

10 Steps to the Perfect Aliyah

1. Come to the bimah when the Gabbai calls your name
2. Stand on right-hand side of Torah
3. Allow reader to show you the place and kiss it with the tzitzit on your tallit
4. Take hold of the atzei hayim and say the first group of blessings.
5. Look on with reader as the Torah is read.
6. At end of reading, kiss place reader shows you with the tzitzit on your tallit
7. Take hold of atzei hayim and recite blessing for after the reading
8. Shake everyone's hand. Respond "Barukh tihyeh (to a man) or b'rukhhah tihyi (to a woman)" when someone says, "Yasher koah"
9. Move to the left side of the reader after you complete your aliyah
10. After the next aliyah, return to your seat

10 Steps to the Perfect Hagbah

1. Come to the bimah after the maftir portion
2. Note the chair where you will be sitting down with the Torah after you lift the Torah
3. Roll the scroll to a point where a seam is mid-way between the two atzei hayim (the wooden posts)
4. **IMPORTANT!!** Open the scroll and then close the scroll so the parchment stays loose.
5. Pull the Torah down so that the edge of the table is half-way between the bottom and top of the Torah.
6. Push down on the bottom handles, so that the Torah begins to be vertical (use the edge of the table as leverage).
7. Bend your knees and push the Torah up and straighten your legs (you are now standing up and so is the Torah)
8. Turn around so that the congregation can see the words on the parchment
9. Walk to the chair and lower yourself carefully, with the Torah still vertical
10. Hold the scroll while it is closed, tied and dressed

Torah Service Made Easy

BLESSINGS FOR HAVING AND ALIYAH:

LEADER

 בְּרַכּוּ אֶת ה' הַמְבָרֵךְ:

Praise the Lord, to whom our praise is due!

CONGREGATION THEN LEADER REPEATS

בְּרוּךְ ה' הַמְבָרֵךְ לְעוֹלָם וָעֶד:

Praise be the Lord, to whom our praise is due now and for ever!

LEADER CONTINUES

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה ה' אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם

אֲשֶׁר בָּחַר בָּנוּ מִכָּל הָעַמִּים וְנָתַן

לָנוּ אֶת תּוֹרָתוֹ:

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה ה' נוֹתֵן הַתּוֹרָה:

Blessed is the Lord our God, Ruler of the universe, who has chosen us from all peoples by giving us the Torah. Blessed is the Lord, Giver of the Torah.



AFTER THE TORAH READING THE LEADER CONTINUES

 בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה ה' אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם

אֲשֶׁר נָתַן לָנוּ תּוֹרַת אֱמֶת וְחַיִּי

עוֹלָם נָטַע בְּתוֹכָנוּ:

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה ה' נוֹתֵן הַתּוֹרָה:

Blessed is the Lord our God, Ruler of the universe, who has given us a Torah of truth, implanting within us eternal life. Blessed is the Lord, Giver of the Torah.

Torah Service Glossary

ARON KODESH-the "ark" containing the Torahs

ATZEI HAYIM-the "trees of life," or wooden polls of the Torah to which the parchment is attached, and which serve as handles.

GABBAI-Assistants during the Torah service. The "chief gabbai," or Gabbi Rishon, calls up each honoree to the reading.

G'LILAH/GOLELET-the person who "rolls" and ties the scroll

HAGBAH-- the person who "raises" the scroll

HAGORAH-the "belt" that holds the two sides of the scroll together

MAFTIR-An "extra" aliyah on Shabbat or holidays usually given to the person who reads the Haftarah.

ME'IL-the "cloak" or cover for the Torah

OLEH/OLAH-the person who "goes up" to the bimah during the Torah reading to receive an "aliyah."

P'TIHAN-The person who "opens" and closes the ark as the Torah is taken out.

YAD-the pointer used by the reader, often shaped like a "hand."

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TORAH SERVICE SURVIVAL PACK

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