Who Wrote the Siddur?

Part 1: Jewish Prayer from Tanakh to the Talmud

Introduction

1) ArtScroll Siddur

Baruch She'amar. The commentators record an ancient tradition that this prayer was transcribed by the Men of the Great Assembly approximately 2400 years ago from a script that fell from heaven.

2) Berachot 26b

אִיתְּמַר, רַבִּי יוֹסֵי בְּרַבִּי חֲנִינָא אָמַר: תְּפְּלּוֹת אָבּוֹת תִּקְנוּם. רַבִּי יְהוֹשֻׁעַ בֶּן לֵוִי אָמַר: תְּפְלּוֹת כְּנֶגֶד תְּמִידִין תִּקְנוּם מַּנְיָא כְּוֹתֵיה דְּרַבִּי יוֹסֵי בְּרַבִּי חֲנִינָא, וְתַנְיָא כְּוֹתֵיה דְּרַבִּי יְהוֹשֵׁעַ בֶּן לֵוִי. מַּנְיָא כְּוֹתֵיה דְּרַבִּי יוֹסֵי בְּרַבִּי חֲנִינָא אַבְרָהָם תִּקֵן תִּפְלַת שַׁחֲרִית, שָׁנָּאֶמֵר: ״וַנַּשְׁכֵּם אַבְרָהָם בַּבֹּקֵר אֶל הַמָּקוֹם אֲשֶׁר עָמֵד שָׁם״, וְאֵין ״עְמִידָה״ אֶלָּא תִּפְלֵּה, שֵׁנָּאֵמֵר: ״וַנַּעֵּמֹד בִּינְחָס וַיִּפְּלָּל״

יִצְחָק תִּקוֹ תְּפָלַת מִנְחָה, שֶׁנֶּאֱמֵר ״וַיֵּצֵא יִצְחָק לָשׁוּם בַּשָּׁדֶה לְפְנוֹת עָרֶב״, וְאֵין ״שִׂיחָה״ אֶלָּא תְּפָלָּה, שֶׁנֶּאֱמֵר ״תְּפַלָּה לְעָנִי כִי יַעַטֹף וְלִפְנֵי ה׳ יִשְׁפֹּךְ שִׂיחוֹ״

יַצְקֹב תִּקֵּן תִּפִלָּת עַרְבִית, שֶׁנֶּאֱמַר: ״וַיִּפְגַע בַּמָּקוֹם וַיָּלֶן שָׁם״, וְאֵין ״פְּגִיעָה״ אֶלָּא תִּפִלָּה, שֶׁנָּאֱמַר: ״וְאַתָּה אֵל תִּתְפַּלֵּל בְּעַד הָעָם הַזָּה וְאַל תִּשָּׂא בַעֲדָם רָנָּה וּתִפִּלָּה וְאַל תִּפְגַע בִּי״

It was stated: Rabbi Yosei, son of Rabbi Ḥanina, said: The prayers were instituted by the Patriarchs. Rabbi Yehoshua ben Levi said that the prayers were instituted based on the daily offerings. There is a teaching in agreement with both of them. There is a teaching in agreement with R. Jose b. R. Hannina: Abraham instituted the morning Tefillah; as it is said, "And Abraham got up early in the morning to the place where he had stood" (Gen. xix. 27) — "standing" means prayer; as it is said, "Then stood up Phineas and prayed" (Ps. cvi. 30). Isaac instituted the afternoon Tefillah; as it is said, "And Isaac went out to meditate in the field at eventide" (Gen. xxiv. 63) — "meditation" [sihah] means prayer; as it is said, "A prayer of the afflicted when he fainteth, and poureth out his complaint [sihah] before the Lord" (Ps. cii. 1). Jacob instituted the evening Tefillah; as it is said, "And he lighted [paga'] upon the place, and tarried there all night" (Gen. xxviii. 11) — "alighting" means prayer; as it is said, "Therefore pray not thou for this people, neither lift up cry nor prayer for them, neither make intercession [paga'] to Me" (Jer. vii. 16).

3) Berachot 48b

אָמֵר רַב נַחְמָן: מֹשֶׁה תִּקֵן לְיִשְׂרָאֵל בִּרְכַּת ״הַזָּן״ בְּשָׁעָה שֻׁיָּרַד לָהֶם מָן. יְהוֹשֻׁעַ תִּקֵן לָהֶם בִּרְכַּת הָאָרֶץ כֵּיוָן שֶׁנִּכְנְסוּ לָאָרֶץ. דָּוִד וּשְׁלֹמֹה תִּקְנוּ ״בּוֹנֵה יְרוּשָׁלַיִם״. דָּוִד תִּקּן ״עַל יִשְׂרָאֵל עַמֶּךּ וְעַל יְרוּשֶׁלִיִם עִירֶד״, וּשְׁלֹמֹה תִּקְן ״עַל הַבַּיִת הַגָּדוֹל וְהַקֵּדוֹשׁ״. ״הָטוֹב וְהַמֵּטִיב״ בְּיַבֶנֶה תִּקְנוּהָ כְּנָגֶד הָרוּגֵי בֵּיתָר. דְּאָמֵר רֵב מַתְנָא: אוֹתוֹ הַיּוֹם שֶׁנִּיתְנוּ הַרוּגֵי בֵּיתָר לִקְבוּרָה תִּקְנוּ בְּיַבְנָה ״הָטוֹב וְהַמֵּטִיב״. ״הָטוֹב״ — שֶׁלֹא הָסְרִיחוּ, ״וְהַמֵּטִיב״ — שֶׁנִּיתְנוּ לִקְבוּרָה Rab Nahman said: Moses instituted for Israel the benediction "Who feedest" at the time the manna descended for them. Joshua instituted for them the benediction of "the land" when they entered the land [of Canaan]. David and Solomon instituted [what follows] until "Who... rebuildest Jerusalem." David instituted "[Have mercy, O Lord our God] upon Israel Thy people, upon Jerusalem Thy city," and Solomon instituted "and upon the great and holy House." The benediction "Who art kind and dealest kindly" was instituted in Jabneh in connection with the slain of Bethar; for Rab Mattena said: On the day the slain of Bethar were allowed burial, there was instituted in Jabneh the benediction "Who art kind and dealest kindly" — "Who art kind," because the bodies did not decompose; "and dealest kindly," because they were allowed burial.

4) Berachot 33a

אָמַר רַבִּי חָיָיא בַּר אַבָּא אָמַר רַבִּי יוֹחָנָן: אַנְשֵׁי כְּנֶסֶת הַגְּדוֹלָה תִּקְנוּ לָהֶם לִישְׂרָאֵל בְּרָכוֹת וּתְפִלּוֹת, קְדוּשׁוֹת וְהַבְדַּלוֹת

Rabbi Chiyya bar Abba said that Rabbi Yochanan said: The members of the Great Assembly established for Israel blessings and prayers, sanctifications, and havdalot.

5) Megillah 17b-18a

תְּפָלָה מְנָא לַן? דְּתַנָיָא: שָׁמְעוֹן הַפָּקוֹלִי הִסְדִּיר שְׁמוֹנֶה עֶשְׁרֵה בְּרָכוֹת לְפְנֵי רַבָּן גַּמְלִיאֵל עַל הַסֵּדֶר בְּיַבְנֶה. אָמַר רַבִּי יוֹחָנָן וְאָמְרִי לַה בְּמַתְנִיתָא תָּנָא: מֵאָה וְעֶשְׂרִים זְקַנִים, וּבָהֶם כַּמָּה נְבִיאִים, תִּיקְנוּ שְׁמוֹנֶה עָשְׂרֵה בְּרָכוֹת עַל הַסֶּדֶר. ... וְכִי מֵאַחַר דְּמֵאָה וְעֶשְׂרִים זְקַנִים וּמֵהֶם כַּמָּה נָבִיאִים תִּקְנוּ תִּפְלָה עַל הַסֶּדֶר, שִׁמְעוֹן הַכָּקוֹלִי מֵאי הִסְדִּיר? שְׁכָחוּם, וְחָזַר וְסִדְּרוֹם

Where does the tefilla [Shemoneh Esrei] come from? As it is taught in a baraita: Shimon HaPakuli arranged the Shemoneh Esrei before Rabban Gamliel in their fixed order in Yavne. Rabbi Yochanan said, and some say that it was taught in a baraita: 120 Elders [i.e., the Men of the Great Assembly] and among them several prophets, established the Shemoneh Esrei in their fixed order. ... Now, since 120 Elders, including many prophets, established the Amidah in its fixed order, what did Shimon HaPakuli arrange? They were forgotten, and he reestablished their order.

6) Seder Rav Amram Gaon (9th century)

וסדר תפילות וברכות של שנה כולה ששאלת, שהראנו מן השמים, ראינו לסדר ולהשיב כמסורת שבידינו כתיקון תנאים ואמוראים. דתניא ר' מאיר אומר חייב אדם לברך מאה ברכות בכל יום. ובגמרא דארץ ישראל גרסינן הכיתניא בשם ר' מאיר אין לך אדם מישראל שאינו עושה מאה מצות בכל יום, שנאמר ועתה ישראל מה ה' אלהיך שואל מעמד. אל תקרא מה אלא מאה

The order of prayers and Brakhos for the entire year that you requested, that has been shown to us by Heaven, we deem appropriate to set forth and lay out in the manner in which the tradition was passed down to us, as compiled by the Rabbis during the period of the Mishna and of the Gemara. And so we learned: Rebbi Meir said: a person is obligated to recite 100 Brakhos each day. In the Jerusalem Talmud we learned: it was taught in the name of Rebbi Meir; there is no Jew who does not fulfill one hundred Mitzvos each day, as it was written: Now Israel, what does haShem your G-d ask of you? Do not read the verse as providing for the word: Mah ("what"); instead read it as including the word: Mai'eh ("one hundred").

7) Philip Birnbaum (c. 1901-1988), Introduction to the Siddur

If any single volume can tell us what it means to be a Jew, it is the Siddur which embodies the visions and aspirations, the sorrows and joys of many generations. The whole gamut of Jewish history may be traversed in its pages; it is a mirror that reflects the development of the Jewish spirit throughout the ages. ... The Siddur passed through a long process of evolution until it finally emerged as a rich anthology of our literary classics. ... The diversified authorship of the Siddur, embracing prophets and psalmists, legalists and poets, proclaims that all Israel has a share in its making.

8) R. Jonathan Sacks, Introduction to the Siddur

The Siddur is the choral symphony the covenantal people has sung to God across forty centuries from the days of the patriarchs until the present day. In it we hear the voices of Israel's prophets, priests and kings, its Sages and scholars, poets and philosophers, rationalists and mystics, singing in calibrated harmony. Its libretto weaves together texts from almost every part of the vast library of Jewish spirituality.

Prayer in Tanakh

9) Bereishit 20:17

וַיִּתְפַּלֵּל אַבְרָהָם, אֵל-הָאֱלֹקִים; וַיִּרְפָּא אֱלֹקִים אֶת-אֲבִימֶלֶךְ וְאֶת-אִשָׁתּוֹ, וְאַמְהֹתִיו--וַיֵּלֵדוּ

Abraham then prayed to God, and God healed Abimelech and his wife and his slave girls, so that they bore children.

10) Devarim 10:17

בִּי ה' אַלְקִיכֶּם הַוֹּא אַלֹקִי הַאַלֹקִים וַאֲדֹנֵי הַאָדֹנִים הַקּל הַגַּדֹל הַגַּבֹּר וְהַנּוֹרֵא אֲשֶׁר לֹא־יָשֵׂא פַנִּים וַלָּא יָקַח שְׁחַד:

For the LORD your God is God supreme and Lord supreme, the great, the mighty, and the awesome God, who shows no favor and takes no bribe.

11) Nechemiah 1:5-11

וָאֹמַר אָנָא ה' אֱלֹקי הַשַּׁמִּים הַקָּל הַנָּדְוֹל וְהַנוֹרֵא שׁמֵר הַבָּרִית וְחֵׁסֶד לְאֹהַבִּיו וּלְשֹׁמְרֵי מִצְוֹתֵיו:

ְּתָהֵי נָא אָזְנָהְ־קַשֶּׁבֶת וֱעִינֶיךְ פְתוּחוֹת לִשְׁמִּע אֶל־תִּפִלֶּת עַבְדְּךְׁ אֲשֶׁר אָנֹכִי מִתְפַּלֵּל לְפָׁנֵיךְ הֵיּוֹם יוֹמֶם וַלִּיְלָה עַל־בְּנֵי יִשְׁרָאֵל עַבַדֵיךְ וּמִתְוַדָּה עַל־םּטָאות בָּנִי־יִשְׁרָאֵל אֲשֵׁר חָטֵאנוּ לָךְ וַאֲנִי וֹבֵית־אָבִי חָטֵאנוּ:

ָחַבָּל חָבַלְנוּ לֶדֶּ וְלֹא־שָׁמַרְנוּ אֶת־הַמִּצְוֹת וְאֶת־הַחֻקּים וְאֶת־הַמִּשְׁפָּטִים אֲעֶׁר צִוִּיתָ אֶת־מֹשֶׁה עַבְדֶּךְּ:

זָכָר־נָאֹ אֶת־הַדָּבָּׂר אֲשֶׁר צִנֵּיתָ אֶת־מֹשֶׁה עַבְדָּדַּ לֵאמֶר אַתֶּם תִּמְעָּׁלוּ אֲנִّי אָפִיץ אֶתְכֶם בַּעַמְים:

ְוְשַׁבְתֶּם אֵלֵי וּשְׁמַרְתָּם ֹמִצְוֹתִׁי וַצְשִׁיתָם אֹתָם אִם־יִהְיָּה נְדַּחַּכֶּם בִּקְצֵה הַשְּׁמַיִם מְשָׁם אֲקַבְּצֵׁם (והבואתים) [וַהָּבִיאוֹתִים] אֶל־ הַמַּלִּוֹם אֵשֵׁר בַּחַרִתִּי לְשַׁבֵּן אָת־שָׁמִי שֵׁם:

וָהָם עַבָדָידָ וְעַמֶּךְ אֲשֶׁר פָּדִיתַ בִּכֹחַךְ הַגַּדוֹל וּבְיַדָהָ הַחַזַקָה:

אָנֵּא ה' תְּהֵי נָא אָזְנְדְּ־בְּשֶּׁבֶת אֶל־תִּפִלֵּת עַבְדְּךְ וְאֶל־תִּפְלֵת עֲבָדֶּידְ הָחֵפֵצִים ׁ לְיִרְאָה אָת־שְׁמֶׁדְ וְהַצְלְיחָה־נָּא לְעַבְדְּדְּ הַיּוֹם וּתְנַהוּ לְרַחֲמִים לִפְנֵי הָאִישׁ הַזֶּה וַאֲנֵי הָיִיתִי מַשְׁקָה למֱלֶדִּ: I said, "O LORD, God of Heaven, great and awesome God, who stays faithful to His covenant with those who love Him and keep His commandments!

Let Your ear be attentive and Your eyes open to receive the prayer of Your servant that I am praying to You now, day and night, on behalf of the Israelites, Your servants, confessing the sins that we Israelites have committed against You, sins that I and my father's house have committed. We have offended You by not keeping the commandments, the laws, and the rules that You gave to Your servant Moses.

Be mindful of the promise You gave to Your servant Moses: 'If you are unfaithful, I will scatter you among the peoples;

but if you turn back to Me, faithfully keep My commandments, even if your dispersed are at the ends of the earth, I will gather them from there and bring them to the place where I have chosen to establish My name.'

For they are Your servants and Your people whom You redeemed by Your great power and Your mighty hand.

O Lord! Let Your ear be attentive to the prayer of Your servant, and to the prayer of Your servants who desire to hold Your name in awe. Grant Your servant success today, and dispose that man to be compassionate toward him!"

I was the king's cupbearer at the time.

12) Yirmiyahu 32:16-25

ָוָאֶתְפַּלֵּל אֶל־ה' אַחַבִי תִתִּי אֶת־סֵפֶר הַמִּקְנָה אֱל־בַּרָוּךְ בַּן־נַריָה לֵאמְר:

אָהָה ֹה' אלוקים הַנָּה וּ אַתָּה עָשִּׁיתָ אֶת־הַשָּׁמַׂיִם ׁ וְאֶת־הָאֶׁרֵץ בְּלְחַדְּ הַנְּדֹוֹל וְבָזְרֹעָדָ הַנְּטוּיֵה לְא־יִפָּלֵא מִמְדּ כָּל־דָּבֵר: עִשֵּה חַסָּד לַאֵלַבִּים וּמִשַׁלֵם עַוֹן אַבוֹת אֵל־חֵיק בִּנִיהָם אַחַרִיהָם הַקָּל הַגָּדוֹל הַגָּבוֹר ה' אָבַאוֹת שִׁמְוֹ:

> גָּדֹלֹ הָעֵצֶּה וְרֵב הָעַלִילִיֶּה אֲשֶׁר-עֵינֶיךּ פְקַחְׁחוֹת עַל־כָּל-דַּרְכֵי בְּנֵי אֶׁלָּם לְתָת לְאִישׁ כִּדְרָבִיו וְכִפְּרֵי מַעְלָלֵיו: אָשֶר-שַׁמְהָה אֹתוֹת וּמֹפְתִים בְּאֶרֶץ־מִצְרִיִם עַד־הַיָּוֹם הַזָּה וּבִישָּׁרָאֵל וּבָאָדֶם וַתַּעֲשֶׂה־לְךָּ שֵׁם כַּיָּוֹם הַזָּה: וַתִּצֵא אֶת־עַמְךָּ אֶת־יִשְׁרָאֵל מַאָּרֶץ מִצְרֵיִם בְּאֹתוֹת וּבְמוֹפְתִּים וּבְיָד חָזָקָה וּבְאֶזְרוֹע נְטוּיָה וּבְמוֹרָא גָּדְוֹל: וַתָּתֵן לָהָם אֶת־הַאָרֵץ הּזֹּאֹת אֲשֶׁר־נִשְׁבַּעָּת לֹאֲבוֹתָם לְתֵת לָהֵם אֵרֵץ וַבְּע חָלָב וּדְבַשׁ:

וַיָּבֹאוּ וַיָּבֹאוּ וַיְּרְאִי אָמֶהּ וְלָא־שָּׁמְעָוּ בָקוֹלֶּךְּ (ובתרותך) [וּבְתוֹרָתְךָּ] לֹא־הָלֶׁכוּ אֵתْ כָּל־אֲשֶׁר צִוִּיתָה לָהֶם לַעֲשָׂוֹת לָא עָשֻׂוּ וַתַּקְרֵא אֹמָם אֵת כָּל־הַרָעַה הַוְּאת:

הָנֵּה הַפֿלְלֹּוֹת בֶּאוֹ הָעִיר ֹלְלָכְדָה וְהָעִיר נִתְּנָּה בְּיַד הַכַּשְׁדִּים הַנִּלְחָמִים עַלֶּיהָ מִפְּנֵי הַחָּרֶב וְהָרָעָב וְהַדֶּבֶר וַאֲשֶׁר דּבֵּרְתָּ הָיָה וְהִנָּדְ רֹאֵה:

ואַתה אמרת אַלִי ה' אלוקים קנה־לדָ הַשֹּׁבַה בַּכַּסף וְהַעֵּד עַדִים וְהַעֵּיר נָתַנָה בַּיַד הַכַּשַּׁדִים:

But after I had given the deed to Baruch son of Neriah, I prayed to GOD:

"Ah, my Sovereign GOD! You made heaven and earth with Your great might and outstretched arm. Nothing is too wondrous for You!

You show kindness to the thousandth generation, but visit the guilt of the parents upon their children after them. O great and mighty God whose name is GOD of Hosts,

wondrous in purpose and mighty in deed, whose eyes observe all the ways of mortals, so as to repay each one according to their ways, and with the proper fruit of their deeds!

You displayed signs and marvels in the land of Egypt with lasting effect, and won renown in Israel and among humankind to this very day.

You freed Your people Israel from the land of Egypt with signs and marvels, with a strong hand and an outstretched arm, and with great terror.

You gave them this land that You had sworn to their fathers to give them, a land flowing with milk and honey,

and they came and took possession of it. But they did not listen to You or follow Your Teaching; they did nothing of what You commanded them to do. Therefore you have caused all this misfortune to befall them.

Here are the siege mounds, raised against the city to storm it; and the city, because of sword and famine and pestilence, is at the mercy of the Chaldeans who are attacking it. What You threatened has come to pass—as You see.

Yet You, my Sovereign GOD, said to me: Buy the land for money and call in witnesses—when the city is at the mercy of the Chaldeans!"

13) Daniel 6:11

וְדָנִיֵּאל כְּדִּי יְדַע דִּי־רְשִׁים כְּתָבָאֹ עַל לְבַיְתֵּה וְכַנִּין פְּתִיחָן לֵהֹ בְּעַלִּיתֵה נָגֶד יְרוּשְׁלֶם וְזִמְנִין۠ תְּלָתָּה בְיוֹמָא הָוּא ו בָּרֵדְ עַל־בִּרְכוֹהִי וּמְצַלֵּא וּמוֹדֵא קָדָם אֱלָקה כָּל־קָבַל דִּי־הָוָא עָבֵּד מִן־קדְמַת דְּנֵה:

When Daniel learned that it had been put in writing, he went to his house, in whose upper chamber he had had windows made facing Jerusalem, and three times a day he knelt down, prayed, and made confession to his God, as he had always done.

Prayer in the Mishna and Talmud

14) Mishna Tamid 5:1

אָמֵר לָהֶם הַמְמֻנֶּה, בָּרְכוּ בָרָכָה אָחַת, וְהֵן בֵּרְכוּ. קֵרְאוּ עֲשֶׁרֶת הַדְּבָרִים, שְׁמַע, וְהָיָה אִם שָׁמֹעַ, וַיּאֹמֶר. בֵּרְכוּ אֶת הָעָם שַׁלֹשׁ בָּרַכוֹת, אֱמֶת וִיצִיב, וַעֲבוֹדָה, וּבִרְכַּת כֹּהָנִים

The appointed priest said [to the other priests]: "Make one blessing [before Shema]," and they blessed. "Read the Ten Commandments, [the first paragraph] of Shema, Ve-Haya Im Shamoa, and Va-Yomer." They blessed the people with three blessings: Emet ve-Yatziv, the Avodah, and the Priestly Blessing.

15) Mishna Rosh Hashana 4:5

סֶדֶר בְּרֶכוֹת, אוֹמֵר אָבוֹת וּגְבוּרוֹת וּקְדֵשַׁת הַשֵּם, וְכוֹלֵל מַלְכוּיוֹת עַמְהָן, וְאֵינוֹ תוֹקַעַ. קְדָשַׁת הַיּוֹם, וְתוֹקַעַ. זְכְרוֹנוֹת וְתוֹקַעַ. שוֹפָרוֹת, וְתוֹקַעַ. **וְאוֹמֵר עֲבוֹדָה וְהוֹדָאָה וּבִרְכַּת כֹּהְנִים**, דְּבְרֵי רַבִּי יוֹחָנָן בֶּן נוּרִי. אָמֵר לוֹ רַבִּי עֲקִיבָא, אִם אִינוֹ .תוֹקַעַ לַמַלְכוּיוֹת, לָמָה הוּא מַזְכִּיר. אָלָא אוֹמֵר אָבוֹת וּגְבוּרוֹת וּקְדֵשַׁת הַשֵּׁם, וְכוֹלֵל מַלְכוּיוֹת עִם קְדַשַׁת הַיּוֹם, וְתוֹקַעַ זְכְרוֹנוֹת, וְתוֹקַעַ. שׁוֹפָרוֹת, וְתוֹקַעַ. וְאוֹמֵר עֲבוֹדָה וְהוֹדָאָה וִבּרְכַּת כֹּהְנִים

The order of blessings [in the Musaf Amidah of Rosh Hashanah]: He says "patriarchs", "powers" and the "sanctification of the name" and includes the kingship verses with them and does not blow [the shofar]. The sanctification of the day and blows [the shofar], the remembrance-verses and blows [the shofar], and the shofar-verses and blows [the shofar]. Then he says the blessing of the Temple service and "thanksgiving" and the blessing of the priests, the words of Rabbi Yohanan ben Nuri. Rabbi Akiva said to him: if he does not blow the shofar for the kingship-verses, why should he say them? Rather he says: "patriarchs", "powers" and the "sanctification of the name" and includes the kingship verse with the sanctification of the day and blows the

shofar, then he says the remembrance-verses and blows, and the shofar-verses and blows. Then he says the Temple service and "thanksgiving" and the blessing of the priest.

16) Mishna Berachot 1:4

בַּשַּׁחַר מְבָרֵךְ שָׁתַּיִם לְפָנֶיהָ וְאַחַת לְאַחֲרֵיהָ, וּבַעֶרֵב שְׁתַּיִם לְפָנֶיהָ וּשְׁתַּיִם לְאַחֲרֵיהָ

In the morning he recites two blessings before it [Shema] and one after it; in the evening two before it and two after it.

17) Berachot 11b

גָּמֵי מָאי מְבַרֶד? אַמֶּר רַבִּי יַעֵקֹב אָמֵר רַבִּי אוֹשַעיַא

״יוֹצֵר אוֹר וּבוֹרֵא חֹשֶׁךְ״. לֵימָא: ״יוֹצֵר אוֹר וּבוֹרֵא נוֹגַה״! כְּדְכְתִיב קָאָמְרִינַן. אֶלָּא מֵעַהָּה ״עֹשֶׁה ״עֹשֶׂה שָׁלוֹם וּבוֹרֵא רָע״, מִי קֵא אָמְרינַן כְּדְכְתִיב?! אֶלָּא כְּתִיב ״רַע״ וְקָרֵינַן ״הַכֹּל״ לִישָׁנָא מְעַלְיָא, הָכָא נָמֵי לִימָא ״נוֹגַה״, לִישָׁנָא מְעַלְיָא! אֶלָּא אָמַר ,רָבָא: כְּדִי לְהַזְּכִּיר מִדַּת יוֹם בַּלֹיְלָה וּמִדַּת לִיְלָה בִּיוֹם. בְּשִׁלְמָא מִדַּת לִיְלָה בִּיוֹם כִּלְיְלָה וּמִדַּת לִיְלָה בִּיוֹם. בְּשִׁלְמָא מִדַּת לִיְלָה בִּיוֹם כִּדְאָמְרינַן: ״יוֹצֵר אוֹר וּבוֹרֵא חֹשֶׁךְּ״ ?אֶלָּא מִדַּת יוֹם בַּלֹיְלָה, הֵיכִי מִשְׁכַחַתְּ לַה? אָמֵר אַבְּנֵי: ״גוֹלֵל אוֹר מִכְּנֵי חֹשֶׁךְ וְחֹשֶׁךְ מִפְּנֵי אוֹר״. וְאִידָּךְ מֵאי הִיא אָמָר רַב יְהוּדָה אָמֵר שְׁמוּאֵל: ״אַהָבָה רַבָּה״. וְכֵן אוֹרִי לִיה רַבִּי אֶלְעָזָר לְרבִי כְּדָת בְּרֵיה, ״אַהָבָה רַבָּה״. וְבָּנֵן אָמְרִי אַהְבַת עוֹלָם , וְכֵן הוּא אוֹמֵר: ״וְאַהְבַת עוֹלָם , אַהַבּתִיד על כַּן משׁכִתִידְ חִסִד״

GEMARA: Which benedictions does one say [in the morning]? R. Jacob [[fol. 11b.]] said in the name of R. Osha'ya: "[Blessed].... Who formest light and createst darkness." Surely one ought rather to say: "Who formest light and createst brightness"! As it is written, so we say it. But in the case of the words "I make peace and create evil" (Is. xlv. 7), do we say them as they are written? It is written "evil," but [in the prayer] we say "all things"! It is a euphemism. Then in the former instance, let us [in the prayer] also use "brightness" [instead of "darkness"] as a euphemism! Raba answered: The purpose is to mention the characteristic of day at night and the characteristic of night in the day. It is quite right [about mentioning] the characteristic of night in the day, since we say "Who formest light and createst darkness"; but where is [the mention of] the characteristic of day at night? Abbai answered: [We say] "Thou rollest away the light from before the darkness, and the darkness from before the lights." Which is the other [blessing to be recited before the morning Shema']? Rab Judah said in the name of Samuel: "With abounding love"; and so R. Eleazar taught his son R. Pedat to say "With abounding love." There is a teaching to the same effect: We do not say "With everlasting love," but "With abounding love." But the Rabbis declare that "With everlasting love" [is to be recited]; for so it is said, "Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love; therefore with affection have I drawn thee" (Jer. xxxi. 3).

18) Sotah 40b

בּזְמַן שֶׁשְּׁלִיחַ צִבּוּר אוֹמֵר מוֹדִים, הָעָם מָה הֵם אוֹמְרִים? אָמֵר רֵב: ״מוֹדִים אֲנְחָנוּ לֶךְּ ה׳ אֱלֹהֵינוּ עַל שֶׁאָנוּ מוֹדִים לָךְּ״ וּשְׁמוּאֵל אָמַר: ״אֱלֹהֵי כָּל בָּשָּׁר, עַל שֶׁאָנוּ מוֹדִים לָךְּ״. רַבִּי סִימֵאי אוֹמֵר: ״וֹצְרֵנוּ יוֹצֵר בְּרֵאשִׁית עַל שֶׁאָנוּ מוֹדִים לָךְּ״. רַב נְהַרְדָּעֵי אָמָרִי מִשְׁמֵיה דְּרַבִּי סִימֵאי: ״בָּרְכוֹת וְהוֹדָאוֹת לְשִׁמְךּ הַגָּדוֹל עַל שֶׁהָחֵיִיתוּ וְקְיֵימְהָנוּ, עַל שֶׁאָנוּ מוֹדִים לָךְּ״. רַב אַחָא בֵּר יַצְלָב מְסִיֵּים בַּה הָכִי: ״כֵּן הְּחַיֵּינוּ וּתְחָנֵנוּ, וּתְקבְּצֵנוּ, וְתָאֱסוֹף גָּלִיוֹתֵינוּ לְחַצְרוֹת קַדְּשֶׁךּ, לִשְׁמוֹר חוּקֵּיךּ וְלַעֲשׁוֹת רְצוֹנְךְּ בְּלֵבָב שָׁלָם, עַל שֶׁאָנוּ מוֹדִים לָךְּ״ While the prayer leader is reciting the blessing of: We give thanks, what do the people say? Rav says that they say: We give thanks to You, Lord our God, for the merit of giving thanks to You. And Shmuel says that one should say: God of all living flesh, for the merit of giving thanks to You. Rabbi Simai says that one should say: Our Creator, Who created everything in the beginning, for the merit of giving thanks to You. The Sages of Neharde'a say in the name of Rabbi Simai that one should say: We offer blessings and praises to Your great name, for You have given us life and sustained us, for giving thanks to You. Rav Aḥa bar Ya'akov would finish the blessing as follows: So may You give us life, and show us favor, and collect us, and gather our exiles into Your sacred courtyards, in order to observe Your laws and to fulfill Your will wholeheartedly, for giving thanks to You.

19) Shabbat 119b

אַמַר רַבִּי יָהוֹשֶׁעַ בֵּן לֵוִי: כָּל הַעוֹנֵה "אַמֵן יָהָא שָׁמֵיה רַבַּא מְבַרַךְ" בְּכָל כֹּחוֹ, קוֹרְעִין לוֹ גָּזַר דְּינוֹ

Rabbi Yehoshua ben Levi said that anyone who answers: Amen, may His great name be blessed, wholeheartedly, with all his might, they rip his sentence.

20) Sofrim 16:12

וקטן שאינו פורס שמע אין יכול לומר קדוש (כיוצא) [ביוצר] ביחיד אבל בצבור עונה עמהן וגדול פורס את שמע יכול לומר קדוש למודה כיון שצריך לומר נעריצך ונקדישך אינו הדין לאומרו פחות לומר קדוש לפי שהוא בסודר אבל קדוש של עמידה כיון שצריך לומר נעריצך ונקדישך אינו הדין לאומרו פחות מיי ואין קטן עולה מן המנין ברכו קריאת התורה וקדיש עד שיהא בן שלש עשרה ואין נדבקין באלו

A minor who is not allowed to read portions of the Shema must not say 'Holy' in the benediction Yozer privately; but with a congregation he may respond together with the others. An adult, however, who reads portions of the Shema may say 'Holy' because it is in the order [of the Biblical text]; but as for the 'Holy' of the 'Amidah, since he would have to say 'We will reverence and sanctify Thee', it is not proper for him to say it if less than ten adults are present. A minor, furthermore, may not be counted in the quorum of ten for Bareku, the reading of the Torah and kaddish until he is thirteen years of age; but no examination is carried out in such cases.

Oral Prayer

21) Vayikra Rabbah 23:4

בְּנֹהָג שֶׁבָּעוֹלָם עֲשָׂרָה בְּנֵי אָדָם נְכְנָסִין לְבֵית הַכְּנֶסֶת וְאֵין אֶחָד מֵהֶם יָכוֹל לְפְרֹס עַל שְׁמַע וְלַעֲבֹר לִפְנֵי הַתֵּבָה, וְאֶחָד מֵהֶם יוֹדֵע, דוֹמֶה בְּשׁוֹשַׁנָה בֵּין החוֹחִים. רַבִּי אֶלְעָזָר אָזַל לְחַד אְתַר אָמְרוּ לֵיה פְּרֹס עַל שְׁמַע, אָמֵר לָהָן לֵינָא חָכֵם, אָמְרין דֵּין הוּא רַבִּי אֶלְעָזָר, דִּין הוּא דְאַתּוּן מִתְגַּלְגְּלִין בֵּיה, עַל מַגָּן צְּוְחִין לֵיה רַבִּי. נְתְכַּרְכְּמוּ פָנָיו וְהָלַךְ לוֹ אֵצֶל רַבִּי עֲקִיבָא רַבּוֹ, אָמַר לֵיה לָמָה פָנֶיךּ חוֹלְנִיּוֹת, חָנֵי לֵיה עוֹכָדָא. אֲמַר לִיה צָבִי מָרִי דְּיֵלִיף, אֲמַר לֵיה אִין, אִלְפֵיה. לְבָתַר יוֹמִין אָזַל לְהַהוּא אַתְרָא, אָמְרוּ לֵיה פְּרֹס עַל שְׁמַע, פָּרַס. עֲבֹר לִפְנֵי הַתַּבָה, עָבַר אַמִרן אָתַסַפִּם רַבִּי אֶלְעַזַר, וִקּוֹרִין לֵיה רַבִּי אֵלְעַזַר חָסְמֵא

The way of the world is that ten men enter the synagogue and not one of them is able to recite the blessings before Shema and pass before the ark. When one of them knows, he is comparable to "a lily among the thorns." Rabbi Elazar went to a certain place. They said to him: 'Recite the blessings before Shema.' He said to them: 'I am not well-versed.' 'Pass before the ark.' He said to them: 'I am not well-versed.' They said: 'Is this Rabbi Elazar? Is this the one in whom you take pride? It is for naught that they call him rabbi.' He turned pale and he went to his teacher Rabbi Akiva. [Rabbi Akiva] said to him: 'Why does your face look ill?' He related the incident to him and he said to him: 'Would my master like to teach me?' He said to him: 'Yes.' He taught him. Some time later, and he went to that place. They said to him: 'Recite the blessings before Shema.' He recited them. 'Pass before the ark.' He passed. They said: 'Rabbi Elazar has been fortified,' and they called him Rabbi Elazar the strong.

22) Shabbat 115b

הָנוּ רַבָּנֵן: הַבְּרָכוֹת וְהַקְּמֵיעִין, אַף עַל כִּי שָׁיֵשׁ בָּהֶן אוֹתִיּוֹת שֶׁל שֵׁם וּמֵעְנָינוֹת הַרְבֵּה שֶׁבַּתּוֹרָה — אֵין מַצִּילִין אוֹתָוֹ מִפְּנֵי הַדְּלֵיקָה, אֶלָּא נִשְׂרָפִים בִּמְקוֹמָן [הַן וְאַזְּכָּרוֹתֵיהֶן]. מִכָּאן אָמְרוּ: כּוֹתְבֵי בָרָכוֹת כְּשׁוֹרְכֵּי תוֹרָה. מַצֲשֶׂה בְּאֶחָד שֶׁהָיָה כּוֹתֵב בְּצִיְדָן, בָּאוּ וְהוֹדִיעוּ אֶת רַבִּי יִשְׁמָעֵאל, וְהָלַךְ רַבִּי יִשְׁמָעֵאל לְבוֹדְקוֹ. כְּשֶׁהָי, עוֹלֶה בַּסוּלְם הָרְגִישׁ בּוֹ, נָטֵל טוֹמוֹס שֶׁל בָּרָכוֹת וְשָׁקַעֵן בָּסֶבֶּל שֵׁל מֵיִם. וּבַלְשׁוֹן הַזָּה אָמֵר לוֹ רַבִּי יִשְׁמֵעֵאל: גַּדוֹל עוֹנֵשׁ הַאָחַרוֹן מָן הַרְאשׁוֹן

The Sages taught: The blessings and the amulets, even though there are the letters of the Name of God in them and matters that appear in the Torah are mentioned in them, they are not rescued from the fire; rather, they burn in their place, they and the names of God contained therein. From here the Sages said: Writers of blessings are like burners of Torah. There was an incident involving one who was writing pages with blessings in Sidon. They came and informed Rabbi Yishmael of his actions, and Rabbi Yishmael went to examine him. When Rabbi Yishmael was ascending the ladder to confront him, the scribe sensed his presence, took a bundle [tomos] of blessings, and submerged it in a basin of water. And in these words Rabbi Yishmael said to him: The punishment for the latter action is greater than the punishment for the former.