

Christianity Meets Judaism

By Lora Xie

Acknowledgements

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Contents

A Note	v
God 1	2
God 2	4
Central Virtue	6
Who	8
Expression of Religion	10
Attitude to God	12
God's Teachings	14
Unclean 1	16
Unclean 2	18
Causality	20
Holy Life	22
Sacrifice	24
Better World	26
God's Reign	28
God-Human Cooperation	30
Suffering	32
Hope	34
Acknowledgements	37

A Note

This book intends to vividly illustrate the differences between Christianity and Judaism by juxtaposing their respective interpretation of some of the most important and interesting concepts in these two religions. However, bearing in mind that Christianity started off as a sect of Judaism, the reader should recognize that many of the contrasts are not to be understood as absolute opposition, but rather a difference in emphasis. For example, labeling Christianity as orthodoxy in comparison to Judaism by no means indicates that Christianity is never concerned with the correct conduct, but rather denotes its emphasis on the correct belief. The difference between the stance of Christianity and Judaism is not like that between black and white, but like that between two different shades of grey on a continuous spectrum.

“Therefore go and make
disciples of all nations,
baptizing them in the name of
the Father and of the Son and
of the Holy Spirit” (Mt 28:19)

“Hear, O Israel! The Lord is
our God, the Lord
alone.” (Deut 6:4)

God 1

$$1 + 1 + 1 = 1$$

אלוהים 1

$$1$$

“Love your enemies and pray for those who afflict you, so you may be children of your Father of the heavens, who orders the sun to shine on the bad as well as the good, and sends rain on the just and the unjust.” (Mt 5:44-45)

“You shall be holy, for I, the Lord your God, am holy.” (Lev 19:2)

God 2



אלוהים 2



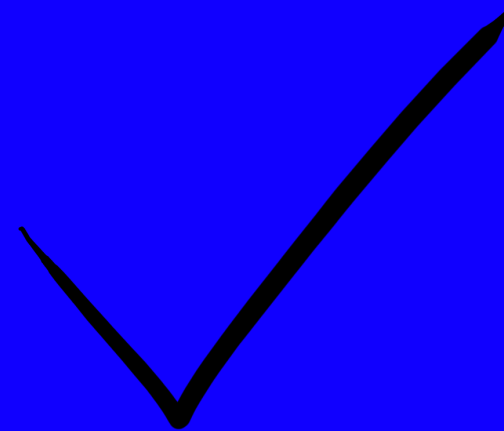
“But let justice well up like water,
Righteousness like an unfailing
stream.” (Amos 5:24)

“The one who does not love
does not know God, for God
is love.” (1 John 4:8)

Central Virtue



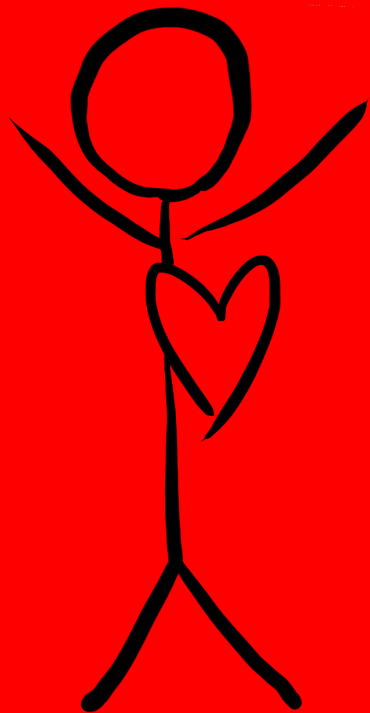
מידות מרכזיות



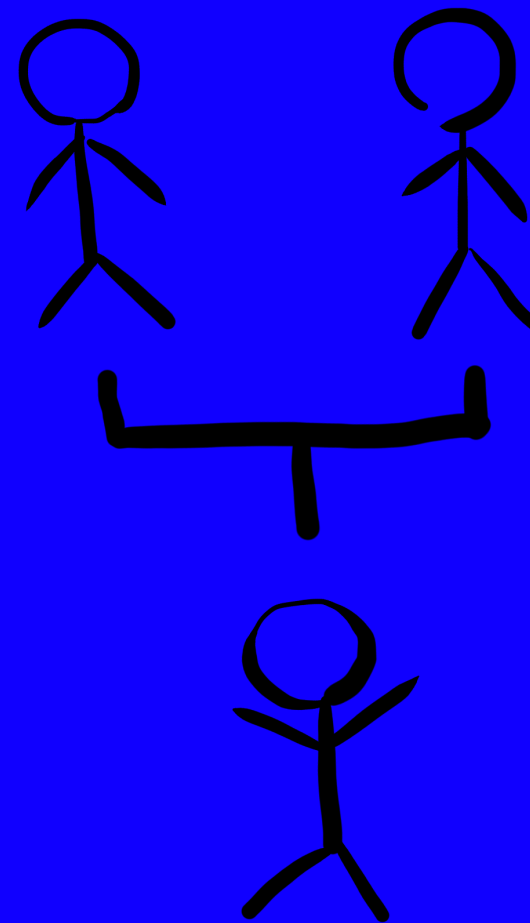
“But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name” (Jn 1:12)

“I will maintain My covenant between me and you, and your offspring to come, as an everlasting covenant throughout the ages, to be God to you and to your offspring to come.” (Gen 17:7)

Who



מי



“...and come, follow Me.”
(Mt 20:21)

“You shall circumcise the
flesh of your foreskin, and
that shall be as the sign of
the covenant between Me
and you.” (Gen 17:11)

Expression of Religion



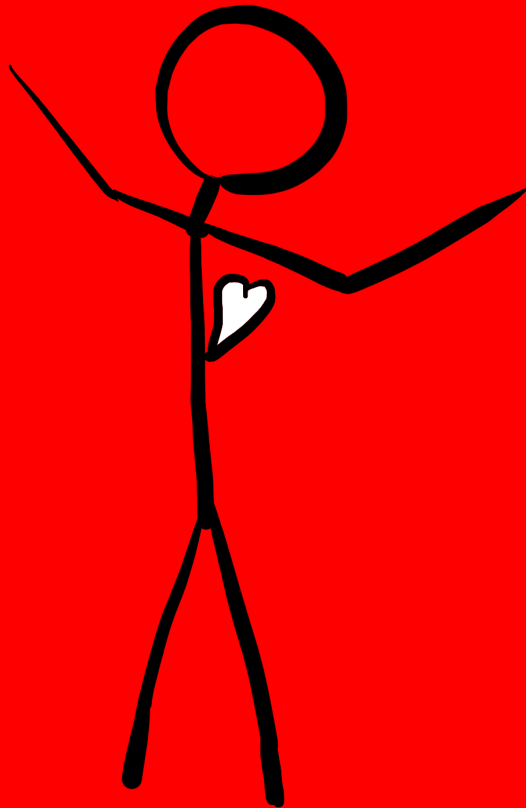
ביטוי של הדת



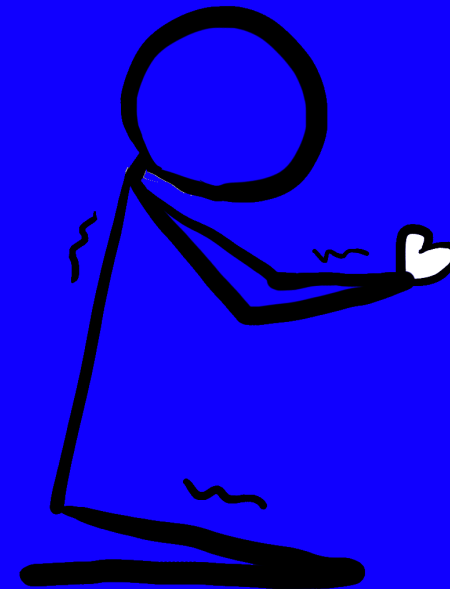
“But if God so clothes the grass of the field...will He not much more clothe you? You of little faith! ...for your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.” (Mt 6:30-33)

“Do not wrong one another, but fear your God; for I the Lord am your God.” (Lev 25:17)

Attitude to God



היחס לאל



“Jesus answered, ‘The foremost is, “Hear, O Israel! The Lord our God is one Lord; and you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.” The second is this, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” There is no other commandment greater than these.’” (Mk 12:29-31)

The 613 mitzvot

God's Teachings

2

הוראה של אלוהים

613

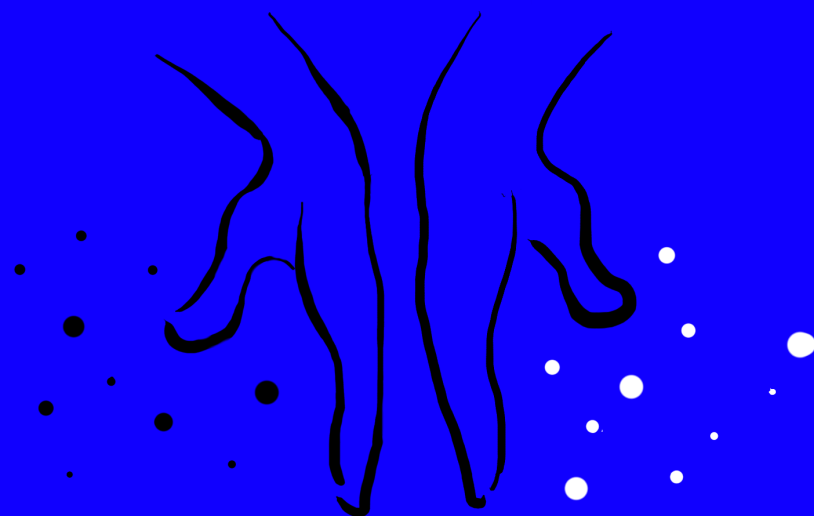
“How is it that You, being a Jew,
ask me for a drink since I am a
Samaritan woman?” (Jn 4:9)

“If anyone who has become
unclean fails to cleanse
himself, that person shall be
cut off from the congregation,
for he has defiled the Lord’s
sanctuary.” (Num 19:20)

Unclean 1



טמאה 1



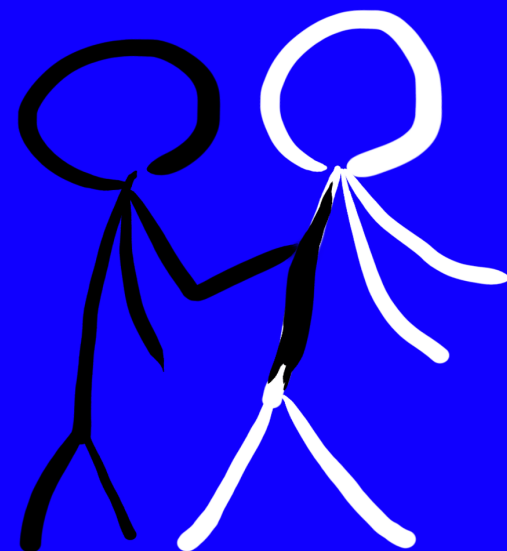
“And a leper came to Him and bowed down before Him, and said, ‘Lord, if You are willing, You can make me clean.’ Jesus stretched out His hand and touched him, saying, ‘I am willing; be cleansed.’ And immediately his leprosy was cleansed.” (Mt 8:2-3)

“When a woman has a discharge, her discharge being blood from her body, she shall remain in her impurity seven days; whoever touches her shall be unclean until evening.” (Lev 15:19)

Unclean 2



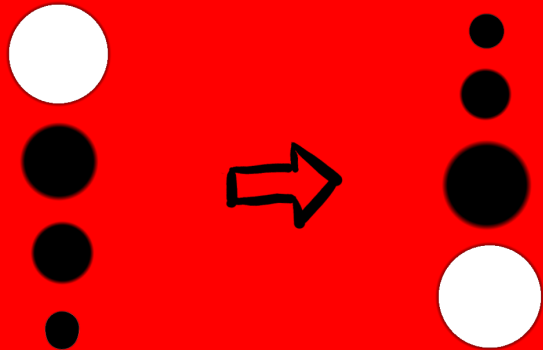
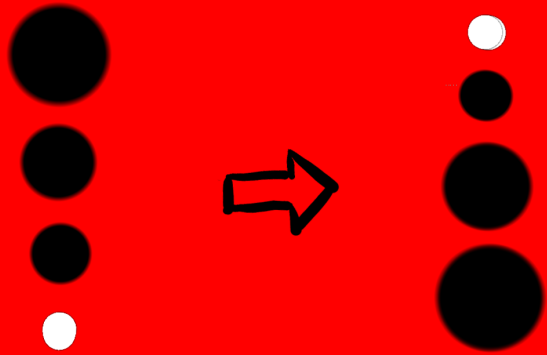
טמאה 2



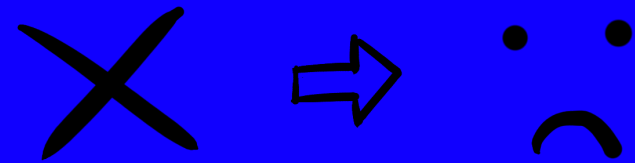
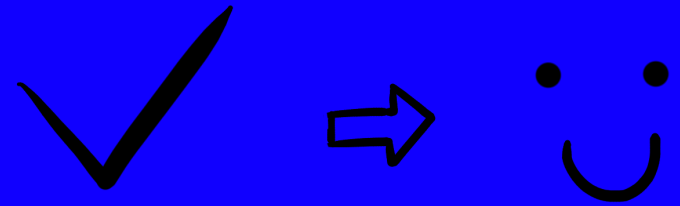
“So the last shall be first,
and the first last.” (Mt 20:16)

“Know, therefore, that the Lord
your God is God, the steadfast
who keeps His gracious
covenant to the thousandth
generation of those who love
Him keep His commandments,
but who instantly requites with
destruction those who reject
Him—never slow with those
who reject Him but requiting
them instantly” (Deut 7:9-10)

Causality



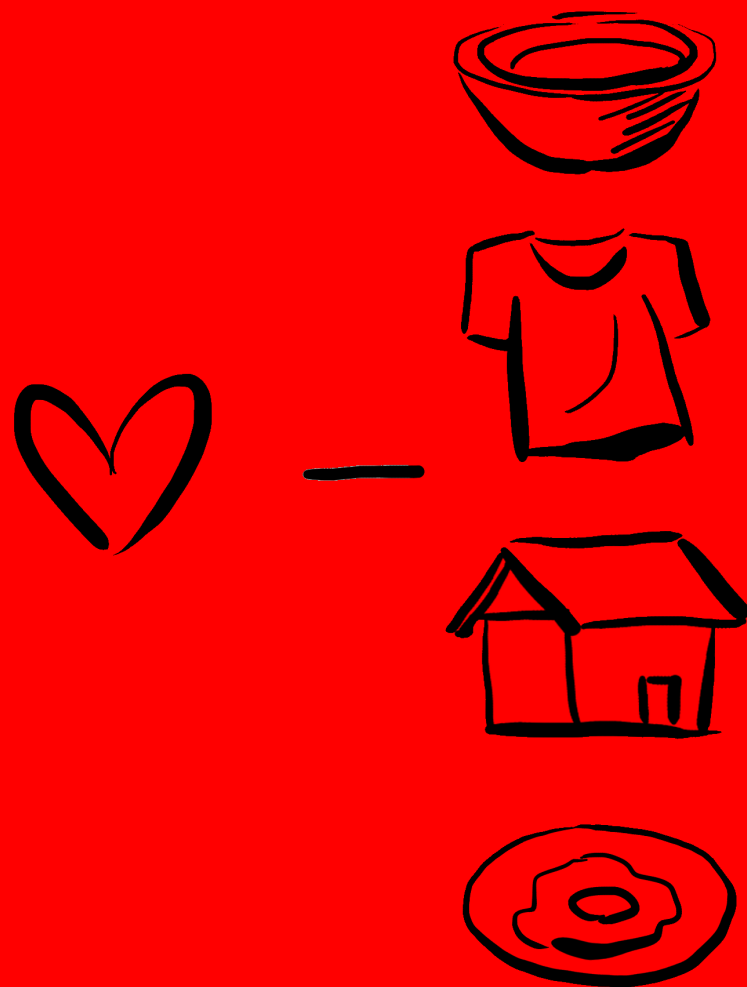
סבֿתֿיות



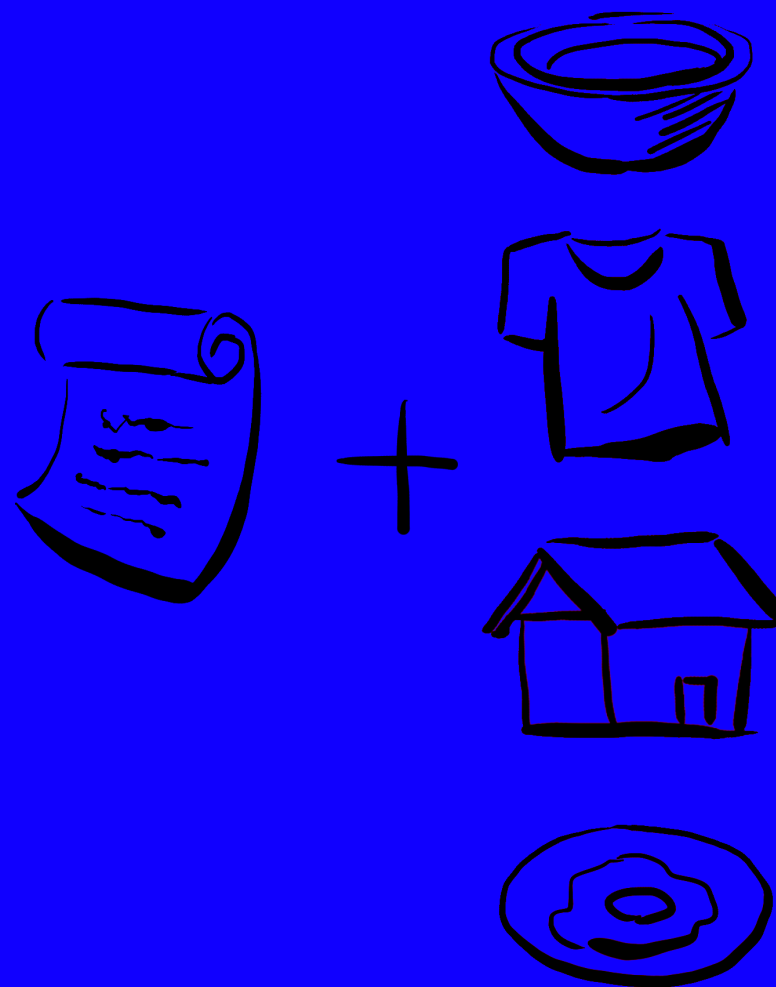
“But the Lord answered and said to her, ‘Martha, Martha, you are worried and bothered about so many things; but only one thing is necessary, for Mary has chosen the good part, which shall not be taken away from her.’” (Lk 10:41-42)

“The Lord spoke to Moses, saying: Make a laver of copper and a stand of copper for it, for washing; and place it between the Tent of Meeting and the altar. Put water in it, and let Aaron and his sons wash their hands and feet [in water drawn] from it...It shall be a law for all the time for them” (Exo 30:17-21)

Holy Life



חיים קדושים



“Every priest stands daily ministering and offering time after time the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins; but He, having offered one sacrifice for sins for all time, sat down at the right hand of God” (Heb 10:11-12)

“He shall lay his hand upon the head of the sin offering, and it shall be slaughtered as a sin offering at the spot where the burnt offering is slaughtered...and he shall be forgiven.” (Lev 4:33-35)

Sacrifice

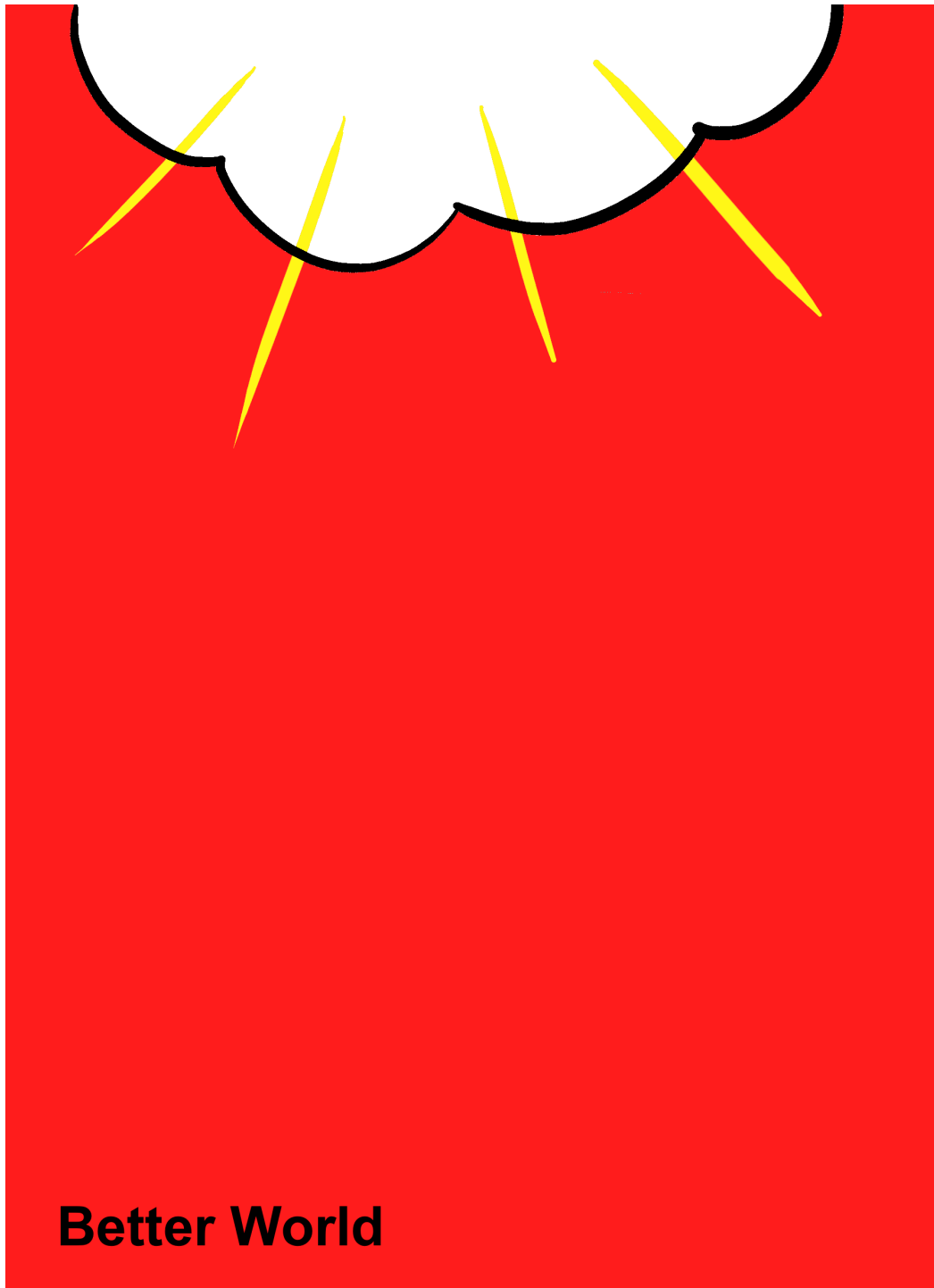


לְהַקְרִיב

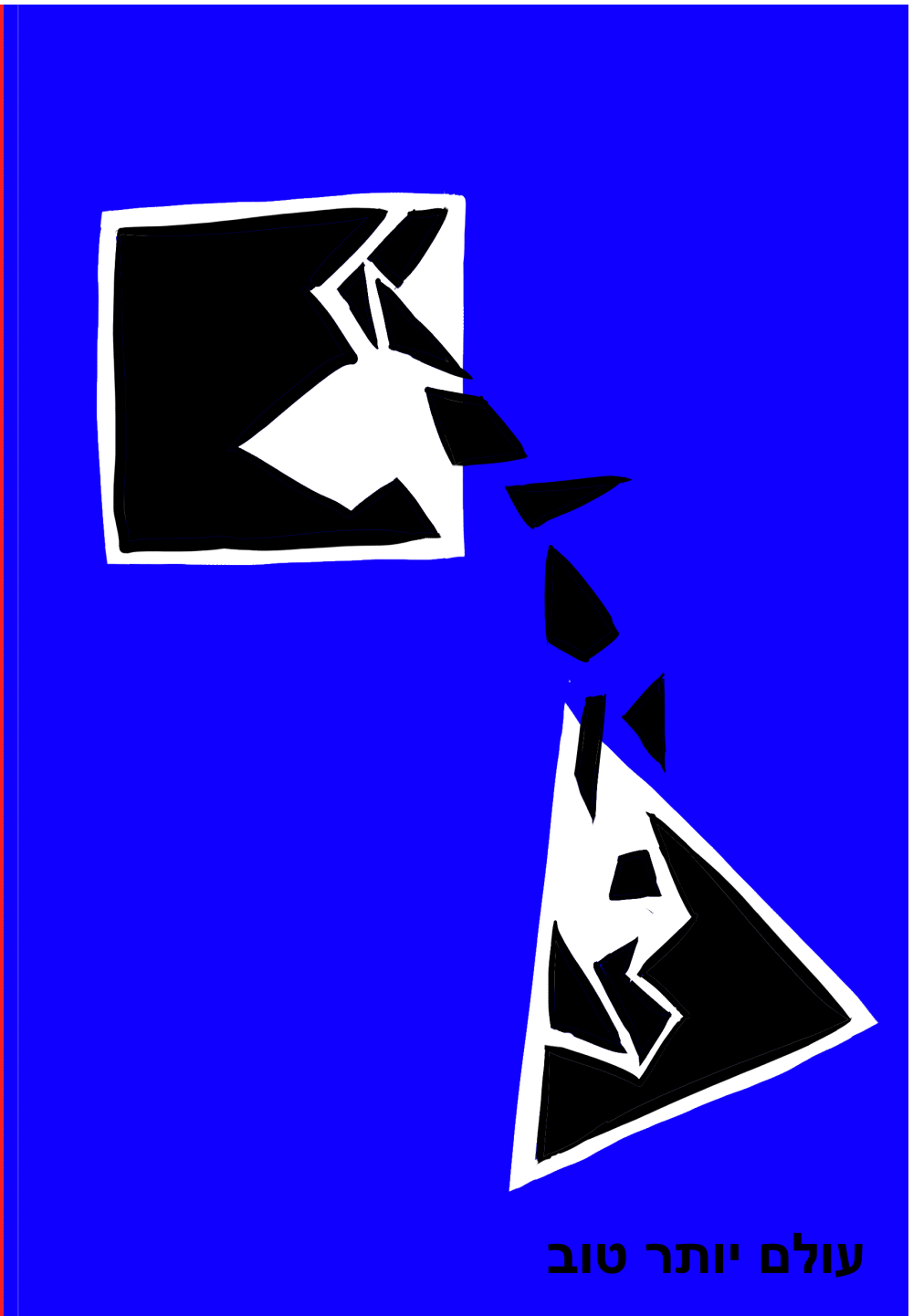


“The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure hidden in the field, which a man found and hid again; and from joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.” (Mt 13:44)

תיקון עולם
Tikkun olam
"repair of the world"



Better World



עולם יותר טוב

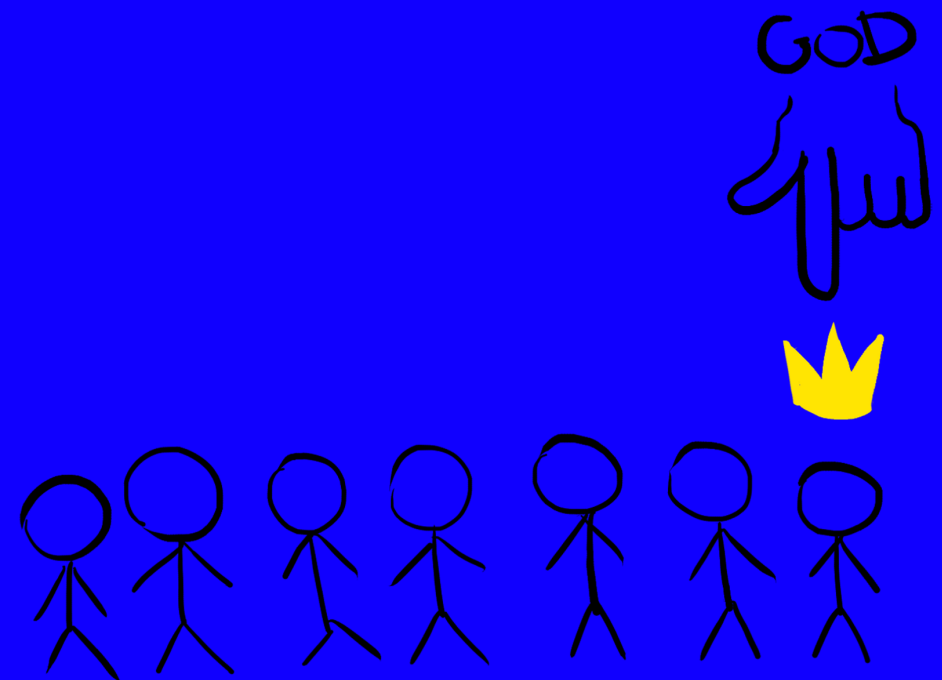
“My kingdom is not of this world.”

“And the Lord said, ‘Rise and anoint him, for this is the one.’ Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the Spirit of the Lord gripped David from that day on.” (1 Sam 16:12-13)

God's Reign



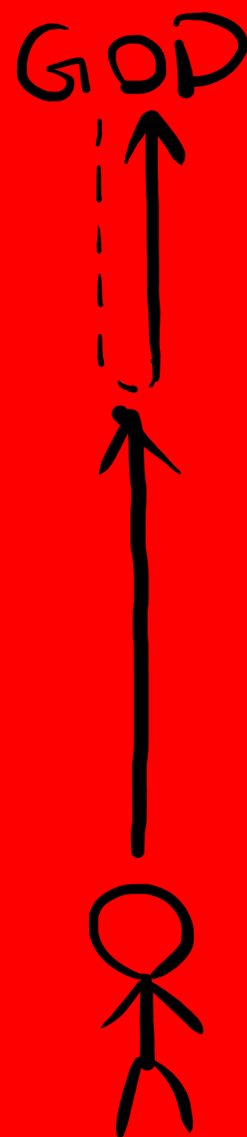
שלטונו של אלוהים



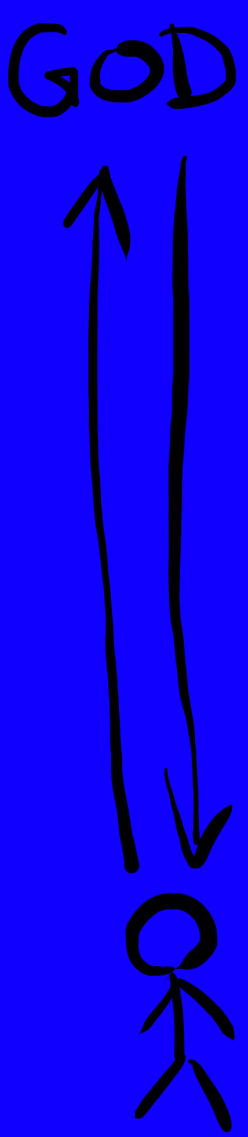
“No one can come to Me
unless the Father who sent Me
draws him; and I will raise him
up on the last day.” (Jn 6:44)

“I will maintain My covenant
between me and you, and
your offspring to come, as an
everlasting covenant
throughout the ages, to be
God to you and to your
offspring to come.” (Gen 17:7)

God-Human Cooperation



שיתוף פעולה



Jesus is our companion
in suffering.

Our suffering is vicarious and
redemptive for the world.

Solace in Suffering



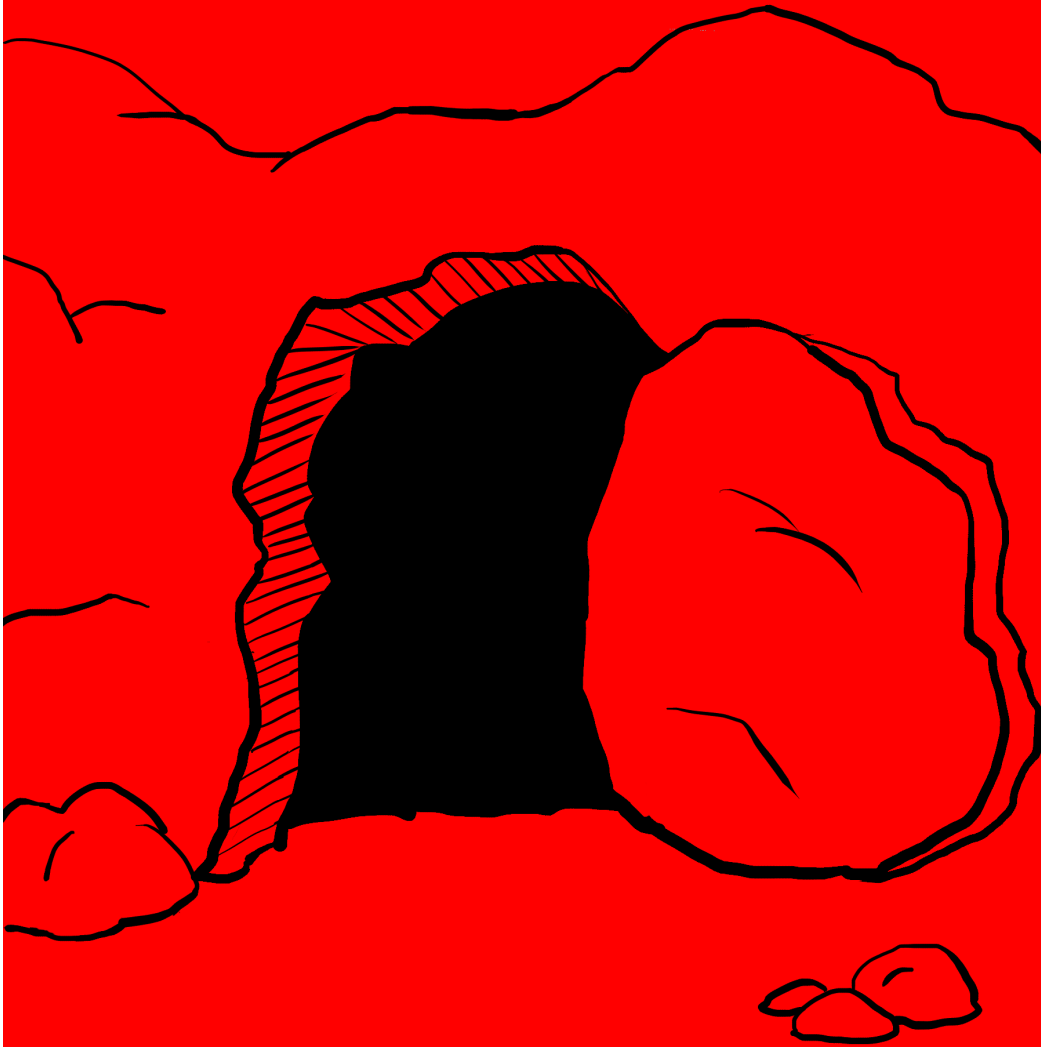
נחמה בסבל



“For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven...and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore comfort one another with these words.” (1 Thess 4:16-18)

“In that day, My Lord will apply His hand again to redeeming the other part of His people... And assemble the banished of Isreal, and gather the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth.” (Isa 11:11-12)

Hope



תקווה

