

Brit Milah Ceremony

As the child is brought into the room, all rise and say:

Welcoming the Baby (all present)

בְּרוּךְ הַבָּא.

Barukh haba

May he who comes be blessed.

Rabbi

Brit milah, the covenant of circumcision, is a sign of the covenant between God and the Jewish people that was first established with our ancestor, Abraham, and then renewed at *Sinai* when the Jewish people received the Torah.

Chair of Elijah (Rabbi/mohel)

An honored “guest” that is present at every circumcision is the prophet Elijah. We invoke his memory because Elijah has a reputation for being zealous for God’s covenant. He is also known as the one who will establish peace between parents and their children.

זֶה הַפְסֵה שֶׁל אֱלֹהֵינוּ לְטוֹב. לִישׁוּעָתְךָ קוִיָּתִי ה'. שְׂבִרְתִּי לִישׁוּעָתְךָ יי, וּמְצוֹתֶיךָ עֲשִׂיתִי.
שְׂבִרְתִּי לִישׁוּעָתְךָ ה'. שֵׁשׁ אֲנֹכִי עַל אִמְרָתְךָ כְּמוֹצֵא שְׁלָל רַב. שְׁלוֹם רַב לְאַהֲבֵי תוֹרָתְךָ, וְאִין
לְמוֹ מְכֻשׁוֹל. אֲשֶׁרִי תִבְחַר וּתִקְרַב יִשְׁכּוֹן חֲצֵרֶיךָ, נִשְׁבְּעָה בְּטוֹב בֵּיתְךָ קְדוֹשׁ הַיְכָלְךָ.

Living Judaism (responsively)

Judaism begins at home. It begins in homes where Judaism lives in the atmosphere and is integrated into the normal pattern of daily life.

It begins in homes where words of the Jewish tradition are part of the everyday vocabulary, where Jewish books are displayed and read, where Jewish songs are enjoyed.

It begins in homes where the children see and participate in symbols and rituals that link them to a people with a colorful and rich culture.

It begins in homes where Jewish ritual objects are visible: Shabbat candlesticks, and *Hanukiyot*, *mezuzot* and *havdallah* sets.

It begins in homes where into the deepest layers of a child’s developing personality are woven strands of love for the Jewish tradition and devotion to the Jewish people.

Judaism begins in the home. A truly Jewish home therefore, is not only a place where Jews live, but a place where Judaism is lived.

The founders of our people wisely assigned to parents the task of transmitting the ideals of *Torah*, *huppa* and *ma'asim tovim*- study, family and the performance of good deeds- for it is in the home that the foundations of the future are set.

Children are not only *banim*, the “sons” of the past; they are also *bonim*, the “builders” of tomorrow.

Parents

Our God and God of our Ancestors, we are grateful for the joy and blessings which our new son brings to us. As parents we accept the awesome responsibility of raising _____ to adulthood, of guiding his life, of determining in large measure the values by which he shall live and the ideals toward which he shall strive. We pray for the wisdom to help _____ fulfill his potential, to be strong when he needs us to be strong, to be gentle when he needs us to be gentle and to be available in mind and body whenever he needs us.

הַנְּנִי מוֹכֵן וּמְזַמֵּן לְקַיִם מִצְוַת עֲשֵׂה שְׂצֻנּוֹ הַבוֹרָא יְתִבְרַךְ, לְמוֹל אֶת-בְּנִי, כְּכַתוּב בְּתוֹרָה: “וַיְבָרֶךְ
שְׁמֹנֶת יָמִים יְמוֹל לָכֶם כָּל-זָכָר לְדוֹרֹתֵיכֶם.”

*Hin'ni mukhan, u-m'zuman l'kayaim mitzvat asay shetzivanu ha-borei
yitbarch lamuhl et b'ni, kakatuv batorah: “u-ven sh'monat yamim yimohl
lakhem kol-zakhar l'doroteikhem.”*

We are ready to perform the positive commandment enjoined by the Creator, blessed be God, to circumcise our son, as it is written in the Torah: “Every male among you, throughout your generations, shall be circumcised when he is eight days old” (Genesis 17:12). According to custom, responsibility for bringing our son into the covenant falls upon us. We hereby authorize you to perform the *brit milah* on our behalf.

Mohel

I willingly perform this commandment of *brit milah*, sanctioned by the generations, of bringing this child into the covenant.

Before the Circumcision:

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה ה' אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתָיו וְצִוָּנוּ עַל הַמִּילָה.

Praised are You, *Adonai*, Ruler of the universe who has made us holy with Your commandments and commanded us concerning circumcision.

Parents

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה ה' אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתָיו וְצִוָּנוּ
לְהַכְנִיסוֹ בְּבְרִיתוֹ שֶׁל אַבְרָהָם אָבִינוּ.

*Barukh atah Adonai, Eloheinu melekh ha-olam, asher kid'shanu b'mitzvotav
v'tzivahnu l'hakhniso bevrityo shel Avraham avinu.*

Praised are You, *Adonai* our God, Ruler of the universe who has made us holy with Your commandments and commanded us to bring our son into the covenant of our father, Abraham.

All Present Respond:

כְּשֶׁם שֶׁנִּכְנַס לְבְרִית כֵּן יִכְנַס לְתוֹרָה וּלְחַפָּה וּלְמַעֲשֵׂים טוֹבִים.

K'shaym shenikhnas labrit, kayn yikanes l'Torah, ul'huppah ul'ma'asim tovim.

Just as he has entered the covenant, so may he enter the worlds of Torah, family and good deeds.

Prayer of Healing (rabbi/mohel)

מִי שֶׁבֵּרַךְ אֲבוֹתֵינוּ, אַבְרָהָם, יִצְחָק, וְיַעֲקֹב, שָׂרָה, רִבְקָה, רָחֵל וְלֵאָה, הוּא יְבָרַךְ אֶת הַיֶּלֶד הַרַךְ
הַנִּמּוֹל וִירְפֵא אוֹתוֹ רְפוּאָה שְׁלֵמָה, וְיִזְכּוּ אֲבוֹתָיו (קְרוּבֵיו) לְגַדְלוֹ לְתוֹרָה וּלְחַפָּה וּלְמַעֲשֵׂים
טוֹבִים. וְנֹאמֵר אָמֵן.

May God who blessed our fathers Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and our mothers, Sarah, Rebecca, Rachel and Leah, bless this child that healing and strength may come to him speedily. May his father and mother find joy and fulfillment in raising him. May his life be dedicated in faithfulness to You, and may he bring blessing to his parents, to his people and to all humanity.

Bringing the Baby into the Covenant and Naming

ברוך אתה ה' אלקינו מלך העולם בורא פרי הגפן.

Barukh atah Adonai, Eloheinu Melekh ha'olam, borei p'ri hagafen.

Praised are You, Adonai our God, Ruler of the universe, Creator of the fruit of the vine.

ברוך אתה ה' אלקינו מלך העולם, אשר קדש ידיד מבטן וחק בשארו שם וצאצאיו חתם באות קדש. על פן בשכר זאת, אל חי חלקנו צורנו, צוה להציל ידדות שארנו משחת, למען בריתו אשר שם בבשרנו. ברוך אתה ה' כורת הברית.

אלקנו ואלקי אבותינו, קים את הילד הזה לאביו ולאמו, ויקרא שמו בישראל _____ בן _____ . ישמח האב (בגן עדן) ביוצא חלציו ותגל אמו (בגן עדן) בפרי בטנה, כפתיב: ישמח אביה ואמה ותגל יולדתה. ונאמר: ובעבר עליך ואראך מתבוססת בדמיה, ואמר לך בדמיה חי, ואמר לך בדמיה חי. ונאמר: זכר לעולם בריתו, דבר צוה לאלף דור. אשר כרת את-אברהם ושבועתו ליצחק. ויעמידה ליעקב לחק, לישראל ברית עולם. ונאמר: וימל אברהם את-יצחק בנו בן-שמונת ימים כאשר צוה אתו אלקים. הודו לה' כפיטוב, כי לעולם חסדו. זה הקטן _____ גדול יהיה. כשם שנכנס לברית, בן יכנס לתורה ולחפה ולמעשים טובים, אמן.

Our God and God of our Ancestors, sustain this child, and let him be known in the House of Israel as _____ (corresponding to the English name _____). As he has been brought into the covenant of our people, so may the son of _____ and _____ fulfill the ideals of Torah and be a source of pride to his parents and family, to the Jewish people and to everyone he meets on his path through life. May _____ be a strong link in the chain of Jewish tradition fulfilling the dreams of our ancestors and sowing hope for the generations yet to be. Grant him a long life filled with health and happiness. Amen.

Parents: Explain origin of name

Grandparents' Prayer

Our God and God of All Generations, we are grateful for the new beginnings, for the bond of new life that links one generation to another. Thankful for the blessings of family, for the love and care that bring meaning and happiness to our lives, we rejoice with our daughter and son in the birth of _____, our grandson. May they grow together as a family in health and in strength, in harmony, wisdom and love, their home filled with Torah and acts of kindness. And may we be able to share in the joy of seeing this child grow into adulthood. May he be a blessing to his family, his people and all humanity. *Amen.*

A Life of Blessing (responsively)

Every person born into this world represents something unique. It is the duty of every individual to know and consider his or her uniqueness in character and respect the individuality of all children.

As members of this community, bound to that covenant which this child now enters, we accept our responsibility to provide the sources of instruction and assistance to enable him, and all of our children, to grow in knowledge, sensitivity and justice.

Grant that this tender child grows into adulthood with the blessings of nobility, strength and gentleness. May he be faithful like Abraham, trusting like Isaac, and strong like Jacob. Instill in him the joy of learning and teach him to have compassion for all life.

May this child be strong enough to know when he is weak, and brave enough to face himself when he is afraid. Send him not only in the path of ease and comfort, but also in the spur of difficulty and challenge.

Blessing the Child (parents/rabbi)

יְשִׁמְךָ אֱלֹהִים כְּאַפְרַיִם וְכַמְנַשֶּׁה.

Y'simkha Elohim k'Ephrayim v'khi M'nasheh
May God make you like Ephrayim and Menashe

יְבָרְכֶךָ ה' וַיִּשְׁמְרֶךָ.

Y'varekh'kha Adonai v'yish m'rekha
Adonai, grant our son a life of security and trust.

יָאֵר ה' פָּנָיו אֵלֶיךָ וַיְחַנְּנֶךָ.

Ya'eir Adonai panav eilekha vihuneka.
May his life shine with dignity and freedom.

יֵשָׂא ה' פָּנָיו אֵלֶיךָ וַיִּשֶׂם לְךָ שְׁלוֹם.

Yisa Adonai panav eilekha v'yaseim l'kha shalom.
May our son know Your gift of harmony and peace.

Sheheheyanu

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה ה' אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם שֶׁהַחַיִּינוּ וְקִיַּמְנוּ וְהִגִּיעָנוּ לַיּוֹם הַזֶּה.

*Barukh atah Adonai, Eloheinu melekh ha'olam,
sheheheyanu, v'kiy'manu v'higi'anu laz'man hazeh.*
Praised are You, *Adonai* our God, Ruler of the universe,
Who has sustained us and enabled us to reach this day.

Mazel Tov!

סִימָן טוֹב וּמָזַל טוֹב, מָזַל טוֹב סִימָן טוֹב, יְהִי לָנוּ וּלְכָל-יִשְׂרָאֵל

Siman tov u'mazel tov, mazel tov v'siman tov, yehei lanu ul'khol Yisrael.
Congratulations to you, us, and all Israel!

Hamotzi

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה ה' אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, הַמוֹצִיא לֶחֶם מִן הָאָרֶץ.

Barukh atah Adonai, Eloheinu melekh ha'olam, hamotzi lehem min ha'aretz.
Praised are You, *Adonai* our God, Ruler of the universe,
Who brings forth bread from the earth.