List of Jewish prayers and blessings

Jews and Judaism

Listed below are some Hebrew prayers and blessings that are part of Judaism that are recited by many Jews. There are two categories of Jewish phrases that are called blessings; one group is informal blessings one wishes another (like "Mazel tov!") and the other are formal blessings, which always begin with the formula:

מלך העולמים אָלֹהָן אֵל רָעָב

Transliteration: Barukh ata Adonai Eloheinu melekh ha'olam...

Translation: "Blessed are You, Lord, our God, King of the universe...

Both types are listed here.

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Prayers with their own articles
Amidah
The "standing [prayer]", also known as the Shemoneh Esreh ("The Eighteen") prayer, is the essential component of the Jewish services. It is said three times a day (four times on holidays, and five times on Yom Kipur).

Shema Yisrael
A centerpiece of Jewish prayer services which affirms belief and trust in the One God, the Shema is composed of three sections taken from the Torah.

Kaddish
An Aramaic prayer which focuses on the idea of magnification and sanctification of God's name. It is usually associated as a prayer said for the dead, but several versions exist. (the Mourner's Kaddish itself does not actually mention death.)

Aleinu
The Aleinu praises God for allowing the Jewish people to serve him, and expresses their hope that the whole world will recognize God and abandon idolatry.

Birkat Cohanim
The "Priestly Blessing," recited by the Kohanim on Jewish holidays (every day in Israel).

Ein Keloheinu
A lyrical prayer recited at the end of services on Shabbat and holidays,
praising God's uniqueness.

**Hallel**

**Kol Nidre**

A prayer recited in the synagogue at the beginning of the evening service on **Yom Kippur**, the Day of Atonement. It is a declaration of absolution from vows taken, to free the congregants from guilt due to unfulfilled vows during the previous (and coming) year.

**Shehecheyanu**

The blessing for special (once a year) occasions, recited on holidays and other special occasions.

**Birkat HaMazon**

The blessing after meals, thanking God for the food and His support in general.

**Tefilat HaDerech**

The traveler's prayer for a safe journey.

**Birkat HaBayit**

A blessing for the home often found inside on wall plaques or hamsas.

**Ma Tovu**

A prayer of reverence for the synagogue, recited in the morning upon entering.

**Holidays**

**Shabbat**

The Jewish Sabbath is known as Shabbat in Hebrew.

**Candle lighting blessings before Shabbat**

*Main article: Shabbat*

Note: The Shabbat candles should be lit not later than eighteen minutes before sunset on Friday at dusk. In Judaism, a "day" begins with the previous night's onset. Thus Shabbat starts Friday evening and ends Saturday night.

Transliteration: *Barukh ata Adonai Eloheinu melekh ha'olam, asher kid'shanu b'mitzvotav v'tzivanu l'hadlik ner shel shabbat.*
Translation: "Blessed are You, Lord, our God, King of the universe, who has sanctified us with His commandments and commanded us to light the Shabbat candle[s]."

**Havdalah ("Separation" ceremony)**

*Main article: Havdalah*  
*(Havdalah is recited Saturday night, usually an hour after sunset, measured as the time when three stars appear in the sky, when Shabbat is over.)*  
Havdalah is a ceremony consisting of four blessings.

First, since havdalah is recited over a cup of wine, the blessing on wine is said:

בורא פרי הגן, מלך על‑🥇א 'ה התא カルバ

Transliteration: *Barukh ata Adonai Eloheinu melekh ha‑olam, bo're p'ri hagafen.*

Translation: "Blessed are You, Lord, our God, King of the universe, who creates the fruit of the vine."

Then, spices are smelled, preceded by the blessing on smelling spices:

בורא מיני בשים,ملך העול‑🥇א 'ה התא カルバ

Transliteration: *Barukh ata Adonai Eloheinu melekh ha‑olam, bo're minei b'samim.*

Translation: "Blessed are You, Lord, our God, King of the universe, who creates varieties of spices."

The spices are then passed around and smelled by those present.

Next, a multi‑wicked candle, which has already been lit, is viewed, preceded by the blessing:

בורא מעオリ,ꞌא הש‑🥇א 'ה התא カルバ

Transliteration: *Barukh ata Adonai Eloheinu melekh ha‑olam, bo're m'orei ha‑esh.*

Translation: "Blessed are You, Lord, our God, King of the universe, who creates the lights of the fire."

The candle is held up in the air and those present look at the reflection of the light on their fingernails.

Last is a blessing of praise for God's separating the holy from the every‑day:

לארשי ויב,רש‑🥇א 'יוב,ולת שדוק 'יוב ליד‑🥇א 'ה התא カル바

Transliteration: *Barukh ata Adonai Eloheinu melekh ha‑olam, ha‑mavdi' bein kodesh l'hol, bein or l'hoshekh, bein yisra'el la‑amim, bein yom ha‑sh'vi'i l'sheshet y'met ha‑ma'a'se. Barukh ata Adonai, ha‑mavdi' bein kodesh l'hol.*

Translation: "Blessed are You, Lord, our God, King of the universe, who distinguishes between the sacred and the secular, between light and dark, between Israel and the nations, between the seventh day and the six days of labor. Blessed are You, Lord, who distinguishes between the sacred and the secular."
Hanukkah
Main article: Hanukkah
Two blessings are recited as the Hanukkah candles are lit.

Blessing for lighting the candles
Main article: Menorah

Transliteration: Barukh ata Adonai Eloheinu melekh ha'olam, asher kid'shanu b'mitzvotav vetzivanu l'hadlik ner (shel) hanuka.
Translation: "Blessed are You, Lord, our God, King of the universe, who has sanctified us with His commandments and commanded us to light the Hanukkah candle[s]."

Blessing for the miracles of Hanukkah

Transliteration: Barukh ata Adonai Eloheinu melekh ha'olam, she'asa nisim la'avoteinu bayamim haheim ba'z'man haze.
Translation: "Blessed are you, Lord, our God, King of the universe, who performed miracles for our ancestors in those days at this time."

Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur (The High Holy Days)
Main articles: Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur

Candle lighting

Transliteration: Barukh ata Adonai Eloheinu melekh ha'olam, asher kid'shanu b'mitzvotav vetzivanu l'hadlik ner shel yom tov.
Translation: "Blessed are You, Lord, our God, King of the universe, who has sanctified us with His commandments and commanded us to light the holiday candle[s]."

Over apples and honey on Rosh Hashanah

On Rosh Hashanah eve, at the start of the festive meal, it is customary to dip some cut raw apples into some honey as symbolic of asking God to grant a sweet new year.

The blessings for the apples and honey:

Transliteration: Barukh ata Adonai, Eloheinu, melekh ha'olam, bo're p'ri ha'etz.
Translation: "Blessed are You, Lord, our God, King of the universe, who creates the fruit of the tree."

A bite of apple dipped in honey is eaten, which is followed by:

Transliteration: Y'hi ratzon mil'fanekha, Adonai Eloheinu velohei avoteinu, shet'hadesh aleihu shana tova um'tuka.
Translation: "May it be Your will, Lord our God and God of our ancestors, that you renew for us a good and sweet year."
Sukkot (Feast of Tabernacles)

Main article: Sukkot

אשר קרנת הocracy תנו לישב בסוכה, מלך העולות והולכי אהנה זה רוחב.

Transliteration: Barukh ata Adonai Eloheinu melekh ha-olam, asher kid'shanu b'mitzvotav v'tzivanu leishev ba-sukah.

Translation: "Blessed are You, Lord, our God, King of the universe, who has sanctified us with His commandments and commanded us to dwell in the sukkah."

Mezuzah

Main article: Mezuzah

The following blessing is said when attaching a mezuzah to the doorpost:

אשר קרנת הocracy תנו ליקב את המזוזה, מלך העולות והולכי אהנה זה רוחב.

Transliteration: Barukh ata Adonai Eloheinu melekh ha-olam, asher kid'shanu b'mitzvotav v'tzivanu likbo'a m'zuza.

Translation: "Blessed are you, Lord, our God, King of the universe, who has sanctified us with His commandments and commanded us to affix the mezuzah."

Shehecheyanu ("Who has kept us alive")

Main article: Shehecheyanu

The blessing said whenever anything that has not happened for a while is performed. This includes all holidays except Shabbat. It is said on the first night of Hanukkah, but not for the other nights of that holiday. The blessing is also recited upon such occasions as affixing a mezuzah, buying a new dress clothes, or eating a rare fruit.

החיים והעולות והנשמות מחים, מלך העולות והולכי אהנה זה רוחב.

Transliteration: Barukh atah Adonai Eloheinu melekh ha-olam, she-hehiyanu v'kiyam v'higi'anu la-z'man ha-ze.

Translation: "Blessed are You, Lord, our God, King of the universe, who has kept us alive, sustained us, and enabled us to reach this season."

Everyday prayers and blessings

Upon waking up

Main article: Modeh ani

רזה אמונתי, מודה אני לолько מלך חי ימי שחתורת ביעטתי בשתילה.

Transliteration: Modeh ani lifanekha melekh hai v'kayam shehehezarta bi nishmahti b'hemla, raba emunatekha.

Translation: "I give thanks before You, Living and Eternal King, that You have returned within me my soul with compassion; [how] abundant is Your faithfulness!"
For putting on **tzitzit**

*Main article: Tzitzit*

**For putting on a tallit katan**

The tzitzit are first inspected to make sure they are properly intact before wearing the tallit katan. While holding the tallit katan, in readiness to put it on, the following blessing is recited.

אַשְרָךְ קָדְשָנָנוּ בְּמַצּוֹתָיו זָגוּ נָא לְמַצּוֹת צִיצָת מֵסְקֵר נִנְחַלוּ וּמֵסְקֵר אֵלֶּה הַהָתָרָר

Transliteration: Barukh atah Adonai Eloheinu melekh ha'olam, asher kid'shanu b'mitzvotav, v'tzivanu al mitzvat tzitzit.

Translation: "Blessed are You, Lord, our God, King of the universe, Who has sanctified us with His commandments, and commanded us regarding the commandment of fringes."

After donning the tallit katan, many kiss the tzitzit; some additionally say the following:

שַׁםְתָּה שַׁשְׁבָּה מָצַוְּת יַיִן קַיָּמְתָה לְהֵא אֲבֹתֵיהּ לְהֵא שֶׁאֵין אַרְיֵךְ וְיִהְיֶה אֶת מָלֵךְ בֶּאֱמִינֵךְ הַיָּדוּ הַיִּהוֹ וְעֵצֵה לְעֵצֵה הַעַל בֵּית הַסֵּלִּים

Transliteration: Y'hi ratzon mil'fanekha, Adonai Elohai velohei avotai, she-t'hei hashuva mitzvat tzitzit l'fanekha, k'ilu kiyamti ha'b'khol p'rateha v'dikdukeha v'khavanoteha, v'taryag mitzvot ha't'layim bah. Amen, Selah.

Translation: "May there be the desire before You, Lord, my God and the God of my forefathers, that the commandment of fringes should be considered before You as if I had fulfilled it in all its aspects, its details and its intentions, as well as the 613 commandments that are dependent on it. Amen, Selah."

**For putting on a tallit gadol (prayer shawl)**

*Main article: Tallit*

[edit]On inspection of the tzitzit

**Psalms 104:1–2 is traditionally read:**

וַתֵּעָצֵב שָׁמְיָם וְתַעֲנֵז לוֹ עֵצֵה, וַתֵּעָצֵב מְדִידֵה אֶלֶּה לְעֵצֵה, וַתַּעֲצֹב נְאֵרֵךְ.

Transliteration: Barkhi nafshi et Adonai. Adonai Elohai, gadalta m'od; hod v'hadar lavasha – O'te or ka'salma, no'te shamayim ka'v'y'ri'a.

Translation: "Bless, (O) my soul, the Lord. Lord my God, You are very great; glory and majesty have You worn – Who dons light as a garment, Who stretches out the heavens like a curtain."

[edit]Before putting on the tallit

אַשְרָךְ קָדְשָנָנוּ בְּמַצּוֹתָיו זָגוּ נָא לְמַצּוֹת צִיצָת מֵסְקֵר נִנְחַלוּ וּמֵסְקֵר אֵלֶּה הַהָתָרָר

Transliteration: Barukh atah Adonai Eloheinu melekh ha'olam, asher kid'shanu b'mitzvotav v'tzivanu l'hit'atef ba'atzitzit.

Translation: "Blessed are You, Lord, our God, King of the universe, Who has sanctified us with His commandments and has commanded us to wrap ourselves with fringes."
After wrapping the **tallit** around the body

*Psalms 36:8-11* is traditionally recited:

> אֶחָדָךְ יַחְדָּךְ לֵבָּךְ אַלּוּ בֵּיתֵךְ צַלְמְךָ יָשֹׁבְו וּכְלֵי הָעֵדֶּר הֵסַּרְו אֵלָה יִירְאוּ בֵּיתֵךְ לִידֵּר עֹצְרִים וּכְלֵי מֵחָסַמ וּמֵחָסַמ אֵלָה יִירְאוּ בֵּיתֵךְ לִידֵּר עֹצְרִים

Transliteration: *Ma yakar hasd'kha Elohim, uvnei adam b'tzel k'nafekha yehesayun. Yirv'yun mi'adeshen beitekha, v'nahal adanekha tashkem. Ki im'kha m'kor hayim, b'or'kha nir'e or. M'shokh hasd'kha l'yod'ekha, v'tzidkat'kha l'yish'rei lev.*

Translation: "How precious is your kindness, [O] God! People take refuge in the shadow of Your wings. They are sated from the abundance of Your house, and from the stream of Your delights You give them to drink. For with You is the source of life; by Your light shall we see light. Extend Your kindness to those who know You, and Your righteousness to the upright of heart."

**For putting on **tefillin**

*Main article: Tefillin*

**On placement of the tefillin for the hand**

> בְּרָעָה אֲדֹנָי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הַעֲולָם עֲשֵׂרָה מִצְוֹת אַלּוּ ה' הָאָתָא רֹאֹב

Transliteration: *Barukh ata Adonai Eloheinu melekh ha'olam, asher kid'shanu b'mitzvotav v'zivanu l'hani'ah t'filin.*

Translation: "Blessed are you, Lord, our God, King of the universe, Who has sanctified us with His commandments and has commanded us to put on tefillin."

**On placement of the tefillin for the head**

> בֵּרֹכָה יָמֶלֶךְ וּמַלְכוּת בֵּיתֵךְ מִשְׁעָרָת שִׁמְךָ צֶלֶם יָשֹׁבְו בַּמַּעֲשֵׂרָה קָדָשְׁנוּ אֲנֵה הָאָתָא רֹאֹב

Transliteration: *Barukh ata Adonai Eloheinu melekh ha'olam, asher kid'shanu b'mitzvotav v'zivanu al mitzvat t'filin.*

Translation: "Blessed are you, Lord, our God, King of the universe, Who has sanctified us with His commandments and has commanded us regarding the commandment of tefillin."

**After tightening the head tefillin**

> בָּרוּךְ שֵׁם קְדָשְׁנוּ בָּלָא מַלְכוּת עַל אַלְּאָת

Transliteration: *Barukh shem k'vod malkhuto l'olam va'ed.*

Translation: "Blessed is the Name of His glorious kingdom for ever and ever."

**Blessings during a meal**

*N'tilat Yadayim (Ritual washing of hands)*

The hands are ritually washed before eating bread, at which time this blessing is said:

> אַשְּרָא קָדָשְׁנֵנוּ בֵּיתֵנוּ צַלְמֵנוּ יָשֹׁבְו עַל כִּנֶיָּלָה יֵיָמָם מַלְכוּת וְגוֹנָלָה אֲנֵה הָאָתָא רֹאֹב

Transliteration: *Barukh ata Adonai Eloheinu melekh ha'olam, asher kid'shanu b'mitzvotav v'zivanu al n'tilat yadayim.*
Translation: "Blessed are you, Lord, our God, King of the universe, who has sanctified us with His commandments and commanded us concerning washing of hands."

**Before eating bread**
This blessing is made only for bread made from one or all of wheat, barley, rye, oats, spelt.

Translation: "Blessed are you, Lord, our God, King of the universe, who brings forth bread from the earth."

**After the meal**
*Main article: Birkat Hamazon*

The combined blessing of Birkat Hamazon is made only after eating a meal containing bread (including matza) made from one or all of wheat, barley, rye, oats, spelt.

**Blessings over food**
Additionally, appropriate blessings are said on food when not having a full (i.e. bread-based) meal.

There are five halakhic "food groups:"

**Before eating grain products – M'zonot**
Before eating non-bread (e.g. cake) products of wheat, barley, rye, oats, or spelt (and rice, according to many opinions):

Translation: "Blessed are You, Lord, our God, King of the universe, who creates varieties of nourishment."

**Before drinking wine – Ha-Gafen**
This blessing is made for wine made from grapes, but not any other fermented drink. Wine made from other fruits, and other alcohols, require the Shehakol blessing (see below).

Translation: "Blessed are You, Lord, our God, King of the universe, who creates the fruit of the vine."

**Before eating fruit – Ha-Etz**

Translation: "Blessed are You, Lord, our God, King of the universe, who creates the fruit of the tree."
Before eating non-fruit produce – Ha-Adama
Before eating produce that grew directly from the earth:
ברוך אתה אלוהינו מלך העולם אשר עשה אדמה.
Transliteration: Barukh ata Adonai Eloheinu Melekh ha\-olam, bo're p'ri ha\-adamah.
Translation: Blessed are you, Lord, our God, King of the universe, who creates the fruit of the ground."

Before eating other foods – She-Hakol
Before eating or drinking any foods not in the first four categories:
שהכל נקרא דבריו מלך העולמ ויהוה הוא התואר
Transliteration: Barukh ata Adonai Eloheinu Melekh ha\-olam, she\-hakol nih\-'ye bidvaro.
Translation: "Blessed are you, Lord, our God, King of the universe, through whose word everything comes into being." "

On immersion in a Mikvah
Main article: Mikvah
This blessing is made on immersion in a mikvah (ritual bath), e.g. by a woman following menstruation or when kashering utensils.
Transliteration: Barukh ata Adonai Eloheinu melekh ha\-olam, asher kid'shanu b'mitzvotav v'tzivanu al ha\-t'vila.
Translation: "Blessed are You, Lord, our God, King of the universe, who has sanctified us with His commandments and commanded us concerning immersion."

Blessing for surviving illness or danger
The Birkhat Ha\-Gomel blessing is said after surviving illness, childbirth, or danger.
Transliteration: Blessing: Barukh ata Adonai Eloheinu melekh ha\-olam, ha\-gomel lahayavim tovot sheg\-'malani kol tov.
Translation: Blessing: "Blessed are You, Lord, our God, King of the Universe, who bestows good things on the unworthy, and has bestowed on me every goodness."
Congregational Response: "Amen. He Who has bestowed on you every goodness, may He continue to bestow on you every goodness. Selah.”
Note: Most halakhic authorities hold that the Ha\-Gomel blessing must be said publicly, in front of a minyan of 10. It is customary for men to say it after being called to the Torah. Many Orthodox authorities [1] hold that women are also obligated to say the Birchat Hagomel blessing. The
blessing is not time-dependent, and it substitutes in part for the *todah* (Thanksgiving) offering, one of the classes of *kurbanot* (sacrifices) which women were obligated to offer (e.g. after childbirth) in the days of the *Temple in Jerusalem*. Accordingly, these authorities say that women are eligible to be counted in the *minyan* of 10 equally with men for the special purpose of the *mitzvah* of saying the *HaGomel* blessing and its congregational response publicly.

This information was compiled by