

PARSHAT VAYIKRA  
LEVITICUS 1:1-5:28  
HAFTARAH ISAIAH 43:21-44:23  
1 NISAN 5786/19 MARCH 2026



*A Longing for God, Prayer I (Shav'ah)*  
Raquel Sanchez

### LIGHT FROM DARKNESS

1. They made a calf at Horeb  
and bowed down to a molten image.  
They exchanged their glory  
for the image of a bull that feeds on grass.  
They forgot God who saved them,  
who performed great deeds in Egypt.  
(Psalm 30:19-21)
2. When Israel made the calf, Moses took the tablets and shattered them, as if to imply that had Israel foreseen the punishment awaiting them, they would not have thus sinned. Moses said, "Far better that they be judged as having done it unintentionally, than as if they had willfully committed the act." (Shemot Rabbah, 43:1)
3. When a person unwittingly sins... (Leviticus 4:2)

4. Witnesses are unable to render another person liable to bring an offering contrary to his statement. (Talmud, Kritot 11b)
5. Three hundred laws were forgotten in Israel during the mourning period for Moses. They were restored by Otniel ben Kenaz through his ingenious interpretations. (Talmud, Temurah 16a)

The tablets which you smashed, congratulations that you smashed them! (Talmud, Menachot 99b)

6. יְיָ אֱלֹהֵי שׁוֹעֲתֵי אֶלְיָהוּ וַתִּרְפָּאֵנִי  
שׁוֹעַ – to cry out for help  
שׁוֹעָה – a cry for help

O Adonai, my God  
I cried out to you,  
and You healed me.

O Adonai, You brought me up from Sheol.  
Preserved me from going down into the pit.  
(Psalm 30:3-4)

7. Darkness is a form of light that we perhaps do not comprehend. Where we see darkness there is always light and where we see light there is also a form of darkness. (Raquel Sanchez)
8. There is no human being, righteous person, in the world who does good and does not err/sin. (Ecclesiastes 7:20)

There is no human being, righteous person, in the world who does not err/sin in doing good.  
(Ba'al Shem Tov)