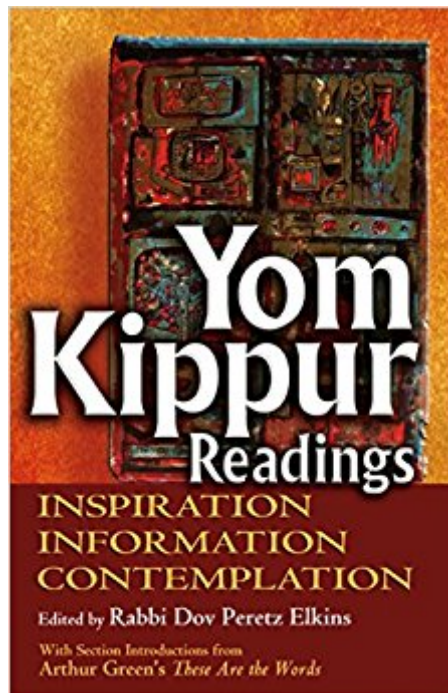




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# Yom Kippur Readings: Inspiration, Information And Contemplation



## Synopsis

A powerful collection of writings about Yom Kippur that will add spiritual depth and holiness to your experience of the Day of Atonement. As Rosh Hashanah ends and you look ahead to Yom Kippur, what do you think about? The familiar melody of Kol Nidre? The long hours of fasting? The days of self-examination? You know that the Day of Atonement is the holiest on the Jewish calendar, but sometimes it just feels long, tiresome and devoid of personal meaning. The readings in this book are for anyone seeking a deeper level of personal reflection and spiritual intimacy and a clearer understanding of just what makes Yom Kippur so holy. Drawn from a variety of sources—ancient, medieval, modern, Jewish and non-Jewish—this selection of readings, prayers and insights explores the opportunities for inspiration and reflection inherent in the themes addressed on the Day of Atonement: sin, forgiveness, repentance, spiritual growth, and being at one with self, family, community and God. These readings enable you to enter into the spirit of Yom Kippur in a personal and powerful way while they uplift and inform. They will add to the benefits of your High Holy Day experience year after year.

## Book Information

Paperback: 368 pages

Publisher: Jewish Lights; 1 edition (July 1, 2010)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1580234380

ISBN-13: 978-1580234382

Product Dimensions: 6 x 3.1 x 22.9 inches

Shipping Weight: 1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars 8 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #735,653 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #107 in Books > Religion & Spirituality > Judaism > Holidays #471 in Books > Textbooks > Humanities > Religious Studies > Judaism

## Customer Reviews

"From Kol Nidre to N'eilah, from wearing a kittel to the Book of Jonah; and, from teachers and texts ranging from Art Green to Leo Tolstoy, from Merle Feld to Marge Piercy, from Arnold Eisen to Albert Einstein, from Heschel to Baeck, and from Midrash to (of course)

Anonymous—they're all there! Elkins gives us the complete Yom Kippur meditative experience. Smuggle it in with you along with (or instead of) your mahzor!" Rabbi

Lawrence Kushner, coauthor of *Filling Words with Light: Hasidic and Mystical Reflections on Jewish Prayer* and many other books on spirituality. “Prepares the heart and mind for prayer. In it are sermons in parables, insights in poetry, wisdom in tales and commentaries in anecdotes.

• Rabbi Harold M. Schulweis, author of *Conscience: The Duty to Obey and the Duty to Disobey*. “If you want to spend Yom Kippur (or the months leading up to it) in the company of some of the best Jewish spiritual writers of our time, this is the book for you. Amidst the beautiful and wise passages collected here, you are sure to find something to open your heart.

• Rabbi Nancy Fuchs-Kreimer, coauthor of *Judaism for Two: A Spiritual Guide for Strengthening & Celebrating Your Loving Relationship*. “Full of wonderful material that will deepen the Yom Kippur experience for rabbis and their communities. An ever-flowing spring of thoughts and prayers to help us approach Yom Kippur with meaning, creativity, soulfulness and blessing.

• Rabbi Naomi Levy, spiritual leader of Nashuva and author of *To Begin Again and Talking to God*. “Like a spring that courses through the desert, there are life-giving waters here. Beneath the surface gleam scattered gems from great teachers, to nourish the spirit during the Days of Awe.

• Rabbi Rachel S. Mikva, editor of *Broken Tablets: Restoring the Ten Commandments and Ourselves*. “Those seeking meaning for living from Judaism will find this High Holy Day anthology of teachers and texts from every walk of Jewish life offers spiritual nourishment for every Jewish home.

• Rabbi Goldie Milgram, author of *Meaning & Mitzvah: Daily Practices for Reclaiming Judaism through Prayer, God, Torah, Hebrew, Mitzvot and Peoplehood*. “Provocative. Stressing in straightforward language the themes of Yom Kippur, this will be valuable to laymen who want to prepare for that day. The wide variety of impressive sources, ancient and mostly modern, confront us with what should be our serious concerns on that day (and on other days) in the framework of our lives.

• Rabbi Jules Harlow, editor and translator of *Mahzor for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur* and author of *Pray Tell: A Hadassah Guide to Jewish Prayer*. “Filled with inspirational readings that are profound, and that will challenge and ignite the mind and heart alike. Will deepen the High Holy Day experience for every reader.

• Rabbi Joseph Telushkin, author of *Jewish Literacy* and *The Book of Jewish Values*

Discover new ways to connect the liturgy of Yom Kippur with the meaning of the day--and your heart with the spirit of the day. "We have provided a selection of readings from a wide realm of sources.... In some cases they will add to the understanding of the purpose of the day. In others they will offer a new or different perspective on a certain prayer or poem that the worshiper may not have thought

of before. In all cases we hope that each reading will expose a new prism of light on the day that brings new hope and renewed confidence that next year will be a better one than the one just completed." --From the Introduction This comprehensive anthology connects your heart and soul to the ancient and medieval prayers of Yom Kippur through contemporary and ancient commentaries on the day's central themes: \* Kol Nidre \* Sin \* Forgiveness \* God, Love and Learning \* Roots and Themes from the Torah \* Repentance, Prayer and Acts of Righteousness \* Faith and Beliefs \* Yizkor \* Yom Kippur Customs \* Jonah and Human Responsibility \* And much more Compelling and empowering, Rabbi Elkins' selection of readings brings Yom Kippur back to its pristine sense of drama, excitement and relevance. He helps to create a bridge between the words of our ancestors and the meanings, themes and ideas that are the central spiritual agenda of the life of the modern Jew. --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

Rabbi Elkins is to be applauded for this lovingly researched collection of short stories, sermon excerpts, quotes, meditations, and brief commentaries on the holiday of Yom Kippur. It gave me a much deeper understanding of, and appreciation for, the religion into which I was born. Very entertaining, informative, and easy to read.

Thought-provoking and a deep analysis of what really is a sin, and how to make a positive out of what we perceive as a negative. The section on gossip as a sin should be a must read for everyone in the USA!

As a convert to Judaism, I find this book invaluable. Becoming accustomed to the ins and outs of a religion I have felt so intrinsically linked is wonderful. While I have my own feelings associated with both Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, this book brings me to another level.

An excellent source of inspiration, prayers, supplemental readings, and guidance during the High Holy Days. Modern, as well as traditional. A good meditation.

Dov Peretz Elkins has gifted the Jewish world with many useful publications, for which we ought to be grateful. While this anthology has much that is meaningful, moving or scholarly, many of the selections strike me as filler. For those who have both the Yom Kippur and the Rosh Hashanah volumes, you will notice that much material is recycled. There are also prayers and sections of the services for which coverage is scanty or missing. Despite these defects, I am happy to have these

books on my shelves and am sure that they will enrich the holidays for many as they have for me.  
Thank you Dov!

Rabbi Dov Peretz Elkins edits YOM KIPPUR READINGS: INSPIRATION INFORMATION CONTEMPLATION uses a range of sources, from ancient to modern, Jewish and non-Jewish, to provide a set of readings, prayers and inspirational reflections on the themes addressed on Yom Kippur, surveying the basics and spirit of the holiday season and its relationship to both God and community. From themes of forgiveness and faith to customs and rituals, this reader makes an important point of discussion for both families and classes surveying Yom Kippur's ongoing meaning and history.

Great book for contemplative reading.

Fabulous collection!

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