

ברית מילה

The Covenant of Circumcision



בְּרוּךְ הַבָּא

Welcome

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

Welcoming the Baby (*all present*)

בָּרוּךְ הַבָּא בְּשֵׁם ה'

Barukh Habah B'shem Adonay

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of Adonai

Rabbi/Hazzan

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.

Parents

Our God and God of our Ancestors, we are grateful for the joy and blessing which our new son brings to us. As parents we accept the awesome responsibility of raising our son 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 him 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.

כִּסֵּא שֶׁל אֵלִיָּהוּ

The Chair of Elijah

Rabbi/Hazzan/Mohel

Elijah is an honored *ō*guest,*ö* present at every circumcision. We invoke his memory because Elijah has a reputation for being zealous for God's covenant. He is also known as the one who establishes peace between parents and their children.

זֶה הַכֶּסֶּא שֶׁל אֱלֹהֵינוּ הַנְּבִיא זְכוּר לְטוֹב.
 לִישׁוּעָתֶךָ קִוִּיתִי יי.
 שְׁבַרְתִּי לִישׁוּעָתֶךָ יי, וּמִצֹּתֶיךָ עָשִׂיתִי.
 אֱלֹהֵינוּ מִלְּאֵךְ הַבְּרִית, הִנֵּה שְׁלָךְ לְפָנֶיךָ,
 עֹמֵד עַל יְמִינִי וְסִמְכָנִי.
 שְׁבַרְתִּי לִישׁוּעָתֶךָ יי. שֶׁשׁ אָנֹכִי עַל אִמְרָתֶךָ, כְּמוֹצֵא שָׁלַל רַב.
 שְׁלוֹם רַב לְאַהֲבֵי תוֹרָתֶךָ, וְאִין לָמוּ מְכַשׁוֹל.
 אֲשֶׁרִי תִבְחַר וּתִקְרַב יִשְׁכֹּן חֲצֵרֶיךָ, נִשְׁבְּעָה בְּטוֹב בֵּיתֶךָ
 קִדְשׁ הַיְכָלֶךָ

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 ãsonsö of the past; they are also *bonim*, the ãbuildersö of tomorrow.

Parents

הַנְּנִי מוֹכֵן וּמְזַמֵּן לְקַיֵּם מִצְוֹת עֲשֵׂה שְׂצֻנָּנוּ הַבּוֹרֵא יִתְבָּרַךְ לְמוֹל אֶת-בְּנִי,
כְּכַתוּב בַּתּוֹרָה: וּבֶן-שְׁמֹנַת יָמִים יְמוּל לָכֶם כָּל-זָכָר לְדֹרֹתֵיכֶם.

Hin'ni mukhan, u-m'zuman l'kayaim mitzvat asay shetzivanu ha-borei yitbarakh lamool 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: ãEvery male among you, throughout your generations, shall be circumcised when he is eight days oldö (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.

Mohel (*to Parents*)

Do you authorize me to perform this *Brit Milah* on your behalf, or do you wish to perform it yourself?

Parents: We authorize you to perform this *Brit Milah* on our behalf.

Before the Circumcision:

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי 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

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתָיו, וְצִוֵּנוּ לְהַכְנִיסוֹ בְּבְרִיתוֹ שֶׁל אַבְרָהָם אָבִינוּ.

Barukh ata Adonai, Eloheinu malekh ha-olam, asher kid'shanu b'mitzvotav v'tzivahnu l'hakhniso bevrito 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:

אָמֵן, כְּשֵׁם שֶׁנִּכְנַס לְבְרִית, כֵּן יִכַּנַּס לְתוֹרָה וּלְחַפָּה וּלְמַעֲשֵׂים טוֹבִים.

Amen, 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.

קְרִיאת שֵׁם

Giving a Name

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, בּוֹרֵא פְּרִי הַגֶּפֶן.

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

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשׁ יָדִיד מִבֶּטֶן, וְחָק בְּשֵׂארוֹ שֵׁם, וְצִוָּנוּ אֵיךְ חָתַם בְּאוֹת בְּרִית קִדְּשׁ. עַל כֵּן בְּשִׁכַּר זֹאת, אֵל חַי, חֲלֻקְנוּ, צוּרְנוּ, צִוְּהָ לְהַצִּיל יְדִידוֹת שְׂאֵרְנוּ מִשַּׁחַת, לְמַעַן בְּרִיתוֹ אֲשֶׁר שֵׁם בְּבִשְׂרָנוּ. בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי, כּוֹרֵת הַבְּרִית.

אֱלֹהֵינוּ וְאֱלֹהֵי אֲבוֹתֵינוּ, קַיִם אֶת הַיְלָד הַזֶּה לְאָבִיו וּלְאִמּוֹ, וַיִּקְרָא
שְׁמוֹ בְּיִשְׂרָאֵל _____ בֶּן _____. יִשְׁמַח הָאָב בְּיוֹצֵא חֲלָצִיו
וְתִגַּל אִמּוֹ בְּפָרִי בִטְנָהּ, כַּכְּתוּב: יִשְׂמַח אָבִידָּ וְאִמּוֹ, וְתִגַּל יוֹלְדֵתָּ.
וְנֹאמַר: וְאֶעֱבֹר עָלֶיךָ וְאֶרְאֶה מִתְבוֹסְסֶת בְּדַמְיֶךָ, וְאֹמַר לְךָ בְּדַמְיֶךָ חַיִּי,
וְאֹמַר לְךָ בְּדַמְיֶךָ חַיִּי. וְנֹאמַר: זָכַר לְעוֹלָם בְּרִיתוֹ, דְּבָר צְוִה לְאַלְפֵי דוֹר.
אֲשֶׁר כָּרַת אֶת אַבְרָהָם, וּשְׂבוּעָתוֹ לְיִשְׁחָק. וַיַּעֲמִידָהּ לְיַעֲקֹב לְחֹק,
לְיִשְׂרָאֵל בְּרִית עוֹלָם. וְנֹאמַר: וַיִּמַּל אַבְרָהָם אֶת יִצְחָק בְּנוֹ בֶּן שְׁמוֹנֶת
יָמִים, כַּאֲשֶׁר צְוִה אֱתוֹ אֱלֹהִים. הוֹדוּ לִי כִי טוֹב, כִּי לְעוֹלָם חֲסִדוֹ.
הוֹדוּ לִי כִי טוֹב, כִּי לְעוֹלָם חֲסִדוֹ. זֶה הַקָּטָן _____ גָּדוֹל יִהְיֶה,
כְּשֵׁם שְׁנַכְנַס לְבְרִית, כֵּן יַכְנִס לְתוֹרָה וּלְחֻפָּה וּלְמַעֲשֵׂים טוֹבִים.

Our God and God of our Ancestors, sustain this child, and let him be known in the House of Israel as _____, and in all secular affairs as _____. 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 the origin of the name.

Prayer of Healing for baby (Rabbi/Hazzan/Mohel)

מִי שֶׁבֵרַךְ אֲבוֹתֵינוּ, אֲבָרָהִם, יִצְחָק וְיַעֲקֹב, שָׂרָה, רִבְקָה, רָחֵל וְלֵאָה, הוּא
יְבָרֵךְ אֶת הַיֶּלֶד הַרַךְ הַנִּמּוֹל וְיַרְפֵּא אוֹתוֹ רְפוּאָה שְׁלֵמָה וְיִזְכּוּ הוֹרָיו
(קְרוּבָיו) לְגִדּוֹלוֹ לְתוֹרָה וּלְחֻפָּה 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.

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 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 into adulthood. May he be a blessing to his family, his people and all humanity. Amen.

Blessing the Child (Parents/Family/Rabbi/Hazzan)

יְשִׁמְךָ אֱלֹהִים כְּאֶפְרַיִם וְכַמְנַשֶּׁה.

Y'simkha Elohim k'Ephriam v'khi M'nasheh

May God make you like Ephrayim and Menashe

יְבָרְכֶךָ ה' וְיִשְׁמְרֶךָ.

Y'varekh'kha Adonai v'yish m'rekha

May the Lord bless you and protect you.

יָאֵר ה' פָּנָיו אֵלֶיךָ וִיחַנֶּךָ.

Ya'eir Adonai panav eilekha vihuneka.

May the Lord show you kindness and be gracious to you.

יִשָּׂא ה' פָּנָיו אֵלֶיךָ וַיַּשִּׂים לְךָ שָׁלוֹם.

Yisa Adonai panav eilekha v'yaseim l'kha shalom.

May the Lord bestow favor upon you and grant you peace.

Shehechyanu

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, שֶׁחַיֵּינוּ וְקִיְמָנוּ וְהִגִּיעָנוּ לַיּוֹם הַזֶּה.

*Barukh atah Adonai, Eloheinu melekh ha'olam,
Shehechyanu, v'kiymanu 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!

סִמָּן טוֹב וּמַזַּל טוֹב, מַזַּל טוֹב וְסִמָּן 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!



Anshe Emet Synagogue • 3751 N. Broadway • Chicago, IL 60613
www.AnsheEmet.org