

Aon — Gen 4:13 "my punishment is more than I can bear", Gen 15:16 Iniquity, Bent Path, "the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete"

The Hebrew word **avon** (אָוֹן) encapsulates a multi-layered biblical concept that seamlessly links the crookedness of sin, the weight of guilt, and the consequence of punishment.

The Linguistic Root: The "Bent Path"

In Biblical Hebrew, abstract concepts are rooted in concrete, physical actions.

- **The Root:** The word *avon* comes from the primitive root *avah* (אָוָה), which means **to bend, twist, distort, or make crooked**.
- **The Meaning:** It portrays sin not just as a missed mark, but as a deliberate bending of God's straight path. It is a crooked lifestyle or a perverted moral compass.

Genesis 4:13 — The Weight of Consequence

When Cain kills Abel, God pronounces his exile. Cain laments: *"My punishment is more than I can bear."*

- **The Multi-Translation:** The word translated here as "punishment" is *avon*.
- **The Meaning:** Because *avon* blends the action with its inevitable result, biblical scholars note it can simultaneously mean **"my iniquity," "my guilt," or "my punishment."** Cain is realizing that the twisted distortion of his action has created a crushing weight of consequences that he must now physically and spiritually "bear" (*nasa*).

Genesis 15:16 — The Accumulation of Twistedness

God tells Abraham that his descendants will return to the Promised Land in the fourth generation, *"for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete."*

- **The Meaning:** Here, *avon* represents a collective, accumulating moral distortion. God does not judge nations arbitrarily; He allows their "crookedness" to reach a tipping point where justice becomes absolute. The Amorites were actively bending the moral order through their practices, and God waited until that systemic corruption was "full" before executing divine judgment.

The Three Dimensions of *Avon* a legal and spiritual chain reaction:

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[ Iniquity / Avon ] —> The crooked, twisted act of sin itself.
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    ▼
[ Guilt / Avon ]   —> The heavy internal burden or legal standing.
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[ Punishment / Avon ] —> The inevitable, crushing penalty that follows.
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