

Sin

Old Testament - Sin

'awen OT:205, "iniquity; vanity; sorrow." Some scholars believe that this term has cognates in the Arabic words 'ana, ("to be fatigued, tired") and 'aynun ("weakness; sorrow; trouble"), or with the Hebrew word 'ayin ("nothingness"). This relationship would imply that 'awen means the absence of all that has true worth; hence, it would denote "moral worthlessness," as in the actions of wrongdoing, evil devising, or false speaking.

Other scholars believe that the term implies a "painful burden or difficulty"-- i. e., that sin is a toilsome, exhausting load of "trouble and sorrow," which the offender causes for himself or others. This meaning is indicated in Ps 90:10: "The days of our years are three score years and ten; and if by reason of strength they be fourscore years, yet is their strength labor and sorrow [RSV, "trouble"]...." A similar meaning appears in Prov 22:8: "He that soweth iniquity shall reap vanity ['awen]; and the rod of his anger shall fail."

'Awen may be a general term for a crime or offense, as in Mic 2:1: "Woe to them that devise iniquity..." (cf. Isa 1:13). In some passages, the word refers to falsehood or deception: "The words of his mouth are iniquity and deceit: he hath left off to be wise, and to do good" Ps 36:3. "For the idols have spoken vanity [NASB, "iniquity"]..." Zech 10:2. Isa 41:29 portrays idols deceiving their worshipers: "Behold, they are all vanity; their works are nothing: Their molten images are wind and confusion."

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New Testament - SIN (NOUN AND VERB)

1. hamartia NT:266 is, lit., "a missing of the mark," but this etymological meaning is largely lost sight of in the NT. It is the most comprehensive term for moral obliquity. It is used of "sin" as (a) a principle or source of action, or an inward element producing acts, e. g., Rom 3:9; 5:12,13,20; 6:1,2; 7:7 (abstract for concrete); 7:8 (twice), 9,11,13, "sin, that it might be shown to be sin," i. e., "sin became death to me, that it might be exposed in its heinous character": in the last clause, "sin might become exceeding sinful," i. e., through the holiness of the Law, the true nature of sin was designed to be manifested to the conscience;

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NT:266

hamartia, hamartias, hee
a failing to hit the mark

1. a sinning, whether it occurs by omission or commission, in thought and feeling or in speech and action
2. that which is done wrong, committed or resultant sin, an offence, a violation of the divine law in thought or in act
1 John 3:4 a. generally: James 1:15 b. some particular evil deed Acts 7:60
3. collectively, the complex or aggregate of sins committed either by a single person or by many
4. abstract for the concrete, equivalent to hamartoolos: Rom 7:7

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NT:264

hamartano (ham-ar-tan'-o); perhaps from NT:1 (as a negative particle) and the base of NT:3313; properly, to miss the mark (and so not share in the prize), i.e. (figuratively) to err, especially (morally) to sin: KJV - for your faults, offend, sin, trespass.

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