

A B'rit Bat Home Ritual, welcoming a daughter to the covenant of Abraham and the People Israel, based on the traditional blessing of raising a child to a life of Torah, (Jewish learning) Huppah (marriage beneath the wedding canopy) and Ma'asim Tovim. (good deeds).

Grandparents, if available or friends, if grandparents are not available, are holding a Talit,. The talit can be father's or mother's, or one especially bought for the occasion with the Atarah bearing the soon to be given covenant name of the little girl, with space left for another name; the name of her bashert. (destined groom).

A Tanach,(Hebrew and English Bible) especially bought for the occasion is placed on a table, opened to the weeks Torah Portion or perhaps some other significant place of special meaning to the parents. Care should be given to the Tanakh obtained. It should be as elegant as possible, since it will be inscribed to the newborn by her parents and or grandparents on the day she receives her covenant name.

Parents with new born enter room where ceremony is to take place from another room. They stand under the talit.

The new born is touched to the Tanach (in the manner of a Talit or a siddur) and is then kissed by both father and mother.

Parents say;

May our daughter, upon whom we bestow her covenant name today, live a life of study and dedication to Torah. May she learn what is right and what is wrong, what is true and what is false, what is kind and what is cruel and what God and her people Israel wants of her and of us. May the covenant name we give her today, radiate beauty wherever life's path leads her.

Parents say in Hebrew and/or English;

Sh,ma Yisroel Adonai Elohenu, Adonai Echad.
Hearken O Israel, Adonai our God, Adonai is One.
Ki Mitziyon Tetzeh Torah u'dvar Adonai mi-Yerushalayim
For out of Zion shall go forth Torah. The word of God from Jerusalem.

A selected reading, perhaps from the weekly Sidrah, or of special meaning to the family, is read by a loved one or guest who has been asked to either make the selection or to read something that the parents choose.

Following the reading, the parents recite;

Baruch she-natan Torah l'amo Yisrael bikedushato.

Praised is god who in holiness has given Torah to our people Israel.

Officiant then names the baby girl in Hebrew if possible or in English which follows; **(Baby's Covenant name in Hebrew)**

bat (Mother's Covenant name) ve (Father's Covenant name)

God of our mothers and fathers, Sustain this child. We declare her covenant name in Israel to be

_____ daughter of _____ and _____

and adds;

As you (mother's name) and you (father's name) stood under the huppah and became husband and wife, thereby forging another link in the eternal history of our people Israel, so may you have the joy and privilege of bringing your daughter, (covenant name), to the huppah in health and strength. May you proudly witness the day when she, with her destined groom, will forge yet another link in our glorious future.

Mother or father:

Beyond raising our daughter to Torah, and escorting her to the huppah, our prayer is that we so live that by emulating our example and our teaching, her life will overflow with ma'asim tovim, the doing of Good Deeds.

Acting on her behalf, duly constituted under Jewish law as her agents, we have made a donation in our daughter's name to (whatever charity has been chosen) The acknowledgment of that donation (if available) reads:

(Child's covenant name followed by family name) has made a gift of eighteen dollars to (name of charitable organization). Let this be her first mitzvah, and may countless more light up the world around her.

May this little one (child's covenant name) daughter of (mother's covenant name) and (father's covenant name) grow big. As she has entered the covenant, so may she grow in Torah and ma'asim tovim and arrive at the huppah a proud daughter of Israel.

A letter saying something like the above should not be hard to get from a recipient Tzedakah, and would add immeasurably to the ritual. If *not* possible then;

Beyond raising our daughter to Torah, and escorting her to the wedding canopy (or Huppah as preferred), we pray that we so live that by example and teaching, her life overflow with Maasim Tovim, (Good Deeds). Acting on her behalf, being duly constituted as her agents under Jewish law, we now pledge a donation in our daughters name to the _____ Tzedakah. Let this be her first Mitzvah, and may countless more light up the world around her.

Rabbi adds; May this little one ((**Baby's Covenant name**))

bat (Mother's Covenant name) ve (Father's Covenant name)
grow big.

As she has entered the covenant, so may she grow in Torah and Maasim Tovim and arrive at the Huppah a proud daughter of Israel.

