



# Haftarah Blessings -

## Maftir Blessings for reading the Prophets

אך דְבַרֵי וְחֻקֵי אֲשֶׁר צִוִּיתִי אֶת־עַבְדֵי הַנְּבִיאִים הַלּוֹא הִשִּׁיגוּ אֲבֹתֵיכֶם:

*But my words and my statutes, which I commanded my servants the prophets, did they not overtake your fathers? - Zech 1:6a*

*Haftarah* is the custom of reading from the *Nevi'im* (prophets) immediately following the Torah service performed on Shabbat or festivals. The person who receives the honor of reading the Haftarah is referred to either as the *Ba'al Haftarah* or the *Maftir*, the “one who concludes” the reading of the Torah.

Haftarah comes from the root *fatar*, meaning to dismiss or conclude. Haftarah is likened to the dessert of a meal, since the reading of the Prophets completes the Torah reading of the service.

Generally the Haftarah is on a subject related to the Torah portion (except on Holidays, when the reading usually relates to the festival). In some synagogues, the Maftir will first read the last (of the seven) aliyot of the Torah and then recite the blessing before the Haftarah.

Note: The person who reads the Haftarah also reads the Maftir *aliyah*. The reason that the Ba'al Haftarah receives the additional maftir aliyah rather than one of the seven mandated aliyot is to avoid giving the impression that the Haftarah (which comes from the prophetic section of the Hebrew Bible) is of equal sanctity as the Torah portion. By reading both a short repeat of the Torah reading and a section of Prophets (thus equating the Haftarah with a less important Torah portion), the Haftarah demonstrates that the Haftarah is less sacred than the main Torah reading. On festivals and certain special Shabbatot, the maftir is a different reading from another part of the Torah



Being called up for the haftarah blessing is considered a great honor in most synagogues





### Blessing Before the Haftarah

The following is recited (chanted) *before* reading the Haftarah portion:

בָּחַר	אֲשֶׁר	הָעוֹלָם,	מֶלֶךְ	אֱלֹהֵינוּ	יְי	אַתָּה	בָּרוּךְ
ba-char	a-sheer	ha-'o-lam	me-lekh	e-lo-hei-nu	Adonai	at-tah	ba-rukh
Has chosen	who	King of the universe		our God	LORD	You	Blessed

בְּנְבִיאִים	טוֹבִים,	וְרָצָה	בְּדִבְרֵיהֶם	הַנְּאֻמִּים	בְּאֵמֶת.
be'e-met	hane'e-marim	v'div-rei-hem	ve-ratsah	to-vim	bin-vi'im
in truth	that were uttered	with their words	and was pleased		good prophets

בָּרוּךְ	אַתָּה	יְי	הַבּוֹחֵר	בַּתּוֹרָה	וּבְמֹשֶׁה	עַבְדּוֹ,
'av-do	uv'mo-she	bat-to-rah	hab-bo-cher	Adonai	at-tah	ba-rukh
His servant	and Moses	the Torah	who chooses	LORD	You	Blessed

וּבְיִשְׂרָאֵל	עַמּוֹ,	וּבְנְבִיאֵי	הָאֵמֶת	וְצִדְקָ.
va-tse-dek	ha'e-met	u-vin-vi-ei	'am-mo	uv'yis-ra-el
and righteousness	of the truth	and the prophets	His people	and Israel

*Blessed are You, Adonai our God, Ruler of the Universe, who has chosen good prophets and was pleased with their words that were uttered with truth. Blessed are You, Adonai, who chooses the Torah and Moses, God's servant, and Israel, God's people, and the prophets of truth and righteousness.*

*Barukh attah Adonai eloheinu melekh ha'olam asher bachar binvi'im tovim ve-ratzah ve-divreihem hane'emarim be'emet. Barukh attah Adonai ha-bocher ba-torah uv'Moshe avdo uv-Yisra'el amo, uvinvi'ey ha-emet va-tzedek.*



### Blessing After the Haftarah

The following is recited (chanted) *after* reading the Haftarah portion:

ברוך אתה יי אלהינו מלך העולם, צור כל  
 kol tzur ha-'o-lam me-lekh e-lo-hei-nu Adonai at-tah ba-rukh  
 of all Rock King of the universe our God LORD You Blessed

העולמים, צדיק בכל הדורות, האל הנאמן האומר  
 ha'o-meir han-ne-e-man ha-el ha-doh-rot, b'khol tsad-dik ha-'ola-mim,  
 who says the faithful God generations in all Righteous the worlds

ועשה, המדבר ומקים, שכל דבריו אמת וצדק.  
 v'tse-dek 'e-met de-va-rav she-kol u-me-kai-yem, ham-da-ber ve-'oh-seh,  
 are true and righteous of his words who all and fulfills who speaks and does

נאמן אתה יי אלהינו, ונאמנים דבריך,  
 d'va-rey-kha, ve-ne-e-ma-nim e-lo-hei-nu Adonai at-tah ne'e-man  
 are your words and trustworthy our God LORD are you trustworthy

ודבר אחד מדבריך אתור לא ישוב ריקם,  
 rey-kam, ya-shuv lo 'a-chor mide-va-rey-kha, 'e-chad ve-da-var  
 unfulfilled turns not back and one word of yours

כי אל מלך נאמן ורחמן אתה.  
 attah v'rachaman ne'eman me-lekh 'el ki  
 are You and compassionate trustworthy King a God for

ברוך אתה יי האל הנאמן בכל דבריו.  
 d'va-rav b'khol ha-ne'e-man ha-el Adonai at-tah ba-rukh  
 in all His words who is trustworthy the God LORD You Blessed



*Blessed are You, Adonai our God, Ruler of the Universe, rock of all eternities, righteous in all generations, the faithful God, who says and does, who speaks and fulfills, all of whose words are true. Faithful are you, LORD our God, and faithful are your words. Not one of your words turns back unfulfilled, for You, O God, are a faithful and compassionate King. Blessed are You, LORD, the God who is faithful in all His words.*

*Barukh attah Adonai eloheinu melekh ha'olam, tzur kol  
ha-olamim, tzaddik be-khol ha-dorot, ha-El hane'eman ha'omeir  
v'oseh, hamdabeir u'makiyem, shekol devarav emet ve-tzedek.  
Ne'eman attah Adonai eloheinu, ve-ne'emanim devarekha,  
ve-davar echad midevareykha achor lo yashuv reikam,  
ki El melekh ne'eman ve-rachaman attah.  
Barukh attah Adonai, ha-El hane'eman be-khol devarav.*

