

Name: _____

בְּרִכּוֹת הַהַפְטָרָה

BLESSING BEFORE THE HAFTARAH READING

Practice reading the blessing aloud.

1. בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם אֲשֶׁר בָּחַר בְּנְבִיאִים טוֹבִים
2. וְרָצָה בְּדְבָרֵיהֶם הַנְּאֻמִּים בְּאֵמֶת. בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְהוָה הַבוֹחֵר בַּתּוֹרָה
3. וּבְמֹשֶׁה עַבְדּוֹ וּבְנְבִיאֵי הָאֵמֶת וְצֶדֶק.

Blessed are you, ETERNAL ONE, our God, the sovereign of all worlds, who has called upon the righteous prophets and desired their words, spoken in truth. Blessed are you, WISE ONE, who takes pleasure in the Torah, and in Moses, servant of God, and in the prophets of truth and justice.



Name: _____

**Prayer
Dictionary**

בָּחַר

chose

נְבִיאִים (בְּ)

prophets

טוֹבִים

good (faithful)

הִנָּאמְרִים

spoken

בְּאֵמֶת

in truth

הַבּוֹחֵר

gives

עֶבְדוֹ

God's servant

וְצֶדֶק

and righteousness

(justice)

Make Me A Match

Connect each Hebrew word to its English meaning.

spoken

and righteousness (justice)

prophets

good (faithful)

God's servant

טוֹבִים

הִנָּאמְרִים

עֶבְדוֹ

נְבִיאִים

וְצֶדֶק

The blessing before the haftarah does not mention God's "choosing" Israel. However, the blessing does tell us that God "chooses" Moses as God's servant and the prophets as God's messengers. What do you think the differences are between the two types of "choosing"?



Name: _____

BLESSINGS AFTER THE HAFTARAH READING

Practice reading the first blessing after the haftarah.

1. בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם צוּר כָּל הָעוֹלָמִים צְדִיק בְּכָל הַדּוֹרוֹת הָאֵל הַנֶּאֱמָן הָאוֹמֵר וְעוֹשֶׂה הַמְדַבֵּר וּמְקַיֵּם שְׂכָל דְּבָרָיו
2. אֱמֶת וְצֶדֶק.
3. נֶאֱמָן אַתָּה הוּא יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ וְנֶאֱמָנִים דְּבָרֶיךָ וְדַבַּר אֶחָד מִדְּבָרֶיךָ
4. אַחֲזֹר לֹא יָשׁוּב רִיקָם, כִּי אֵל מֶלֶךְ נֶאֱמָן וְרַחֲמָן אַתָּה. בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה
5. יְהוָה הָאֵל הַנֶּאֱמָן בְּכָל דְּבָרָיו.
- 6.

Blessed are you, ETERNAL ONE, our God, the sovereign of all worlds, the rock of all the worlds, the righteous one throughout all generations, the faithful God, whose word is deed, who speaks and fulfills, whose words are truth and justice.

Faithful are you, ETERNAL ONE, our God, and faithful are your words; not a single word of yours is unfulfilled for you are a sovereign God, faithful and merciful. Blessed are you ETERNAL ONE, the God faithful in all your words.



Name: _____

Practice reading the second, third, and fourth blessings after the haftarah.

1. רַחֵם עַל צִיּוֹן כִּי הִיא בֵּית חַיִּינוּ וְלַעֲמֻךָ יִשְׂרָאֵל תּוֹשִׁיעַ בְּמַהֲרָה
2. בְּיָמֵינוּ: בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְהוָה, מְשַׁמֵּחַ צִיּוֹן בְּבִנְיָהּ.
3. שְׂמַחְנוּ יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ בְּאַלְיָהּוּ הַנְּבִיאַ עֲבָדֶיךָ בְּמַהֲרָה יָבוֹא וַיְגַל לְבָנֵנוּ,
4. וְהָשִׁיב לָב אָבוֹת עַל בָּנִים וְלֵב בָּנִים עַל אָבוֹתָם וּבֵיתְךָ בֵּית תְּפִלָּה
5. יִקְרָא לְכָל הָעַמִּים: בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְהוָה מְבִיא שְׁלוֹם לָעַד.
6. עַל הַתּוֹרָה וְעַל הָעֲבוּדָה וְעַל הַנְּבִיאִים וְעַל יוֹם הַשַּׁבָּת הַזֶּה שְׁנַתְּךָ
7. לָנוּ יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ לְקַדְּשָׁה וְלִמְנוּחָה, לְכָבוֹד וּלְתַפְאֶרֶת. עַל הַכֹּל
8. יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ אֲנַחְנוּ מוֹדִים לָךְ וּמְבָרְכִים אוֹתְךָ. יִתְבָּרַךְ שְׁמֶךָ בְּפִי
9. כָּל חַי תָּמִיד לְעוֹלָם וָעֶד. בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְהוָה מְקַדֵּשׁ הַשַּׁבָּת.



Name: _____

Blessings Galore!

You learned that the blessing before the haftarah praises God for choosing prophets who are faithful, who speak the truth, and who act justly.

The four blessings after the haftarah have very different themes. Read the theme for each blessing, then answer the question.

Blessing 1

praises God, whose words are true and who fulfills all promises.

Blessing 2

asks God to have mercy on and to protect Zion, and prays for our return there. In ancient times, Zion was another name for Jerusalem.

Blessing 3

expresses the hope that Elijah the prophet will come soon and usher in the messianic age.

Blessing 4

thanks God for: (1) the Torah, (2) the worship service, (3) the prophets, and (4) Shabbat, our holy day of rest.

How is the fourth blessing after the haftarah the high point of all the other blessings, including the blessing before the haftarah?



Name: _____

What are the differences between the traditional version of בְּרִכּוֹת הַהַפְּטָרָה and the Reconstructionist version? Why do you think Reconstructionists eliminate references to the restoration of King David's dynasty and to a personal Messiah?

In Malachi 3:24, it is written: "May God turn the hearts of the parents to their children and the hearts of the children to their parents." What does this mean for you? For your parents?

We use the line from Malachi to describe the messianic era. How is focusing on the messianic era different from focusing on the Messiah as a person? What are the advantages and disadvantages of changing this prayer?

Which version of the haftarah blessings does your congregation use—the Reconstructionist or the traditional one?
