

Texts on Anger and Sacrifice #1

Psalms 78 (Greek & Latin 77)

³⁴ When He slew them, then they sought Him;
And they returned and sought earnestly for God.
³⁵ Then they remembered that God their rock,
And the Most High God their Redeemer.
³⁶ Nevertheless they flattered Him with their mouth,
And they lied to Him with their tongue;
³⁷ For their heart was not steadfast with Him,
Nor were they faithful in His covenant.
³⁸ But He, full of compassion, forgave iniquity And did not destroy.
Many times He averted His anger (לְהִנָּשִׁיב אָפוֹ),
And did not stir up all His wrath;
³⁹ For He remembered that they were flesh,
A breath that passes away and does not return.

2 Chronicles 29 ⁴ Then [King Hezekiah] brought in the priests and the Levites, and gathered them in the East Square, ⁵ and said to them: “Hear me, Levites! . . . ⁸ Therefore the wrath of the Lord fell upon Judah and Jerusalem, and He has given them up to trouble, to desolation, and to jeering, as you see with your eyes. . . .

¹⁰ “Now it is in my heart to make a covenant (לְכַרֵּת בְּרִית) with the Lord God of Israel, that His fierce wrath may turn away from us (וַיִּשׁוּב מִמְּנוֹ חֲרוֹן אָפוֹ). ¹¹ My sons, do not be negligent now, for the Lord has chosen you to stand before Him, to serve Him, and that you should minister to Him and burn incense.”

Jeremiah 18 ⁸ if that nation against whom I have spoken turns (וַיִּשָּׁב) from its evil, I will relent of the disaster that I thought to bring upon it.

Jonah 3 ⁷ Let neither man nor beast, herd nor flock, taste anything; do not let them eat, or drink water. ⁸ But let man and beast be covered with sackcloth, and cry mightily to God; yes, let everyone turn (וַיִּשָּׁבוּ) from his evil way and from the violence that is in his hands. ⁹ Who can tell if God will turn (וַיִּשָּׁב) and relent, and turn from His fierce anger (וַיִּשָּׁב מִחֲרוֹן אָפוֹ) so that we may not perish?

Psalms 51 (Greek & Latin 50)

¹⁰ Create in me a clean heart, O God,

And renew a steadfast spirit (וְרוּחַ נְכוֹן) within me.

¹¹ Do not cast me away from Your presence,

And take Your holy spirit (רוּחַ קְדוֹשׁ) from me.

¹² Restore to me the joy of Your salvation,

And let a noble spirit (רוּחַ נְדִיבָה) uphold me.