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TORAH & HAFTORAH BRACHOTH

The Torah was given to Moshe by the mouth of YHWH. Likewise, the Nevi'im (prophets) received the words written in the Haftorah from the Almighty. Reciting "brachoth" (blessings) before and after reciting the weekly Torah and Haftorah portions is a tradition that dates from antiquity. It is done to acknowledge YHWH as the One who gave the Words of life to His chosen people Yisrael, and to express thanks for the great gift He has bestowed upon her. The brachoth are usually recited in the synagogue, either by a cantor or by the one called to "aliyah" (ascent) - read the portion. The brachoth are typically done in Hebrew instead of English, and so we have included the transliterated Hebrew here for those of you who are wanting to incorporate more Hebrew into your Sabbath readings and prayers. While these brachoth are normally done in a communal setting, they can also be done if one has no community he or she can attend, and we encourage those who are alone to recite them before and after their readings.

Brachoth Before the Torah

The following is recited before reading from the Torah:

And it came to pass, when the ark set forward, that Moshe said, "Rise up, YHWH, and let thine enemies be scattered; and let them that hate Thee flee before Thee."

Blessed art thou, YHWH Eloheinu, King of the Universe, who has chosen us from all peoples and has given us thy Torah. Blessed art thou, O YHWH, Giver of the Torah.

Vayehe bensoa haaron v'yamer Moshe kumah YHWH v'yafutzu oyveicha v'yanusu m'saneicha mipaneicha.

Baruk atah, YHWH Eloheinu, Melek haolam, asher bachar banu mikol haamim v'natan lanu et torato. Baruk atah, O YHWH, notayn haTorah.

Brachoth After the Torah

The following is recited after reading from the Torah:

Blessed art thou, YHWH Eloheinu, King of the Universe, who has given us the Torah of truth and has planted everlasting life in our midst. Blessed art thou, O YHWH, Giver of the Torah.

And when it rested, he said, "Return, O YHWH, unto the many thousands of Yisrael."

Baruk atah, YHWH Eloheinu, Melek haolam, asher natan lanu torat emet v'chaiyay olam nata b'tochaynu. Baruk atah, O YHWH, Melek haolam, notayn haTorah.

Uvnuchoh yomar, shuvah YHWH riyvavoth alphay Yisrael.

Brachoth Before the Haftorah

The following is recited before reading from the Haftorah:

Blessed art thou, YHWH Eloheinu, King of the Universe, who hast chosen good prophets, and hast found pleasure in their words which were spoken in truth.

Blessed art thou, O YHWH, who hast chosen the Law, and Moses thy servant, and Yisrael thy people, and prophets of truth and righteousness.

Baruk atah, YHWH Eloheinu, melek haolam asher bachar binv'im toveem v'ratzah v'divreihem hane'emarim b'emet.

Baruk atah, O YHWH, habocheh batorah uv'Moshe avdo v'Yisrael amo u'vinviay haemet v'tzedek.

Brachoth After the Haftorah

The following is recited after reading from the Haftorah:

Blessed art thou, YHWH Eloheinu, King of the Universe, rock of all eternities, righteous in all generations, the faithful El, who says and does, who speaks and fulfills, all of whose words are true. Faithful are you, YHWH Eloheinu, and faithful are your words. Not one of your words turns back unfulfilled, for You, O YHWH, are a faithful and compassionate King. Blessed art thou, YHWH Eloheinu, who is faithful in all His words.

Have mercy upon Tzion, for it is the home of our life, and save her that is grieved in spirit speedily, even in our days. Blessed art thou, O YHWH, who makes Tzion joyful through her children.

Gladden us, YHWH Eloheinu, with Eliyahu the prophet, thy servant, and with the kingdom of the house of David, thine anointed. Soon may he come and rejoice our hearts. Suffer not a stranger to sit upon his throne, nor let others any longer inherit his glory; for by thy holy name thou didst swear unto him, that his light should not be quenched forever. Blessed art thou, YHWH, the Shield of David.

For the Torah, for the divine service, for the prophets, and for this (*Sabbath*) day, which thou, YHWH Eloheinu, hast given us (*for holiness and for rest, for honor and for glory*), for all these we thank and bless thee, YHWH Eloheinu, blessed be thy name by the mouth of every living being continually and forever. (*Blessed art thou, O YHWH, who hallowes the Shabbat*).

Baruk atah, YHWH Eloheinu, Melekh haolam, tzur kol haolamim, tzaddik b'khol hadorot, haEl ha-ne'eman ha'omer v'oseh, hamdaber u'makayem, shekol d'varav emet v'tzedek. Ne'eman atah hu YHWH Eloheinu, v'ne'emanim d'variecha, v'davar echad midvareicha achor lo yashuv reikam, ki El melek ne'eman v'rachaman atah. Baruk atah, YHWH, haEl ha-ne'eman b'chol devarav.

Rachem al tzion ki hi beit chayeinu v'laalu'vat nefesh toshia bimherah v'yameinu. Baruk atah, O YHWH, m'sameach tziyon b'vaneiha.

Samchenu YHWH Eloheinu, b'Eliyahu hanavi avdecha uv'malchut beit David m'shichecha bimherah yavo v'yagel libeinu. Al kiso lo yeshev zar v'lo yinchalu od acherim et kevodo. Ki v'shem kodshecha nishbaeta lo shelo yichbeh nero l'olam v'ed. Baruk atah, YHWH, magen David.

Al haTorah v'al haavodah v'al ha-neviim v'al yom (hashabbat) hazeh shenatata lanu YHWH Eloheinu, (likedushah v'limnuchah, l'kavod, ul'tifaret), al hakol YHWH Eloheinu, anachnu modem lach, um'varechim otach. Yitbarach shimcha b'fi kol chai tamid l'olam v'ed. (Baruk atah, O YHWH, m'qodesh haShabbat).

Note: The words in parenthesis are said only on the Sabbath.