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## לשון הרע (Lashon Hara)

You shall not go up and down as a slanderer among your people; nor you shall stand by the blood of your friend; I am the Lord” (Lev. 19:16). This verse is the first mention of the six times the word slander (לְרָכִיל) is used in the Tanakh which is the basis for biblical prohibitions proscribing lashon hara.

Motzi shem ra (taking on a bad name) and rekhilut (tale bearing). These prohibitions include not only speaking derogatorily, but listening to deprecating speech as well.

For our purposes, unless otherwise noted, the term lashon hara will be used to refer to all derogatory speech, including slander, motzi shem ra, and rekhilut as well.

Lashon hara ("the evil tongue") is the halakhic term for derogatory speech about a person, which emotionally or financially damages them and lowers their status with others.

Lashon hara can consist of truthful speech as well as lies. For us to listen to lashon hara whether it is true or a lie is sin that will not go unpunished.

Lashon hara is considered to be a very serious sin in the Jewish tradition, but the worse form of this is to believe gossiping lies and then repeat it. The bible is clear on the severity of lashon hara. The word "tongue" is in the King James Version of The Bible 129 times from 126 verses and most are used in a negative connotation as a prohibition against lashon hara. comparatively, In the King James Version, murder appears only 37 times.

The Talmud says that when one commits the sin of lashon hara that their rewards for their good deeds (mitzvot) are given to the person targeted by lashon hara. If you are only the hearer, you lose even more heavenly treasure. The hearer of lashon hara commits the greater sin, but worse of all is to listen and believe and then pass it on.

One simply cannot advance spiritually, if you don't cease committing lashon hara. James 1: 26 If anyone among you thinks he is religious, and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this one's religion is worthless.

## Strong's Concordance

rakil: slander

Original Word: רָכִיל

Part of Speech: Noun Masculine Transliteration: rakil

Phonetic Spelling: (raw-keel')

Definition: slander NAS Exhaustive Concordance

Word Origin from rakal

Definition

Slander slanderer (3), slanderous (1), talebearer (2).

rakal: probably to go about

Original Word: רָכַל

Part of Speech: Verb

Transliteration: rakal

Phonetic Spelling: (raw-kal')

Definition: probably to go about

NAS Exhaustive Concordance

Word Origin

a prim. root

Definition

probably to go about

NASB Translation

merchant (2), merchants (3), traded (4), traders (8).





## How Do We Commit Lashon Hara?

### 1. We open our mouth and speak bad about people, places, and authority.

◀ Jude ▶ 8In the same way, indeed, these dreamers defile the flesh, and reject authority, and **speak evil of esteemed ones**. 9But Miḵa'el the chief messenger, in contending with the devil, when he disputed about the body of Mosheh, presumed not to bring against him a blasphemous accusation, but said, “ יוהו rebuke you!”

◀ Ephesians 6 ▶ 12Because we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against authorities, against the world-rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual matters of wickedness in the heavenlies.

◀ Exodus 22 ▶ The Scriptures (ISR 1998)  
28“Do not revile Elohim, nor curse a ruler of your people.

◀ James 4 ▶ The Scriptures (ISR 1998)  
11Brothers, do not speak against one another. He that speaks against a brother and judges his brother, speaks against Torah and judges Torah. And if you judge Torah, you are not a doer of Torah but a judge.

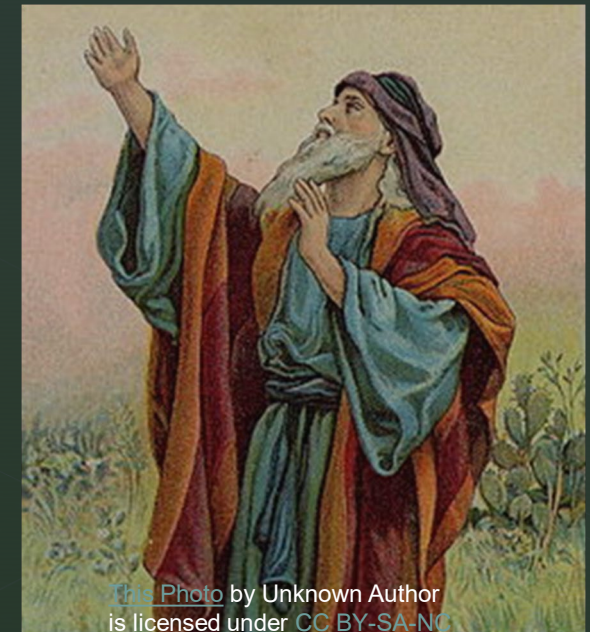
Proverbs 6:16-19

There are six things that the Lord hates, **seven that are an abomination** to him: haughty eyes, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that devises wicked plans, feet that make haste to run to evil, a false witness who breathes out lies, and **one who sows discord among brothers**.

Matthew 5:22“But I say to you that whoever is wroth with his brother without a cause shall be liable to judgment. And whoever says to his brother, ‘Raka!’ shall be liable to the Sanhedrin. But whoever **says, ‘You fool!’** shall be liable to fire of Gehenna.

◀ Titus 3 ▶ The Scriptures (ISR 1998)  
1Remind them to be subject to rulers and authorities, to obey, to be ready for every good work, **2not to slander** anyone, not to be quarrelsome, to be gentle, **showing all meekness to all men**.

◀ Matthew 12 ▶ The Scriptures (ISR 1998)  
36“**And I say to you that for every idle word (injurious utterance)** men speak, they shall give an account of it in the day of judgment. 37“**For by your words you shall be declared righteous, and by your words you shall be declared unrighteous.**



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## How Do We Commit Lashon Hara?

### 2. Lashon hara can be true or untrue.

◀ Matthew 12 ▶ The Scriptures (ISR 1998)

36“**And I say to you that for every idle word (injurious utterance) men speak, they shall give an account of it** in the day of judgment. 37“For by your words you shall be declared righteous, and by your words you shall be declared unrighteous.

◀ James 1 ▶ The Scriptures (ISR 1998)

26If anyone among you thinks he is religious, and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this one's religion is worthless.

◀ Jude ▶ The Scriptures (ISR 1998)

8In the same way, indeed, these dreamers defile the flesh, and reject authority, and speak evil of esteemed ones. 9But Miḳa'el the chief messenger, in contending with the devil, when he disputed about the body of Mosheh, presumed not to bring against him a blasphemous accusation, but said, “ **יְהוָה יְבֹכֶה** rebuke you!”

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## How Do We Commit Lashon Hara?

### 3. Lashon hara could be meant for good intentions.

◀ Numbers 12 ▶ The Scriptures (ISR 1998)

1Now Miryam and Aharon spoke against Mosheh because of the Kushite woman whom he had taken, for he had taken a Kushite woman. 2And they said, “Has יהוה spoken only through Mosheh? Has He not also spoken through us?” And יהוה heard it. 3And the man Mosheh was very humble, more than all men who were on the face of the earth. 4And suddenly יהוה said to Mosheh, and Aharon, and Miryam, “You three, come out to the Tent of Meeting!” So the three came out. 5And יהוה came down in the column of cloud and stood in the door of the Tent, and called Aharon and Miryam. And they both went forward. 6And He said, “Hear now My words: If your prophet is of יהוה, I make Myself known to him in a vision, and I speak to him in a dream. 7“Not so with My servant Mosheh, he is trustworthy in all My house. 8“I speak with him mouth to mouth, and plainly, and not in riddles. And he sees the form of יהוה. **So why were you not afraid to speak against My servant Mosheh?**” 9And the displeasure of יהוה burned against them, and He left. 10And the cloud turned away from above the Tent, and look: Miryam was leprous, as white as snow! And Aharon turned toward Miryam, and look: a leper! 11And Aharon said to Mosheh, “Oh, my master! Please do not hold against us the sin in which we have done foolishly and in which we have sinned. 12“Please do not let her be as one dead when coming out of its mother’s womb, with our flesh half consumed!” 13And Mosheh cried out to יהוה, saying, “O Ėl, please heal her, please!”

14And יהוה said to Mosheh, “If her father had but spit in her face, would she not be ashamed seven days? Let her be shut out of the camp seven days, and after that let her be readmitted.” 15And Miryam was shut out of the camp seven days, and the people did not set out until Miryam was readmitted. 16And afterward the people departed from H̄atsĕroth, and they camped in the Wilderness of Paran.





## How Do We Commit Lashon Hara?

4. Lashon Hara can be committed even if you are only speaking directly to the victim, whether others are involved or not.

◀ Matthew 12 ▶ The Scriptures (ISR 1998)

36“And I say to you that for every idle word (injurious utterance) men speak, they shall give an account of it in the day of judgment. 37“For by your words you shall be declared righteous, and by your words you shall be declared unrighteous.

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◀ James 1 ▶ The Scriptures (ISR 1998)

26If anyone among you thinks he is religious, and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this one's religion is worthless.

◀ James 4 ▶ The Scriptures (ISR 1998)

11Brothers, do not speak against one another. He that speaks against a brother and judges his brother, speaks against Torah and judges Torah. And if you judge Torah, you are not a doer of Torah but a judge.



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# How Do We Commit Lashon Hara?

## 5. The sin of lashon hara can be committed even if you remain silent.

◀ Isaiah 58 ▶ The Scriptures (ISR 1998)

1“Cry aloud, do not spare. Lift up your voice like a ram’s horn. Declare to My people their transgression, and the house of Ya’aqob their sins.

◀ Ezekiel 33 ▶ The Scriptures (ISR 1998)

1And the word of יהוה came to me, saying,

2“Son of man, speak to the children of your people, and you shall say to them, ‘When I bring the sword upon a land, and the people of the land shall take a man from their borders and shall make him their watchman,<sup>3</sup>and he sees the sword coming upon the land, and shall blow the ram’s horn and shall warn the people,<sup>4</sup>then whoever shall hear the sound of the ram’s horn and shall not take warning, if the sword comes and takes him away, his blood is on his own head.<sup>5</sup>’He heard the sound of the ram’s horn, but he did not take warning, his blood is on himself. But he who takes warning shall deliver his being.<sup>6</sup>’But if the watchman sees the sword coming and shall not blow the ram’s horn, and the people shall not be warned, and the sword comes and takes any being from among them, he is taken away in his crookedness, and his blood I require at the watchman’s hand.’

The Scriptures (ISR 1998)

Proverbs 3:27Do not withhold good from those who deserve it, When it is in the power of your hand to do so.  
28Do not say to your neighbor, “Go, and come back, and tomorrow I give it,” When you have it with you.

◀ Luke 10 ▶ The Scriptures (ISR 1998) 25-37 The story about the “Good Samaritan”.

The only time that lashone hara is permitted is in giving evidence in a court case and when you are commanded to speak out.

2 Samuel 12 NIV - Nathan Rebukes David - The LORD sent

◀ Deuteronomy 17 ▶ The Scriptures (ISR 1998)

6“At the mouth of two or three witnesses shall he that is to die be put to death. He is not put to death by the mouth of one witness.



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## ◀ Leviticus 19 ▶

### The Scriptures (ISR 1998)

11'Do not steal, **do not lie, do not deceive one another.**

12'And do not swear falsely by My Name and so profane the Name of your Elohim. I am יהוה.

'13Do not oppress your neighbor or rob him. The wages of him who is hired is not to remain with you all night until morning.

14'Do not curse the deaf or put a stumbling-block before the blind, but fear your Elohim. I am יהוה.

'15Do no unrighteousness in right-ruling. Do not be partial to the poor or favor the face of the great, but rightly rule your neighbor in righteousness.

16'**Do not go slandering among your people. Do not stand against the blood of your neighbor.** I am יהוה.

'17**Do not hate your brother in your heart.** Reprove your neighbor, for certain, and bear no sin because of him.

18'**Do not take vengeance or bear a grudge against the children of your people.** And you shall love your neighbor as yourself. I am יהוה.



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## ◀ Jeremiah 9 ▶

The Scriptures (ISR 1998)

1 Oh, that my head were waters, and my eyes a fountain of tears, and I would weep day and night for the slain of the daughter of my people!

2 Oh, that I had in the wilderness a lodging place for wayfaring men, and I would leave my people, and go from them! For they are all adulterers, an assembly of treacherous men.

3 “And they bend their tongue like a bow. Falsehood, and not truth, prevails on the earth. For they proceed from evil to evil, and they have not known Me,” declares יהוה.

4 “Let everyone beware of his neighbor and not trust any brother. For every brother catches by the heel, and every neighbor walks with slanderers.

5 “And everyone deceives his neighbor, and no one speaks the truth. They have taught their tongue to speak falsehood, and have wearied themselves to crook.

6 “You live in the midst of deceit; through deceit they have refused to know Me,” declares יהוה.

7 Therefore thus said יהוה of hosts, “See, I shall refine them, and shall try them, for what shall I do because of the daughter of My people?”

8 “Their tongue is an arrow shot out. It speaks deceit – speaks peaceably to his neighbor with his mouth, but in his heart, he sets his ambush.

9 “Would I not punish them for this?” declares יהוה. “Would I not revenge Myself on such a nation as this?”



15Therefore thus said יהוה of hosts, the Elohim of Yisra'el, "See, I am making this people eat wormwood, and I shall make them drink poisoned water.

16"And I shall scatter them among the gentiles, whom neither they nor their fathers have known. And I shall send a sword after them until I have consumed them."



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## ◀ Proverbs 11 ▶

The Scriptures (ISR 1998)

8The righteous is delivered from distress, And the wrong one takes his place.

9The defiled one destroys his neighbor with his mouth, But the righteous is delivered by knowledge.

10When the righteous prosper, the city rejoices. And when the wrong perish, there is shouting.

11By the blessing of the straight the city is exalted, But by the mouth of the wrong it is overthrown.

12He who lacks heart despises his neighbor, But a man of understanding keeps silence.

13A slanderer is a revealer of secrets, But one with a trustworthy spirit conceals a matter.



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## ◀ Proverbs 20 ▶

The Scriptures (ISR 1998)

19 He who goes about as a slanderer reveals secrets;  
Therefore, do not associate with him Who speaks  
smoothly with his lips.



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◀ Jeremiah 6 ▶ The Scriptures (ISR 1998)

22Thus said “ יְהוָה, See, a people shall come from the land of the north,  
and a great nation is stirred up from the farthest parts of the earth,

23they seize bow and spear, they are cruel and have no compassion, their  
voice roars like the sea. And they ride on horses, set in array as a man for  
battle against you, O daughter of Tsiyon.”

24We have heard the report of it, our hands grow weak. Distress has taken  
hold of us, pain as of a woman in labor.

25Do not go out into the field, nor walk by the way. Because of the sword of  
the enemy, fear is on every side.

26O daughter of my people, gird on sackcloth, and roll about in ashes!  
Make mourning as for an only son, most bitter lamentation because  
suddenly the ravager shall come upon us.

27“I have made you a trier and a stronghold among My people, so that you  
know, and shall try their way.

28“All of them are rebels of rebels, walking as slanderers. They are bronze  
and iron, all of them are corrupters.

29“The bellows have burned, the lead has been consumed by fire. The  
refiner has refined in vain, for those who are evil have not been separated.

30“They shall call them rejected silver, because יְהוָה has rejected them.”



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## ◀ Ezekiel 22 ▶ The Scriptures (ISR 1998)

1And the word of יהוה came to me, saying, 2“And now, son of man, judge, judge the city of blood! And you shall show her all her abominations!

3“And you shall say, ‘Thus said the Master “, יהוה The city sheds blood in her midst, that her time might come. And she has made idols within herself to become defiled.

4“You have become guilty by the blood which you have shed, and have defiled yourself with the idols which you have made. Thus, you have brought your days near, and have come to the end of your years. Therefore, I shall make you a reproach to the gentiles, and a mockery to all lands.

5“Those near and those far from you mock you – defiled is your name and great the confusion!

6“See the leaders of Yisra’el: each one has used his arm to shed blood in you.

7“They have despised father and mother within you. They have oppressed the stranger in your midst. They have wronged the fatherless and the widow within you.

8“You have despised that which is set-apart to Me, and you have profaned My Sabbaths.

9“Slanderous men have been in you to shed blood. And in you are those who eat on the mountains. They have done wickedness in your midst.

10“In you they have uncovered the nakedness of a father. In you they have humbled women who are defiled during their uncleanness.

11“And the one has done abomination with his neighbor's wife. And another has wickedly defiled his daughter-in-law. And another within you has humbled his sister, his father's daughter.

12“In you they have taken a bribe to shed blood. You have taken interest and increase. You have cut off your neighbor by extortion. And you have forgotten Me,” declares the Master יהוה.

“13And see, I shall smite My hand because of your greedy gain which you have made, and at the bloodshed which has been in your midst.

14“Would your heart stand, your hands remain strong, in the days when I deal with you? I, יהוה, have spoken, and shall do it.

15“And I shall scatter you among the gentiles, and shall disperse you throughout the lands, and shall consume your filthiness out of you.

16“And you shall profane yourself before the eyes of the gentiles. And you shall know that I am” ’ יהוה.

## Mishpacha (family)

Elohim wants a forever family. What He wants will happen. Family does not lashon hara nor slander one another...



### ◀ Jeremiah 31 ▶ The Scriptures (ISR 1998)

1 "At that time," declares " , יהוה I shall be the Elohim of all the clans of Yisra'el, and they shall be My people."

2 Thus said " , יהוה A people escaped from the sword found favor in the wilderness, Yisra'el, when it went to find rest."

3 יהוה appeared to me from afar, saying, "I have loved you with an everlasting love, therefore I shall draw you with kindness.

4 "I am going to build you again. And you shall be rebuilt, O maiden of Yisra'el! Again you shall take up your tambourines, and go forth in the dances of those who rejoice.

### ◀ Matthew 12 ▶ The Scriptures (ISR 1998)

48 But He answering, said to the one who spoke to Him, "Who is My mother and who are My brothers?"

49 And having stretched out His hand toward His taught ones, He said, "See My mother and My brothers!

50 "For whoever does the desire of My Father who is in the heavens is My brother and sister and mother."

### ◀ 1 Corinthians 1 ▶ The Scriptures (ISR 1998)

10 And I appeal to you, brothers, by the Name of our Master יהושע Messiah, that you all agree, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be knit together in the same mind and in the same opinion.

## ◀ 1 John 4 ▶ The Scriptures (ISR 1998)

20If someone says, “I love Elohim,” and hates his brother, he is a liar. For the one not loving his brother whom he has seen, how is he able to love Elohim whom he has not seen? 21And we have this command from Him, that the one loving Elohim should love his brother too.

## ◀ Isaiah 49 ▶ The Scriptures (ISR 1998)

15“Would a woman forget her nursing child, and not have compassion on the son of her womb? Though they forget, I never forget you.

16“See, I have inscribed you on the palms of My hands; your walls are always before Me.

## ◀ Jeremiah 33 ▶ The Scriptures (ISR 1998)

6‘See, I am bringing to it relief and healing. And I shall heal them and reveal to them the riches of peace and truth.

7‘And I shall turn back the captivity of Yehudah and the captivity of Yisra’el, and shall build them as at the first,

8and shall cleanse them from all their crookedness that they have sinned against Me. And I shall pardon all their crookednesses that they have sinned and by which they have transgressed against Me.

9‘And it shall be to Me a name of joy, a praise, and a pride before all nations of the earth, who hear all the good I am doing to them, and they shall fear and tremble for all the goodness and all the peace I am doing to it.’

10“Thus said ‘ יהוה, “In this place of which you say, “It is dried up, without man and without beast,” in the cities of Yehudah, in the streets of Yerushalayim that are deserted, without man and without inhabitant and without beast, there shall once again be heard 11the voice of joy and the voice of gladness, the voice of the bridegroom and the voice of the bride, the voice of those who are saying, “Praise יהוה of hosts, for יהוה is good, for His kindness is forever,” of those who are bringing the offering of praise into the House of יהוה. For I shall turn back the captivity of the land, as at the first,’ declares יהוה.

“12Thus said יהוה of hosts, ‘In this place which is dried up, without man and without beast, and in all its cities, there shall once again be a home of shepherds causing their flocks to lie down.

13‘In the cities of the mountains, in the cities of the low country, and in the cities of the South, and in the land of Binyamin, and in the places around Yerushalayim, and in the cities of Yehudah, the flocks once again pass under the hands of him who counts them,’ declares יהוה.

‘14See, the days are coming,’ declares ‘ יהוה, when I shall establish the good word which I have promised to the house of Yisra’el and to the house of Yehudah:



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## ◀ Jeremiah 33 ▶

### The Scriptures (ISR 1998)

19And the word of יהוה came to Yirmeyahu, saying,

20“Thus said ‘, יהוה If you could break My covenant with the day and My covenant with the night, so that there be not day and night in their season,

21then My covenant could also be broken with Dawid My servant – so that he shall not have a son to reign upon his throne – and with the Lēwites, the priests, My attendants.

22‘As the host of the heavens is not counted, nor the sand of the sea measured, so I increase the descendants of Dawid My servant and the Lēwites who attend upon Me.’ ”

23And the word of יהוה came to Yirmeyahu, saying,

24“Have you not observed what these people have spoken, saying, ‘The two **clans** which יהוה has chosen have been rejected by Him’? So they have despised My people, no more to be a nation before them.

25“Thus said ‘, יהוה If My covenant is not with day and night, and if I have not appointed the laws of the heavens and earth,

26then I would also reject the descendants of Ya‘aqob and Dawid My servant, so that I should not take of his descendants to be rulers over the descendants of Abraham, Yitshaq, and Ya‘aqob. For I shall turn back their captivity, and have compassion on them.’ ”

## ◀ Psalm 133 ▶

### The Scriptures (ISR 1998)

1See how good and how pleasant it is for brothers to dwell together in unity –

2Like the precious oil on the head, Running down on the beard, The beard of Aharon, Running down on the collar of his robes –

3Like the dew of Hermon, That comes down on the mountains of Tsiyon. For there יהוה commanded the blessing, Life forever!



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## ◀ Psalm 22 ▶

### The Scriptures (ISR 1998)

22I make known Your Name to My brothers; In the midst of the assembly, I praise You.

23You who fear יהוה, praise Him! All you seed of Yaacob, esteem Him, and fear Him, all you seed of Yisra'el!

24For He has not despised nor hated the affliction of the afflicted; Nor has He hidden His face from Him; But when He cried to Him, He heard.

25From You is My praise in the great assembly; I pay My vows before those who fear Him.

26The meek ones do eat and are satisfied; Let those who seek Him praise יהוה. Let your heart live forever!

27Let all the ends of the earth Remember and turn to יהוה, And all **clans** of the nations Bow themselves before You.

28For the reign belongs to יהוה, And He is ruling over the nations.

29All the fat ones of the earth Shall eat and bow themselves; All who go down to the dust bow before Him, Even he who did not keep alive his own life.

30A seed shall serve Him. It is declared of יהוה to the coming generation.

31They shall come and declare His righteousness To a people yet to be born, For He shall do it!



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## ◀ Psalm 96 ▶

### The Scriptures (ISR 1998)

1Sing to יהוה a new song, Sing to יהוה, all the earth!

2Sing to יהוה, bless His Name, Proclaim His deliverance from day to day.

3Declare His esteem among the nations, His wonders among all peoples.

4For great is יהוה and greatly to be praised, He is to be feared above all mighty ones.

5For all the mighty ones of the peoples are matters of naught, But יהוה made the heavens.

6Excellency and splendor are before Him, Strength and comeliness are in His set-apart place.

7Ascribe to יהוה, **O clans** of the peoples, Ascribe to יהוה esteem and strength.

8Ascribe to יהוה the esteem of His Name; Bring an offering, and come into His courts.

9Bow yourselves to יהוה, In the splendor of set-apartness! Tremble before Him, all the earth.



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## ◀ Psalm 107 ▶

### The Scriptures (ISR 1998)

40He pours scorn on nobles, And causes them to wander in a pathless waste;

41But He raises the poor up from affliction, And makes their **clans** like a flock.

42The straight ones see, and rejoice, And all unrighteousness shuts its mouth.

43Who is wise? Then let him observe these matters! Let them understand the kindnesses of יהוה.

## 1 ▶ Chronicles 16 ▶

### The Scriptures (ISR 1998)

28Ascribe to יהוה, **O clans** of the peoples, Ascribe to יהוה esteem and strength



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James 1:26 ESV

If anyone thinks he is religious and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his heart, this person's religion is worthless.

Proverbs 18:21 ESV

Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruits.

Proverbs 12:18 ESV

There is one whose rash words are like sword thrusts, but the tongue of the wise brings healing.

1 Peter 3:10 ESV

For "Whoever desires to love life and see good days, let him keep his tongue from evil and his lips from speaking deceit;

James 3:8 ESV

But no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison.

Ephesians 4:29 ESV

Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear.

Proverbs 21:23 ESV

Whoever keeps his mouth and his tongue keeps himself out of trouble.

Proverbs 15:4 ESV

A gentle tongue is a tree of life, but perverseness in it breaks the spirit.

James 3:6 ESV

And the tongue is a fire, a world of unrighteousness. The tongue is set among our members, staining the whole body, setting on fire the entire course of life, and set on fire by hell.

Proverbs 10:19 ESV

When words are many, transgression is not lacking, but whoever restrains his lips is prudent.

James 3:5 ESV

So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great things. How great a forest is set ablaze by such a small fire!

James 3:1-18 ESV

Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. For we all stumble in many ways. And if anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle his whole body. If we put bits into the mouths of horses so that they obey us, we guide their whole bodies as well. Look at the ships also: though they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great things. How great a forest is set ablaze by such a small fire! ...

Proverbs 15:1 ESV

A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.

Psalms 141:3 ESV

Set a guard, O Lord, over my mouth; keep watch over the door of my lips!

Psalms 34:13 ESV

Keep your tongue from evil and your lips from speaking deceit.

Proverbs 13:3 ESV

Whoever guards his mouth preserves his life; he who opens wide his lips comes to ruin.

Proverbs 26:20 ESV

For lack of wood the fire goes out, and where there is no whisperer, quarreling ceases.

James 3:9 ESV

With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse people who are made in the likeness of God.

Revelation 1:1 ESV

The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show to his servants the things that must soon take place. He made it known by sending his angel to his servant John,

Matthew 12:36-37 ESV

I tell you, on the day of judgment people will give account for every careless word (injurious utterance) they speak, for by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned."

Proverbs 6:16-19 ESV

There are six things that the Lord hates, seven that are an abomination to him: haughty eyes, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that devises wicked plans, feet that make haste to run to evil, a false witness who breathes out lies, and one who sows discord among brothers.

James 1:19 ESV

Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger;

James 3:2 ESV

For we all stumble in many ways. And if anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle his whole body.

Psalms 19:14 ESV

Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.

Matthew 15:18 ESV

But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this defiles a person.

Leviticus 19:16 ESV

You shall not go around as a slanderer among your people, and you shall not stand up against the life of your neighbor: I am the Lord.

Psalms 39:1 ESV

To the choirmaster: to Jeduthun. A Psalm of David. I said, "I will guard my ways, that I may not sin with my tongue; I will guard my mouth with a muzzle, so long as the wicked are in my presence."

Proverbs 15:28 ESV

The heart of the righteous ponders how to answer, but the mouth of the wicked pours out evil things.

Colossians 4:6 ESV

Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.

Matthew 5:22 ESV

But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, 'You fool!' will be liable to the hell of fire.

James 3:7-12 ESV

For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by mankind, but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse people who are made in the likeness of God. From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers, these things ought not to be so. Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and salt water? ...

Proverbs 17:9 ESV

Whoever covers an offense seeks love, but he who repeats a matter separates close friends.

Matthew 12:37 ESV / 171 helpful votes

For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned."

Proverbs 31:26 ESV

She opens her mouth with wisdom, and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue.

Proverbs 17:27 ESV

Whoever restrains his words has knowledge, and he who has a cool spirit is a man of understanding.

Proverbs 29:20 ESV

Do you see a man who is hasty in his words? There is more hope for a fool than for him.

Proverbs 25:23 ESV

The north wind brings forth rain, and a backbiting tongue, angry looks.



Proverbs 18:20-21 ESV

From the fruit of a man's mouth his stomach is satisfied; he is satisfied by the yield of his lips. Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruits.

Proverbs 6:17 ESV

Haughty eyes, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood,

Luke 6:45 ESV

The good person out of the good treasure of his heart produces good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure produces evil, for out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.

Proverbs 19:5 ESV

A false witness will not go unpunished, and he who breathes out lies will not escape.

Proverbs 16:24 ESV

Gracious words are like a honeycomb, sweetness to the soul and health to the body.

Psalms 12:3-4 ESV

May the Lord cut off all flattering lips, the tongue that makes great boasts, those who say, "With our tongue we will prevail, our lips are with us; who is master over us?"

Proverbs 15:1-2 ESV

A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger. The tongue of the wise commends knowledge, but the mouths of fools pour out folly.

Psalms 66:17 ESV

I cried to him with my mouth, and high praise was on my tongue.

Proverbs 10:31 ESV

The mouth of the righteous brings forth wisdom, but the perverse tongue will be cut off.

Proverbs 10:20 ESV

The tongue of the righteous is choice silver; the heart of the wicked is of little worth.

Romans 3:13 ESV

"Their throat is an open grave; they use their tongues to deceive." "The venom of asps is under their lips."

Colossians 3:8 ESV

But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth.

Proverbs 17:27-28 ESV

Whoever restrains his words has knowledge, and he who has a cool spirit is a man of understanding. Even a fool who keeps silent is considered wise; when he closes his lips, he is deemed intelligent.

Proverbs 11:13 ESV

Whoever goes about slandering reveals secrets, but he who is trustworthy in spirit keeps a thing covered.

Proverbs 15:2 ESV

The tongue of the wise commends knowledge, but the mouths of fools pour out folly.

Proverbs 12:13-14 ESV

An evil man is ensnared by the transgression of his lips, but the righteous escapes from trouble. From the fruit of his mouth a man is satisfied with good, and the work of a man's hand comes back to him.

James 3:1-12 ESV

Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. For we all stumble in many ways. And if anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle his whole body. If we put bits into the mouths of horses so that they obey us, we guide their whole bodies as well. Look at the ships also: though they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great things. How great a forest is set ablaze by such a small fire! ...

Psalms 71:24 ESV

And my tongue will talk of your righteous help all the day long, for they have been put to shame and disappointed who sought to do me hurt.

Proverbs 18:8 ESV

The words of a whisperer are like delicious morsels; they go down into the inner parts of the body.

Proverbs 25:15 ESV

With patience a ruler may be persuaded, and a soft tongue will break a bone.

Philippians 2:14 ESV

Do all things without grumbling or questioning.

Proverbs 25:18 ESV

A man who bears false witness against his neighbor is like a war club, or a sword, or a sharp arrow.

Proverbs 11:9 ESV

With his mouth the godless man would destroy his neighbor, but by knowledge the righteous are delivered.

Proverbs 20:19 ESV

Whoever goes about slandering reveals secrets; therefore do not associate with a simple babblers.

1 Peter 2:1 ESV

So put away all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander.

Romans 10:9 ESV

Because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

Psalms 37:30 ESV

The mouth of the righteous utters wisdom, and his tongue speaks justice.

John 8:44 ESV

You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and has nothing to do with the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies.

Proverbs 18:4 ESV

The words of a man's mouth are deep waters; the fountain of wisdom is a bubbling brook.

Titus 3:1-2 ESV

Remind them to be submissive to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every good work, to speak evil of no one, to avoid quarreling, to be gentle, and to show perfect courtesy toward all people.

Proverbs 10:8 ESV

The wise of heart will receive commandments, but a babbling fool will come to ruin.

Proverbs 11:12 ESV

Whoever belittles his neighbor lacks sense, but a man of understanding remains silent.

Romans 14:11 ESV

For it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God."

Psalms 23:1-6 ESV

A Psalm of David. The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. ...

Psalms 139:4 ESV

Even before a word is on my tongue, behold, O Lord, you know it altogether.

1 John 3:18 ESV

Little children, let us not love in word or talk but indeed and in truth.

John 3:16-17 ESV

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

Psalms 120:2 ESV

Deliver me, O Lord, from lying lips, from a deceitful tongue.

Proverbs 16:27 ESV

A worthless man plots evil, and his speech is like a scorching fire.

James 3:13 ESV

Who is wise and understanding among you? By his good conduct let him show his works in the meekness of wisdom.

James 3:7 ESV

For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by mankind,

James 4:1-17 ESV

What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you? You desire and do not have, so you murder. You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel. You do not have, because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions. You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. Or do you suppose it is to no purpose that the Scripture says, “He yearns jealously over the spirit that he has made to dwell in us”? ...

Psalms 140:3 ESV

They make their tongue sharp as a serpent's, and under their lips is the venom of asps. Selah

Psalms 35:28 ESV

Then my tongue shall tell of your righteousness and of your praise all the day long.

Ecclesiastes 3:7 ESV

A time to tear, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;

Proverbs 16:28 ESV

A dishonest man spreads strife, and a whisperer separates close friends.

Revelation 12:15 ESV

The serpent poured water like a river out of his mouth after the woman, to sweep her away with a flood.

Matthew 12:34 ESV

You brood of vipers! How can you speak good, when you are evil? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks.

James 4:11 ESV

Do not speak evil against one another, brothers. The one who speaks against a brother or judges his brother, speaks evil against the law and judges the law. But if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge.

2 Corinthians 12:20 ESV

For I fear that perhaps when I come I may find you not as I wish, and that you may find me not as you wish—that perhaps there may be quarreling, jealousy, anger, hostility, slander, gossip, conceit, and disorder.

1 John 1:8 ESV

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

Isaiah 57:4 ESV

Whom are you mocking? Against whom do you open your mouth wide and stick out your tongue? Are you not children of transgression, the offspring of deceit,

Proverbs 16:1 ESV

The plans of the heart belong to man, but the answer of the tongue is from the Lord.