding of the shofar on Rosh HaShanah is a decree, it contains an allusion. It is as if [the shofar's call] is saying:

Wake up you sleepy ones from your sleep and you who slumber, arise. Inspect your deeds, repent, remember your Creator. Those who forget the truth in the vanities of time and throughout the entire year, devote their energies to vanity and emptiness which will not benefit or save: Look to your souls. Improve your ways and your deeds and let every one of you abandon his evil path and thoughts.

Accordingly, throughout the entire year, a person should always look at himself as equally balanced between merit and sin and the world as equally balanced between merit and sin. If he performs one sin, he tips his balance and that of the entire world to the side of guilt and brings destruction upon himself.

[On the other hand,] if he performs one mitzvah, he tips his balance and that of the entire world to the side of merit and brings deliverance and salvation to himself and others. This is implied by [Proverbs 10:25] "A righteous man is the foundation of the world," i.e., he who acted righteously, tipped the balance of the entire world to merit and saved it.

For these reasons, it is customary for all of Israel to give profusely to charity, perform many good deeds, and be occupied with mitzvot from Rosh HaShanah until Yom Kippur to a greater extent than during the remainder of the year.

During these ten days, the custom is for everyone to rise [while it is still] night and pray in the synagogues with heart-rending words of supplication until daybreak.

5 When a person's sins are being weighed against his merits, [God] does not count a sin that was committed only once or twice. [A sin] is only [counted] if it was committed three times or more.

Should it be found that [even] those sins committed

אַף עַל פִּי שֶׁתְּקִיעַת שׁוֹפָר בִּראֹשׁ 🔫 הַשַּׁנָה גָּזֶרַת הַכַּתוּב רָמֵז יֵשׁ בּוֹ כִּלוֹמַר עוּרוּ יִשָּׁנִים מִשְּׁנַתְכֶם וְנָרְדַּמִים הַקִּיצוּ וחזרוּ מתרדמתכם וחפשו במעשיכם בָּתִשׁוּבָה וָזִכְרוּ בּוֹרַאֲכֶם. אֱלוּ הַשׁוֹכְחִים אֵת הַאָמֵת בִּהַבְלֵי הַזְּמַן וְשׁוֹגִים כַּל שָׁנַתַם בִּהֵבֵל וַרִיק אֲשֶׁר לֹא יוֹעִיל וַלֹא יַצִּיל, הַבִּיטוּ לנפשותיכם והיטיבו דרכיכם ומעלליכם וִיעֵוֹב כַּל אֱחָד מִכֵּם דַּרְכּוֹ הָרָעָה וּמַחֲשָׁבְתּוֹ אַשַׁר לֹא טוֹבָה. לְפִיכַךְ צַרִידְ כַּל אַדַם שַּיָרָאָה עַצָּמוֹ כַּל הַשָּׁנָה כַּלָה כָּאָלוּ חָצִיוֹ זַכַּאי וְחֵצִיוֹ חַיַּב. וְכֵן כַּל הַעוֹלָם חֵצִיוֹ זַכַּאי וְחֵצִיוֹ חַיָּב. חַטָא חֵטָא אָחָד הַרֵי הִכְרִיעַ אֵת עַצְמוֹ וָאָת כַּל הַעוֹלָם כַּלוֹ לְכַף חוֹבָה וְגַרַם לוֹ הַשָּׁחַתָה. עַשַּׁה מָצְוָה אֲחַת הַבִּי הַכְּרִיעַ אָת עַצָמוֹ וָאֵת כַּל הַעוֹלָם כַּלוֹ לְכַף זְכוּת וְגַרַם לוֹ וְלָהֶם תִּשׁוּעָה וְהַצָּלָה שֵׁנָּאֱמַר (משלי י כה) "וְצַדִּיק יְסוֹד עוֹלַם" זֵה שֵׁצַדֵק הִכְרִיעַ אָת כַּל הַעוֹלַם לָזָכוּת וָהָצִילוֹ. וּמַפְּנֵי עָנַיַן זָה נָהַגוּ כַּל בֵּית יִשְׁרָאֵל לְהַרְבּוֹת בִּצְדָקָה וּבְמַעֲשִים טוֹבִים וְלַעֲסֹק בְּמִצְוֹת מֵראשׁ ָהַשַּׁנַה וְעַד יוֹם הַכָּפּוּרִים יֵתֵר מִכַּל הַשַּׁנַה. וְנָהֵגוּ כָּלָם לָקוּם בַּלַיִלָה בַּעֲשָׁרָה יָמִים אֵלוּ וּלְהָתְפַּלֵל בְּבָתֵי כְּנָסִיּוֹת בִּדְבָרֵי תַּחֲנוּנִים וּבָכְבּוּשִׁין עַד שַׁיָאוֹר הַיּוֹם:

בּשְׁעָה שָׁשׁוֹקְלִין עֲוֹנוֹת אָדְם עם זְכִיּוֹתְיוֹ אֵין מְחַשְׁבִין עָלִיוֹ עָוֹן שֶׁחְטָא בּוֹ תְּחַלָּה וְלֹא שֵׁנִי אֶלָא מִשְׁלִישִׁי וְאֵילְדְּ. אִם נִמְצְאוּ עֲוֹנוֹתִיוֹ מִשְׁלִישִׁי וְאֵילְדְ מְרָבִּין עַל זְכִיּוֹתִיוֹ אוֹתָם שְׁתֵּי עֲוֹנוֹת מִצְטִרְפִּים וְדְנִין אַוֹתוֹ לֹהַכּל. ואם נמצאוּ זכיּוֹתיוֹ בּנגד אוֹתוֹ על הבּל. ואם נמצאוּ זכיּוֹתיוֹ בּנגד

more than three times outweigh a person's merits, the sins that were committed twice [or less] are also added and he is judged for all of his sins.

If his merits are equal to [or greater than the amount of] his sins committed which were committed more than three times, [God] forgives his sins one after the other, i.e., the third sin [is forgiven because] it is considered as a first sin, for the two previous sins were already forgiven. Similarly, after the third sin is forgiven, the fourth sin is considered as a "first" [sin and is forgiven according to the same principle].

The same [pattern is continued] until [all his sins] are concluded.

When does the above apply? In regard to an individual as can be inferred from [Job 33:29] "All these things, God will do twice or three times with a man." However, in regard to a community, [retribution for] the first, second, and third sins is held in abeyance as implied by [Amos 2:6] "For three sins of Israel, [I will withhold retribution,] but for the fourth, I will not withhold it." When a reckoning [of their merits and sins] is made according to the above pattern, the reckoning begins with the fourth [sin].

[As mentioned above,] *a Beinoni* [is one whose scale is equally balanced between merit and sin]. However, if among his sins is [the

neglect of the mitzvah of] *tefillin* [to the extent that] he never wore them even once, he is judged according to his sins. He will, nevertheless, be granted a portion in the world to come.

Similarly, all the wicked whose sins are greater [than their merits] are judged according to their sins, but they are granted a portion in the world to come for all Israel have a share in the world to come as [Isaiah 60:21] states "Your people are all righteous, they shall inherit the land forever." "The land" is an analogy alluding to "the land of life," i.e., the world to come. Similarly, the "pious of the nations of the world" have a portion in the

עַוֹנוֹתַיו אֵשֶׁר מֵעַוֹן שָׁלִישִׁי וְאֵילַךְ מַעַבִירִים בָּל עֵוֹנוֹתָיו רָאשׁוֹן רָאשׁוֹן. לְפִי שֵׁהַשִּׁלִישִׁי נָחָשַׁב רָאשׁוֹן שַׁכָּבַר נִמְחֵלוּ הַשָּׁנַיִם. וְכֵּן הַרבִיעִי הָרֵי הוּא רָאשׁוֹן שַׁכְּבַר נְמְחֵל הַשָּׁלִישִׁי וְכֵן עַד סוֹפַן. בַּמֵּה דְבַרִים אֲמוּרִים בַּיַחִיד שַנַּאַמַר (איוב לג כט) "הַן כַּל אַלָה יָפַעַל אֵל פַּעַמַיִם שַׁלוֹשׁ עָם גַבֵּר". אַבַל הַצְבּוּר תּוֹלִין לָהֶן עַוֹן רָאשׁוֹן שָׁנִי וּשָׁלִישִׁי שׁנַאָמַר (עמוס ב ו) "עַל שָׁלשָׁה פָּשָׁעֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל ועל אַרבַעה לא אַשִיבנוּ". וּכְשַׁמְחַשָּׁבִין לַהָן עַל דֵּרֶךְ זָה מְחַשָּׁבִין לָהֵן מֶרְבִיעִי וְאֵילַךְ. הַבִּינוֹנִים אָם הַיָה בִּכְלַל מֵחֱצָה עַוֹנוֹת שַׁלָהֵן שַׁלֹא הַנִיחַ תַּפָּלִין מֵעוֹלַם דַנִין אותו כָפִי חֵטָאוֹ וְיֵשׁ לוֹ חֵלֵק לַעוֹלָם הַבָּא. וְכֵן כַּל הַרְשַּׁעִים שֵׁעֲוֹנוֹתֵיהֵן מִרָבִּים דַּנִין אוֹתַן כִּפִי חַטָאֵיהֵם וִיֵשׁ לָהֵן חֵלֵק לַעוֹלָם הַבַּא שֵׁכַּל יִשַּׂרָאֵל יֵשׁ לַהָם חֵלֶק לַעוֹלָם הַבַּא אַף עַל פִּי שַׁחָטָאוּ שַׁנֵּאֲמַר (ישעיה ס כא) "וְעַמֵּךְ כַּלָּם צַדִּיקִים לְעוֹלָם יִירִשׁוּ אָרֵץ". אָרֵץ זוֹ מַשַּׁל בָּלוֹמַר אָרֵץ הַחַיִּים וְהוּא הַעוֹלַם הַבָּא. וְכֵן חַסִידֵי אָמּוֹת הַעוֹלָם יֵשׁ לָהֵם חֵלֵק לַעוֹלָם הַבָּא:

world to come.

6 The following individuals do not have a portion in the world to come. Rather, their [souls] are cut off and they are judged for their great wickedness and sins, forever:

the Minim,

the Epicursim,

those who deny the Torah,

those who deny the resurrection of the dead and the coming of the [Messianic] redeemer,

those who rebel [against God],

those who cause the many to sin,

those who separate themselves from the community,

those who proudly commit sins in public as Jehoyakim did,

those who betray Jews to gentile authorities,

those who cast fear upon the people for reasons other than the service of God,

murderers,

slanderers.

one who extends his foreskin [so as not to appear circumcised].

ן אָלּוּ הֵן שָׁאֵין לְהֶן חֵלֶּק לְעוֹלְם הַבָּא אֶלְּא נִכְרָתִים וְאוֹבְדִין וְנִדּוֹנִין עַל גֹּדֶל רִשְׁעָם וְחַשָּׁאתָם לְעוֹלְם וּלְעוֹלְמֵי עוֹלְמִים. הַמִּינִים. וְהָאֶפִּיקוֹרוֹסִין. וְהַכּוֹפְרִים בַּתּוֹרָה. וְהַכּוֹפְרִים בִּתְחִיַּת הַמֵּתִים וּבְבִיאַת הַגּוֹאֵל. הַמּוֹרְדִים. וּמַחֲטִיאֵי הָרַבִּים. וְהַפּוֹרְשִׁין מִדַּרְכֵי צִבּוּר. וְהָעוֹשֶׁה עֲבֵרוֹת בְּיָד רְמָה בְּפַרְהֶסְיָא כִּיהוֹיָקִים. וְהַמּוֹסְרִים. וּמַטִּילֵי אֵימָה עַל הַצְבּוּר שֶׁלֹא לְשֵׁם שְׁמַים. וְשׁוֹפְּכֵי דְּמִים. וּבַעֲלֵי לְשׁוֹן הָרַע. וְהַמּוֹשֵׁךְ עָרְלְתוֹ: **7** Five individuals are described as *Minim:*

- a) one who says there is no God nor ruler of the world;
- b) one who accepts the concept of a ruler, but maintains that there are two or more;
- c) one who accepts that there is one Master [of the world], but maintains that He has a body or form;
- d) one who maintains that He was not the sole First Being and Creator of all existence;
- e) one who serves a star, constellation, or other entity so that it will serve as an intermediary between him and the eternal Lord.

Each of these five individuals is a Min.

רְמִשְּׁה הֵן הַנְּקְרָאִים מִינִים. הָאוֹמֵר שֶׁאֵין שָׁם מְּלוֹהַ וְאֵין לְעוֹלָם מַנְהִיג. וְהָאוֹמֵר שָׁיֵשׁ שָׁם מְנְהִיג אֲבָל הֵן שְׁנִים אוֹ יוֹתֵר. וְהָאוֹמֵר שָׁיֵשׁ שָׁם מַנְהִיג אֲבָל הֵן שְׁנִים אוֹ יוֹתֵר. וְהָאוֹמֵר שֶׁיֵשׁ שָׁם רְבּוֹן אֶחָד אֲבָל שָׁהוּא גוּף וּבַעַל הְמוּנְה. וְבֵן הָאוֹמֵר שֶׁאֵינוֹ לְבַדּוֹ הָרִאשׁוֹן וְצוּר לַכּל. וְבֵן הָעוֹבֵד כּוֹכָב אוֹ מַזְל הָרִאשׁוֹן וְצוּר לַכּל. וְבֵן הָעוֹבֵד כּוֹכָב אוֹ מַזְל וְזוֹלְתוֹ כְּדֵי לִהְיוֹת מֵלִיץ בֵּינוֹ וּבֵין רְבּוֹן הַעּוֹלְמִים. כַּל אָחַד מַחָמִשָּׁה אֵלוּ הוּא מִין: הַעוֹלַמִים. כַּל אָחַד מַחַמִּשָּׁה אֵלוּ הוּא מִין:

R Three individuals are described as *Epicursim*:

- a) one who denies the existence of prophecy and maintains that there is no knowledge communicated from God to the hearts of men;
- b) one who disputes the prophecy of Moses, our teacher;'
- c) one who maintains that the Creator is not aware of the deeds of men.

Each of these three individuals is an Epicurus.

There are three individuals who are considered as one "who denies the Torah":

- a) one who says Torah, even one verse or one word, is not from God. If he says: "Moses made these statements independently," he is denying the Torah.
- b) one who denies the Torah's interpretation, the oral law, or disputes [the authority of] its spokesmen as did Tzadok and Beitus.
- c) one who says that though the Torah came from God, the Creator has replaced one mitzvah with another one and nullified the original Torah, like the Arabs [and the Christians].

Each of these three individuals is considered as one who denies the Torah.

הָן הַנָּקרָאִים אֶפִּיקוֹרְסִין. הַאוֹמֵר שָׁאֵין שַׁם נִבוּאַה כָּלַל וָאֵין שַׁם מַדַע שַׁמַגִּיע מֶהַבּוֹרֵא לְלֶב בְּנֵי הַאַדַם. וָהַמַּכְחִישׁ נְבוּאַתוֹ שֵׁל משָה רַבְּנוּ. וְהַאוֹמֵר שָׁאֵין הַבּוֹרֵא יוֹדֵעַ מַעֲשֵׂה בְּנֵי הָאָדַם. כַּל אַחַד מִשָּׁלשָה אֵלוּ הָן אָפִּיקורוֹסִים. שַּלשַה הָן הַכּוֹפְרִים בַּתּוֹרָה. הַאוֹמֵר שָׁאֵין הַתּוֹרָה מַעָם ה' אַפָּלוּ פַּסוּק אָחֶד אַפָּלוּ תַּבָה אַחַת אָם אָמַר משָׁה אָמַרוֹ מִפִּי עַצְמוֹ הַרֵי זֵה כּוֹפֵר בַּתּוֹרָה. וְכֵן הַכּוֹפֵר בְּפֵרוּשָׁהּ וְהוּא תוֹרָה שַׁבַּעַל פָּה וָהַמַּכְחִישׁ מַגִּידִיהַ כְּגוֹן צַדוֹק וּבַיִתּוֹס. וְהַאוֹמֵר שֶׁהַבּוֹרֵא הַחֵלִיף מִצְוָה זוֹ בִּמִצְוָה אַחֶרֵת וּכְבַר בַּטִלָה תּוֹרָה זוֹ אַף עַל פַּי שָׁהִיא הַיָּתָה מֵעָם ה' כַּגוֹן הַהַגַרִים. כַּל אַחַד מִשְּׁלשַה אֵלוּ כּוֹפַר בַתוֹרַה:

9 Among Israel, there are two categories of apostates: an apostate in regard to a single mitzvah and an apostate in regard to the entire Torah.

An apostate in regard to a single mitzvah is someone who has made a practice of willfully committing a particular sin [to the point where] he is accustomed to committing it and his deeds are public knowledge. [This applies] even though [the sin] is one of the minor ones. For example, someone who has made a practice of constantly wearing *sha'atnez* or cutting off his sideburns so that it appears that, in regard to him, it is as if this mitzvah has been nullified entirely. Such a person is considered an apostate in regard to that matter. This applies [only] if he [commits the sin] with the intent of angering God.

An example of an apostate in regard to the entire Torah is one who turn to the faith of the gentiles when they enact [harsh] decrees [against the Jews] and clings to them, saying: "What value do I have in clinging to Israel while they are debased and pursued. It's better to cling to those who have the upper hand." Such an individual is an apostate in regard to the entire Torah.

10 [The category of] "those who cause the many to sin" includes those who cause them to commit a severe sin like Jeroboam, Tzadok, or Beitus; and also, those who cause them to commit a slight sin, even the nullification of a positive command.

It includes [both] those who force others to sin like Menasheh who would kill the Jews if they did not worship idols and those who entice others and lead them astray. שְׁנִים הֵם הַמּוּמְרִים מִיִּשְׂרָאֵל. הַמּוּמְר לַעֲבֵרָה אַחַת וְהַמּוּמְר לְכָל הַתּוֹרָה כָּלְה. מוּמְר לַעֲבַרָה אַחַת זֶה שֶׁהָחָזִיק עַצְמוֹ לַעֲשׂוֹת אוֹתָה עֲבַרָה בְּזְדוֹן וְהַרְגָּל וְנִתְפַּרְסֵם בְּה אֲפִלוּ הָיְתָה מִן הַקַּלוֹת בְּגוֹן שֶׁהָחְזַק הָמִיד לִלְבֹּשׁ שַׁעַטְנוֹ אוֹ לְהַקִּיף פֵּאָה וְנִמְצָא הָמִיד לִלְבֹשׁ שַׁעַטְנוֹ אוֹ לְהַקִּיף פֵּאָה וְנִמְצָא בְּאלוּ בְּטְלָה מִצְוָה זוֹ מִן הְעוֹלְם אֶצְלוֹ הְבִי זָה מוּמָר לְּבָל הַתּוֹרָה כָּלָה בְּגוֹן הַחוֹזְרִים לְדָתֵי מִיּמְר לְכָל הַתּוֹרָה כָּלָה בְּגוֹן הַחוֹזְרִים לְדָתֵי הָעוֹבִי מִה בָּצַע לִי לְהַדָּבֵּק בְּיִשְׂרָאֵל שָׁהָם שְׁפָּלִים וְנִרְדָּפִים טוֹב לִי שֶׁאֶדַבֵּק בְּאַלוּ שָׁהָם תַּקִיפָּה. הַבִי זָה מוּמְר לְכָל הַתּוֹרָה כָּלָה:

קְמְחָטִיאֵי הָרַבִּים כֵּיצַד. אֶחְד שֶׁהֶחְטִיא בְּדְבָר גָּדוֹל כְּגוֹן יָרְבְעָם וְצְדוֹק וּבַיְתּוֹס. בְּדְבָר גָּדוֹל כְּגוֹן יָרְבְעָם וְצְדוֹק וּבַיְתּוֹס. וְאֶחָד שֶׁהֶחְטִיא בְּדְבָר קַל אֲפִלוּ לְבַטֵּל מִצְוַת עֲשֹׂה. וְאֶחָד הָאוֹנֵס אֲחֵרִים עַד שֶׁיֶחְטְאוּ בִּמְנַשֶּׁה שֶׁהְיָה הוֹרֵג אֶת יִשְׂרָאֵל עַד שֶׁיָּעַבְדוּ עֵבוֹדַת כּוֹכְבִים, אוֹ שֶׁהִטְעָה אֲחֵרִים וְהִדִּיחָם:

A person who separates himself from the community [may be placed in this category] even though he has not transgressed any sins. A person who separates himself from the congregation of Israel and does not fulfill mitzvot together with them, does not take part in their hardships, or join in their [communal] fasts, but rather goes on his own individual path as if he is from another nation and not [Israel], does not have a portion in the world to come.

"Those who proudly commit sins in public as Jehoyakim did," whether they commit slight sins or severe ones, have no portion in the world to come. Such behavior is referred to as "acting brazen-facedly against the Torah," for he acted insolently, in open [defiance], without feeling any shame despite the Torah's words.

There are two categories of "those who betray Jews to gentiles:" one who betrays a colleague to the gentiles so that they may kill him or beat him; and one who gives over a colleague's money to gentiles or to a person who commandeers property and is, therefore, considered like a gentile.

Neither of the two has a portion in the world to come.

13 "Those who cast fear upon the people for reasons other than the service of God" - This refers to one who rules the community with a strong hand and [causes] them to revere and fear him. His intent is only for his own honor and none of his desires are for God's honor; for example, the gentile kings.

All the twenty four individuals listed above will not receive a portion in the world to come even though they are Jewish.

There are other sins which are less severe than those mentioned. Nevertheless, our Sages said that a person who frequently commits them will not receive a portion in the world to come and [counseled] that these [sins] be avoided and care be taken in regard to them. They are:

תַּפּוֹרֵשׁ מִדִּרְכֵי צִבּוּר אַף עַל פִּי שֶׁלֹאׁ

עָבַר עֲבֵרוֹת אֶלָּא נִבְדְּל מֵעֲדַת
יִשְׂרָאֵל וְאֵינוֹ עוֹשֶׂה מִצְוֹת בִּכְלְלָן וְלֹא נִכְנְס
בְּצְרָתוֹ וְלֹא מִתְעַנֶּה בְּתַעֲנִיתִן אֶלָּא הוֹלֵדְ
בְּדְרְכּוֹ כְּאֶחָד מִגּוֹיֵי הָאָרֶץ וּכְאַלוֹ אֵינוֹ מֵהֶן
בִּין לוֹ חֵלֶק לְעוֹלְם הַבָּא. הְעוֹשֶׂה עֲבֵרוֹת
בְּיִד רְמָה בִּיהוֹיָקִים בִּין שֶׁעְשָׂה קַלּוֹת בֵּין
שֶׁעְשָׂה חֲמוּרוֹת אֵין לוֹ חֵלֶק לְעוֹלְם הַבָּא.
וְעִשְׂה חֲמוּרוֹת אֵין לוֹ חֵלֶק לְעוֹלְם הַבָּא.
וְזָהוֹ הַנְּקְרָא מְגַלֶּה פָּנִים בַּתוֹרָה מִפְּנֵי שֶׁהַעֵּז
מִצְחוֹ וְגֹלָה פָּנִים וְלֹא בּוֹשׁ מִדְּבְרֵי תּוֹרָה:

שְׁנֵים הֵם הַמּוֹסְרִין. הַמּוֹסֵר חֲבֵרוֹ בְּיֵד עַכּּוֹ"ם הָמּוֹסְרִין. הַמּוֹסֵר חֲבֵרוֹ בְּיַד עַכּּוֹ"ם אוֹ לְהַכּּוֹתוֹ. וְהַמּוֹסֵר מְמוֹן חֲבֵרוֹ בְּיַד עַכּוּ"ם אוֹ בְּיַד אַנְּס שְׁהוֹא כְּעַבּוּ"ם. וּשְׁנֵיהֶם אֵין לְהֶם חֵלֶק עַׁנֹוֹ"ם. וּשְׁנֵיהֶם אֵין לְהֶם חֵלֶק לְעוֹלֵם הַבָּא:

מַּטִילֵי אֵימָה עַל הַאָּבּוּר שָׁלֹא לְשֵׁם שָׁמִים זֶה הָרוֹדֶה אָבּוּר בְּחָזְקָה וְהֵם יְרַאִים וּמְפַּחֲדִים מִמֶּנּוּ וְכַוְּנָתוֹ לִכְבוֹד עַצְמוֹ וְכָּלְבוֹד שְׁמִים כְּגוֹן מַלְכֵי וְכָל חֲפָצִיו שֶׁלֹא לִכְבוֹד שְׁמִים כְּגוֹן מַלְכֵי העבּוּ"ם:

בְּל אֶחָד וְאֶחָד מֵעֶשִׂרִים וְאַרְבָּעָה אֲנְשִׁים אֵלּוּ שֶׁמְנִינוּ אַף עַל פִּי שֶׁהֵן מִיִּשְׂרָאֵל אֵין לָהֶם חֵלֶּק לְעוֹלְם הַבְּּא. וְיֵשׁ עֲבַרוֹת קַלּוֹת מֵאֵלוּ וְאַף עַל פִּי כֵן אָמְרוּ עֲבַרוֹת קַלּוֹת מֵאֵלוּ וְאַף עַל פִּי כֵן אָמְרוּ חֲכָמִים שֶׁהָרְגִיל בָּהֶן אֵין לָהֶם חֵלֶּק לְעוֹלְם הַבְּא (וּכְדִי) [וּכְדַאי] הֵן לְהִתְרַחֵק מֵהֶן וּלְּהִזְּהֵר בְּהֶן. וְאֵלוּ הֵן. הַמְכַנֶּה שֵׁם לַחֲבֵרוֹ. וְהַמְּוֹרֵא לַחֲבֵרוֹ בְּכִנּוּיוֹ. וְהַמַּלְבִּין פְּנֵי חֲבֵרוֹ בְּרָבּים. וְהַמִּתְכַבֵּד בִּקְלוֹן חֲבֵרוֹ. וְהַמְּלַבָּיָה

one who invents a [disparaging] nickname for a colleague; one who calls a colleague by a [disparaging] nickname;

one who embarrasses a colleague in public;

one who takes pride in his colleague's shame;

one who disgraces Torah Sages;

one who disgraces his teachers;

one who degrades the festivals; and

one who profanes sacred things.

When does the statement that these individuals do not have a portion in the world to come apply? When they die without having repented. However, if such a person repents from his wicked deeds and dies as a Baal-Teshuvah, he will merit the world to come, for nothing can stand in the way of Teshuvah.

Even if he denies God's existence throughout his life and repents in his final moments, he merits a portion in the world to come as implied by [Isaiah 57:19] "`Peace, peace, to the distant and the near,' declares God. `I will heal him.'"

Any wicked person, apostate, or the like, who repents, whether in an open, revealed manner or in private, will be accepted as implied by [Jeremiah 3:22] "Return, faithless children." [We may infer] that even if one is still faithless, as obvious from the fact that he repents in private and not in public, his Teshuvah will be accepted.

יניץ אינו וְנִיץ וּנִיץ וּנִיץ וּנִיץ וּנִיץ וּנִיץ וּנִיץ וּנִיץ אָם דְּבָּרִים אָמוּרִים שֶׁכָּל אָחָד מֵצֵּלוּ צִין לוֹ חֵלֶּק לְעוֹלָם הַבָּא בְּשָׁמֵת בְּלֹא הְּשׁוּבְה אֲבָל אִם שָׁבֵּ מִרְשְׁעוֹ וּמֵת וְהוּא בַּעַל הְשׁוּבְה הְרֵי זֶה מִבְּנִי הְעוֹלָם הַבָּא שָׁצִין לְדְּ דְּבָר שֶׁעוֹמֵד בִּפְנֵי הָעוֹלָם הַבָּא שָׁצִין לְדְּ דְּבָר שֶׁעוֹמֵד בְּפְנֵי הַתְּשׁוּבְה. אֲפִלּוּ בָּפַר בְּעִקְּר בְּל יְמִיו וּבְאַחֲרוֹנְה שָׁב יֵשׁ לוֹ חֵלֶק לְעוֹלְם הַבְּא וֹבְיוֹ שְׁנִים לוֹם לְרָחוֹק שְׁנִים וְבִּאַמָר (ישעיה נו יט) "שָׁלוֹם שָׁלוֹם לְּרְחוֹק וְלַקְּרוֹב אָמֵר ה' וּרְפָאתִיו". כָּל הְרְשִׁעִים וְלַקְּרוֹב אָמֵר ה' וּרְפָאתִיו". כָּל הְרְשִׁעִים וְבַמּוֹמְוֹנִיוֹת מְקַבְּלִין אוֹתְן שֶׁנָּצְמֵר בִּין בִּמְטְמוֹנִיּוֹת מְקַבְּלִין אוֹתְן שֶׁנָּצְמֵר (ירמיה ג יד) "שׁוּבוּ בִּנִים שׁוֹבְבִים". אַף עַל פִּי שְׁעַדִין שׁוֹבְב הוּא שֶׁהְרֵי בַּסִתֶר שָׁב וְלֹא שִׁבְרִין שׁוֹבְב הוּא שֶׁהְרֵי בַּסִתֶר שָׁב וְלֹא בּתֹשׁוּבה: בַּסִתֶר שָׁב וְלֹא בּתֹשׁוּבה: בּמִלוֹ אוֹתוֹ בְּתְשׁוּבה:

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