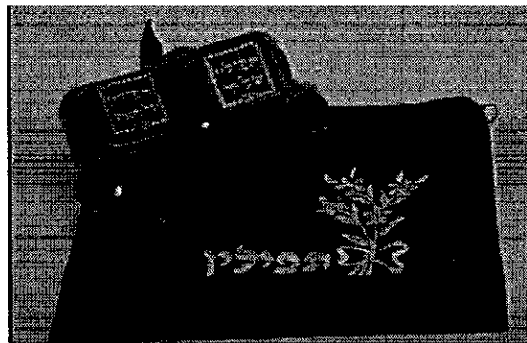


קְבִלַת תְּפִלָּה

Hagar and Ishmael

The sixteenth Benediction of the Shemonei Esrei is the prayer acknowledging that the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob is the God Who receives and answers prayers. Unlike the pagan gods (which are actually demons) who only deceive people into believing that they will help them, the One true God hears the prayers of His people and answers them for His glory and their good.



Prayer is a wonderful gift, for it allows the worshiper to address his or her Creator, and to communicate together with Him. Therefore, when we pray, we set ourselves to concentrate on the prayer. We call this *kavanah* (קְבִנָּה). We therefore prepare for prayer by setting aside those things that distract us, and getting our minds and spirits ready to have a conversation with the Almighty—to bless Him for His greatness, love, and grace, as well as to express our own desires and needs.

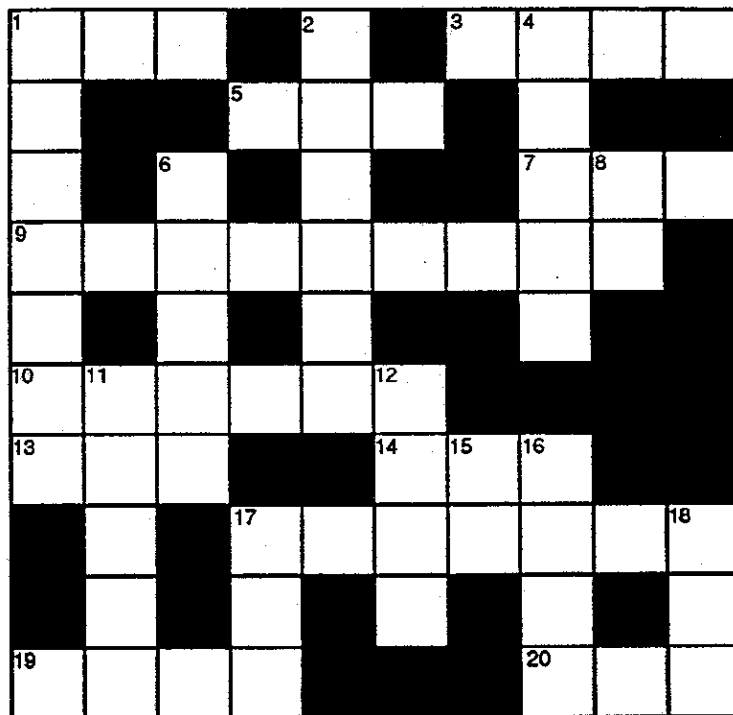
The pattern of the Shemonei Esrei (the Eighteen Benedictions) is instructive for the overall understanding of prayer. The first 3 benedictions seek healing of the spirit and body in order that the one praying might enter into prayer with a full heart of praise and understanding. The next benedictions (#7–15) have the whole family of God in view, asking for corporate protection and salvation. The final benedictions (#16–19) ask for the return of God's presence among us, and for the gracious reception of our prayers, along with thanksgiving to God. This sets the pattern, then, for prayer in general: Praise, followed by Requests and Thanksgiving. This same pattern is followed in the pattern of prayer Yeshua taught His disciples (Matt 6:9–13). Here is the wording of the 16th Benediction:

Hear our voice, Adonai, our God; spare us and have compassion on us,
and accept our prayers compassionately and willingly,
for You are the Almighty One Who hears prayers and supplications;
And from Your Presence, our King, do not turn us away empty-handed,
for You hear the prayers of Your people, Israel, with compassion.
Blessed are you, Adonai, Who hears prayers.

F M K O M E K X T R L W D C G P I V I R
 Q O I E I S Y H E T B W K V B R N K F I
 H U R U C F M R M H E D R K Y A B I L N
 D A H G P A L B P D N T A P Y I P N X T
 P M L L I V Q Y T A E R T E A S Y G F E
 S G Z L N V M Q A Q D A V C W E L D S R
 U C P N O W E P T R I N Q R G V H O C C
 P W J T J W N O I F C S H V V A Q M E E
 P L H E A V E N O X T G Q M S B U X L S
 L H B V W K Q D N M I R J K J P E U R S
 I D I R Q N T A G Y O E I V K M J K E I
 C Y L G X J L I K H N S D N J V G U Q O
 A Y P G H J X L H X I S A J I K C V U N
 T V W O F P Z Y E J F I M S Z J R T E S
 I G M E W Y G O D F V O E L K W A D S C
 O C O N F E S S D L M N N U A R B N T L
 N H Y P F B R L L Z Z S M C H E H S S O
 T H A N K S G I V I N G P R A Y I N G U
 R B R E A D O T H U X P J L U R W S Z J
 N A M E S D E L I V E R N U G L O R Y U

AMEN	BENEDICTION	BREAD	BREAD
CONFESS	DAILY	DELIVER	DELIVER
FORGIVE	GLORY	HALLOWED	HALLOWED
NAME	INTERCESSION	KINGDOM	KINGDOM
HEAVEN	POWER	PRAISE	PRAISE
PRAYING	TEMPTATION	THANKSGIVING	SUPPLICATION
	REQUESTS	TRANSGRESSIONS	

In what we usually call the Sermon on the Mount, Yeshua taught His disciples about prayer. He told them not to pray so that everyone would see them and think they were great people, but that they should pray in private. Here's a crossword puzzle of words from the Sermon on the Mount. If you need help, you'll find it in Matthew 6



Across

1. Yeshua said hypocrites love to pray to be seen by _____.
3. Pagans use _____ repetitions when they pray, Yeshua said.
5. What birds and planes do.
7. To stop living.
9. "Do not lay up for yourselves _____ upon the earth."
10. State of being rare.
13. To place oneself on a chair.
14. G-d knows what we need before we _____.
17. If we do not forgive other people, G-d will not _____ us.
19. Age between 12 and 20.
20. Female sheep.

Down

1. No man can serve two _____.
2. Where should we go for private prayer?
4. If we seek the kingdom of G-d, all things will be _____ unto us.
6. Yeshua said, "For where your treasure is, there will your _____ be also."
8. State of being; she _____ at school.
11. Passageway between two rows of seats.
12. Fuzzy material used for knitting.
15. Initials for Ski Germany.
16. Object flown in sky from a string.
17. A good time; she is having _____.
18. The light of the body is the _____.

