

THE BRIT MILAH OF XXX XXX XXX
Hebrew Date, XXX English Date, 2007

Thanking God for keeping us alive

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם,
שֶׁחַיֵּינוּ וְקִיְמָנוּ וְהִגִּיעָנוּ לְזֶמַן הַזֶּה!

Blessed are You O Lord our God, King of the universe, who has kept us alive, sustained us and enabled us to reach this season!

The Creator, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the righteous and holy Father of our Lord Yeshua the Messiah, has a special place in His heart for little children. He desires the little children to come close to Himself. Once, when people brought Yeshua babies to bless, His disciples were annoyed and tried to prevent them from coming to Him. However, Messiah rebuked His disciples, called the little children to Himself and said: *Let the children come to Me and stop hindering them, because the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.* On another occasion He also said: *See that you never despise one of these little ones, for I tell you that their angels in Heaven are continually seeing the face of my Father in heaven.* In circumcising this child, he is taking his first step on the path to the God of Israel.

Those present welcome the child by saying:

Baruch ha-ba! Welcome and blessed is he who comes!

A Word about Covenants and Circumcision

Circumcision among the Jewish people started with our father Abraham more than 4000 years ago. *Now when Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to Abram and said to him, "I am God Almighty; walk before Me, and be blameless. I will establish My covenant between Me and you, and I will multiply you exceedingly... I will establish My covenant between Me and you and your descendants after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your descendants after you. I will give to you and to your descendants after you, the land of your sojournings, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession; and I will be their God." God said further to Abraham, "Now as for you, you shall keep My covenant, you and your descendants after you throughout their generations. This is My covenant, which you shall keep, between Me and you and your descendants after you: every male among you shall be circumcised. And you shall be circumcised in the flesh of your foreskin, and it shall be the sign of the covenant between Me and you. And every male among you who is eight days old shall be circumcised throughout your generations. But an uncircumcised male who is not circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin, that person shall be cut off from his people; he has broken My covenant."*

Not only did God enter into a covenant with us through our father Abraham, but He also established a new covenant through the Messiah: *Behold days are coming declares the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah, not like the covenant which I made with their fathers in the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, although I was a husband to them, declares the Lord. But this is the covenant which I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord, I will put My Torah within them, and on their heart I will write it; and I will be their God, and they will be my people. And they shall not teach each man his neighbor and each man his brother saying, "know the Lord," for they shall all know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them, declares the Lord, for I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more.*

Circumcision is the sign that we have entered into the covenant that God made with Abraham, that He would be our God, and we would be His people. But circumcision by itself is not enough. Like father Abraham, we must also walk before God and be blameless. Without a personal relationship with God, circumcision only removes a piece of flesh from our bodies. There must be a spiritual component to circumcision as well. Moses understood this when he commanded us: *"Circumcise your heart."*

Since the coming of the Messiah two thousand years ago, God performs this circumcision of the heart through Yeshua. By coming to know, and then welcoming Messiah Yeshua, we enter into the New Covenant that Yeshua has made possible, and God gives us a circumcised heart. Rabbi Paul tells us that joined to Messiah we have been made complete, circumcised with a circumcision not done by human hands, but accomplished by stripping away the old nature's control over the body, this circumcision done by the Messiah.

Rabbi Paul also writes, *"we are the true circumcision, who worship by the Spirit of God and make our boast in Messiah Yeshua, and put no confidence in human qualifications."* And again, *"the real Jew is not merely Jewish outwardly: true circumcision is not only external and physical. On the contrary, the real Jew is one inwardly; and true circumcision is of the heart, spiritual, not literal; so that his praise comes not from other people but from God."* We pray, O Lord, that this child will have his heart circumcised, and he will become part of the true circumcision!

Rabbi Loren prays:

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם,
אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתָיו וְצִוָּנוּ עַל הַמִּילָה.

Baruch Atah Adonai Elohaynu Melech ha'olam, asher kidshanu b'mitzvotav vitzivahnu al ha-milah. Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the universe, who has sanctified us with Your commandments, and commanded us concerning circumcision.

The father prays:

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם,
אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתָיו. וְצִוָּנוּ לְהִכָּנִיסוֹ בְּבְרִיתוֹ שֶׁל אַבְרָהָם אָבִינוּ.

Baruch Atah Adonai Elohaynu Melech ha'olam, asher kid-shah-nu b'mitz-vo-tav
vi-tzi-vah-nu l'hach-nee-so beev-ree-toh shel Avraham avi-nu.

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the universe, who has sanctified us with Your commandments, and commanded us to have our sons enter into the covenant of Abraham our father.

The father declares:

I have fulfilled the command of circumcising my son, as the Creator, blessed be He, commanded us in the Torah: *every male among you, throughout your generations, shall be circumcised when he is eight days old.*

**A few drops of wine are given to the child, and the rest is drunk by
the father and mother, who then pray:**

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם בּוֹרֵא פְּרֵי הַגָּפֶן.

Baruch Atah Adonai Elohaynu Melech ha'olam, Boray p'ree hagafen. Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the universe, Creator of the fruit of the vine.

Rabbi Loren prays:

How blessed is everyone who fears Adonai, who walks in His ways! When you will eat of the fruit of your hands, you will be happy and it will be well with you. Your wife shall be like a fruitful vine within your house, your children like olive plants around your table. Behold, for thus shall the man be blessed who fears Adonai. The Lord bless you from Zion, and may you see the prosperity of Jerusalem all the days of your life. Indeed, may you see your children's children. Peace be upon Israel!

Everyone present prays:

May all of us enjoy the goodness of Your House, O Lord, your salvation, a circumcised heart, and eternal life in the New Jerusalem. Even as XXX has been introduced into the covenant made with Abraham, so may he enter into the study of Your Word, a good marriage, a life of good deeds, the New Covenant, and the salvation found in Messiah Yeshua.

Rabbi Loren prays:

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the universe, who set apart Your beloved Israel from birth, and setting Your statute in his flesh, and marking his descendants with the sign of the holy covenant. Because of this, O eternal God, our Stronghold, our Helper and Shield in every generation, for the sake of the covenant which You set in our flesh, save and deliver this beloved child from all harm and destruction, and grant him everlasting life!

The Lord remembers His covenant forever, the word which He promised for a thousand generations, the covenant He made with Abraham, and His oath to Isaac. He confirmed the same to Jacob, as a statute, to Israel as an everlasting covenant. O Lord our God, may it be Your will to regard and accept this circumcision. Blessed are You, O Lord, Maker of the covenants.

Naming the child

Our God and God of our fathers, sustain this child for his father and mother. Let him be called in Israel, XXX ben XXX. May he be blessed among Your people, and have a great place among the greatest of Your people Israel. May he also be a choice servant of Yours within Messiah's Holy Community of Jews and Gentiles. May he be loved by You, and be a man after Your own heart. (I add other prayers, prayers particularly based on the name of the child).

O Lord our God, in Your great mercy give a pure and holy heart to XXX who was circumcised in honor of Your great and holy name. May he become great in Your Torah. May his heart be opened to understand Your Word, that he may learn and teach, keep and practice it. May he receive a circumcised heart through Messiah Yeshua, and enter into the New Covenant and the fullness of the salvation that is found only in Messiah. May he grow up to be a faithful son that forever remains within Your house. May he be blessed in this life and blessed with eternal life in the world to come.

XXX, your parents present you this day to the Lord. May you always be dedicated to Him, and forever acceptable in His sight. The kingdom of God belongs to those like you. May He who blessed our fathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, and brought a Savior to their children, may He bless this child, the son of XXX and YYY, who was circumcised and brought into the covenant with the Lord God of Israel this day, and grant him a perfect healing.

The mother prays:

For this boy I prayed and the Lord has given me my petition which I asked Him. So I have also dedicated him to the Lord; as long as he lives he is dedicated to the Lord.

Instructions to the father and mother

Build your home with God and in God. Moses declared: *Lord, You have been our dwelling place in all generations. Before the mountains were born, or You gave birth to the Earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God.* In Him we live, and move and have our being. Make the Lord your dwelling place, and your earthly home will be an eternal success. Build your home with Yeshua, and live according to His teachings, because everyone who hears His words and acts on them is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rains descended, the floods came, the winds blew, yet that house stood firm. XXX and YYY, the teachings of the Lord need to be in your heart; and you must teach them diligently to your children, and talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way and when you lie down and when you rise up. Do you commit yourself to do this?

The parents respond:

"We do."

Rabbi Loren says:

The members of Messiah's Holy Congregation, and your friends and family are witnesses. And you, friends and family, and members of Messiah's community, do you promise to encourage this family to raise their children in the fear of the Lord, as much as you are able?

Rabbi Loren prays:

God of Abraham, God of Isaac, and God of Jacob, righteous and holy Father of our Lord Yeshua the Messiah, we acknowledge that children are a gift from you; the fruit of the womb is a reward that You give. Like arrows in the hand of a warrior, so are the children of one's youth. How blessed in the man and woman whose quiver is full of them. May XXX and YYY rejoice in their offspring, as it is written: *Let your parents be happy; let your mother thrill for joy.* In Your great mercy give the parents a pure and holy heart to serve You all the days of their lives and to raise this child, and others that you may bless them with, with wisdom and the fear of the Lord.

יְבָרַכְךָ יְהוָה וְיִשְׂמְרֶךָ!
יְאֵר יְהוָה פָּנָיו אֵלֶיךָ וְיַחַנְדְּךָ!
יִשָּׂא יְהוָה פָּנָיו אֵלֶיךָ וְיִשֵּׁם לְךָ שְׁלוֹם!

May the Lord bless you and keep you! May the Lord make His face shine on you and grace you! May the Lord lift up His countenance on you, and give you peace! O Lord our God, may Your grace, favor, blessing and shalom rest upon this family all the days of their lives.