

## *The 13 Attributes of Mercy*

- *The Lord! (Adonai)-God is merciful before a person sins! Even though aware that future evil lies dormant within him.*
  - *The Lord! (Adonai)-God is merciful after the sinner has gone astray.*
  - *God (El)-a name that denotes power as ruler over nature and humankind, indicating that God's mercy sometimes surpasses even the degree indicated by this name.*
- *Compassionate (rahum)-God is filled with loving sympathy for human frailty does not put people into situations of extreme temptation, and eases the punishment of the guilty.*
- *Gracious (v'hanun)-God shows mercy even to those who do not deserve it consoling the afflicted and raising up the oppressed.*
- *Slow to anger (ereh apayim)-God gives the sinner ample time to reflect, improve, and repent.*
  - *Abundant in Kindness (v'rav hesed)-God is kind toward those who lack personal merits, providing more gifts and blessings than they deserve; if one's personal behavior is evenly balanced between virtue and sin, God tips the scales of justice toward the good.*
- *Truth (v'emet)-God never reneges on His word to reward those who serve Him.*
- *Preserver of kindness for thousands of generations (notzeir hesed la-alafim)-God remembers the deeds of the righteous for the benefit of their less virtuous generations of offspring (thus we constantly invoke the merit of the Patriarchs).*
- *Forgiver of iniquity (nosei avon)-God forgives intentional sin resulting from an evil disposition, as long as the sinner repents.*
- *Forgiver of willful sin (peshah)-God allows even those who commit a sin with the malicious intent of rebelling against and angering Him the opportunity to repent.*
- *Forgiver of error (v'hata'ah)-God forgives a sin committed out of carelessness, thoughtlessness, or apathy.*
- *Who cleanses (v'nakeh)-God is merciful, gracious, and forgiving, wiping away the sins of those who truly repent; however, if one does not repent, God does not cleanse.*