

Everything You Ever Wanted to Know About the Torah Reading (But Were Afraid To Ask)

A Video Series Presented by Rabbi Menachem Posner

Part 1 – Aliyah (Being Called to the Torah)

Class outline

- Procedure for the Torah Reading
- Getting an Aliyah

Text #1:

Exodus 15:22

וַיֹּסֶע מֹשֶׁה אֶת	Moses led
יִשְׂרָאֵל מִיַּם סוּף	Israel away from the Red Sea,
וַיֵּצְאוּ אֶל מִדְבַּר שׁוּר	and they went out into the desert of Shur
וַיֵּלְכוּ שְׁלֹשֶׁת יָמִים	and they walked for three days
בַּמִּדְבָּר	in the desert
וְלֹא מָצְאוּ מַיִם	but did not find water.

When do we read the Torah?

- A) Minimum, every three days
- B) Monday, Thursday and Shabbat

What do we read?

Shabbat:

Weekly portion in its entirety
(one portion each week of the year)

Weekday:

Only the beginning of the portion that is to be read on the coming Shabbat.

Holidays:

- 1) Something relevant to that holiday
- 2) Portion that describes the sacrifices to be brought on that day.

How many readers?

Monday & Thursday:	3 Readers
Rosh Chodesh:	4 Readers
Yom Tov:	5 Readers
Yom Kippur:	6 Readers
Shabbat:	7 Readers

Who are the readers?

Reader 1: Cohen
Reader 2: Levi
Reader 3: Israel

Reader 4: "
Reader 5: "
Reader 6: "
Reader 7: "

Maftir: Cohen, Levi or Israel

Text #2:

Deuteronomy 5:28

וְאַתָּה פֹּה עִמָּד עִמָּדִי And you stand here with me...

Text #3:

Talmud, Megillah 22b

נקוט האי כללא בידך	Keep this rule handy:
כל דטפי ליה מילתא מחבריה	whichever day has greater sanctity than others
טפי ליה גברא יתירא	has additional men.
הלכך	Therefore,
בראש חודש	on Rosh Chodesh
ומועד	and Chol Hamoed
דאיכא קרבן מוסף	which have the mussaf offering
קורין ארבעה	four men read.
ביום טוב	On holidays,
דאסור בעשיית מלאכה	when work is forbidden,
חמשה	five men read.
ביום הכפורים...ששה	Yom Kippur ...six men read
...שבת...	On shabbat...
שבעה	there are seven.

3 Parts of the Tanach

(Canon of the Hebrew Bible)

- Torah - Five Books of Moses
- Nevi'im ("Prophets")
- Ketuvim ("Writings")

Text #4:

Talmud, Megillah 23a

אמר עולא

מפני מה המפטיר בנביא

צריך שיקרא בתורה תחלה

מפני כבוד תורה

Said Ullah:

Why does the one called to read from the Prophets also need to read from the Torah?

For the dignity of the Torah.

Recap

- Historical significance
- How many Aliyahs: 3 – 7
- What we read
 - * Weekly Torah portion
 - * Haftorah (prophets) on Shabbat/Holidays
- Being called up for an Aliyah
- Procedure for Maftir

Blessings

בְּרַחוּ אֶת יְיָ הַמְּבָרָךְ:

Transliteration:

Bor'chu es ado-noy ha-m'voroch.

Translation:

Bless the L-rd who is blessed.

בְּרוּךְ יְיָ הַמְּבָרָךְ לְעוֹלָם וָעֶד:

Transliteration:

Boruch ado-noy ha-m'voroch l'olom vo-ed.

Translation:

Blessed be the L-rd who is blessed for all eternity.

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר בָּחַר בְּנוֹ
 מִכָּל הָעַמִּים, וְנָתַן לָנוּ אֶת תּוֹרָתוֹ. בְּרוּךְ
 אַתָּה יְיָ נוֹתֵן הַתּוֹרָה:

Transliteration:

Boruch atoh ado-noy elo-haynu melech ho-olom, asher bochar bonu mikol ho-amim, v'nosan lonu es toroso. Boruch atoh ado-noy, nosayn ha-toroh.

Translation:

Blessed are You, L-rd our G-d, King of the universe, who has chosen us from among all the nations and given us His Torah. Blessed are You L-rd, who gives the Torah.

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר נָתַן לָנוּ
 תּוֹרַת אֱמֶת, וְחַיֵּי עוֹלָם נִטְעַ בְּתוֹכֵנוּ. בְּרוּךְ
 אַתָּה יְיָ נוֹתֵן הַתּוֹרָה:

Transliteration:

Boruch atoh ado-noy elo-haynu melech ho-olom, asher nosan lonu toras emes, v'cha-yay olom nota b'sochaynu. Boruch atoh ado-noy, nosayn ha-toroh.

Translation:

Blessed are You, L-rd our G-d, King of the universe, who has given us the Torah of truth and planted eternal life within us. Blessed are You L-rd, who gives the Torah.

Additional resources: www.Chabad.org/382001