



“So You’ve Been Honored with an *Aliyah* to the Torah!”

Here’s how we do it in our congregation:

1. The Rabbi will announce the *aliyah* to the congregation and invite you by name to come up to the Torah table on the *bima* (where the Bar or Bat Mitzvah is standing).
2. Come up and stand at the right of the Bar or Bat Mitzvah, opposite the Rabbi. On the table will be a laminated copy of the Torah blessings, similar to the one on page 2 of this guide.
3. We encourage both men and women to wear a *tallit* (prayer shawl). If you do not have your own, they are available in the lobby. Please note that this is a custom, not a requirement.
4. The Torah reader will point to the first word of the section about to be read. You may take the end of your tallit, or a prayerbook, and touch that word, then kiss the tallit or prayerbook. (This is done because you are reciting the blessings for reading the Torah, but someone else is actually doing the reading. You touch the first and later the last word, to symbolize that the reader is doing it on your behalf)
5. Read or chant the first blessing in Hebrew, using either the Hebrew text or the transliteration. If you would prefer, you may recite the blessing in English, using the English translation.
6. After you read or chant the first sentence, the congregation will respond with the second sentence.
7. You repeat the second sentence, and then continue the blessing. If you simply follow the blessing card, reciting all the Hebrew that is there, you will be fine.
8. Stay to the right of the Torah reader while s/he then reads or chants the selection from the Torah.
9. At the conclusion of the reading, touch the last word of the Torah text using a tallit or a prayerbook, and then kiss that object.
10. Read or chant the concluding blessing.
11. Congratulate the *bar/bat mitzvah*, and then move forward, closer to the congregation, but staying next to the table to watch the next *aliyah* ritual.
12. At the conclusion of the next *aliyah*, you may return to your seat. Thank you for performing this Mitzvah!

To help you learn the blessings, please visit our website at www.tba-nj.org. Choose the **Learn** tab, and then **B-Mitzvah Resource**. There you will find audio recordings and links to the prayers.

TORAH BLESSINGS

Blessing Before Torah Reading

Ascend bimah, stand to the right of Torah reader; touch Torah text with Tallit or Siddur, kiss that object and then recite in Hebrew or English:

Bar'chu et Adonai ham'vo-rach!

בְּרַכּוּ אֶת יְיָ הַמְּבֹרָךְ!

(Congregation responds, then you continue)

Baruch Adonai ham'vo-rach l'o-lam va-ed! בְּרוּךְ יְיָ הַמְּבֹרָךְ לְעוֹלָם וָעֶד!

Baruch Atah Adonai, Eloheinu Melech בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ

ha-o-lam, a-sher ba-char banu mi-kol הָעוֹלָם אֲשֶׁר בָּחַר בָּנוּ מִכָּל

ha'a-mim, v'na-tan lanu et Torah-to. הָעַמִּים וְנָתַן לָנוּ אֶת תּוֹרַתוֹ

Baruch Atah Adonai, no-tein ha-Torah. בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ, נוֹתֵן הַתּוֹרָה.

Praise the One to whom our praise is due!

Praised be the One to whom our praise is due, now and for ever!

We praise You, Eternal God, Sovereign of the universe: You have called us to Your service by giving us the Torah. We praise You, O God, Giver of the Torah.

Blessing After Torah Reading

Upon completion of reading, touch Torah text with Tallit, or Siddur, kiss that object and then recite in Hebrew or English:

Baruch Atah Adonai, Eloheinu Melech

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ

ha-o-lam, a-sher na-tan la-nu Torat

הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר נָתַן לָנוּ תּוֹרַת

emet, v'chayei olam nata b'tocheinu/

אֱמֶת, וְחַיֵּי עוֹלָם נָטַע בְּתוֹכֵנוּ.

Baruch Atah Adonai, no-tein ha-Torah.

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ, נוֹתֵן הַתּוֹרָה.

We praise You, Eternal God, Sovereign of the universe, You have given us a Torah of truth, implanting within us eternal life. We praise You, O God, Giver of the Torah.

Move forward, staying next to the table, to watch the next Aliyah.