



In Celebration of New Life



for a Baby Girl



Mazal Tov
מזל טוב



All (as baby is brought in wrapped in tallit):



Blessed is she who enters in the name of God.

בְּרוּכָה הַבָּאָה בְּשֵׁם יי.

You are your parents' dream realised, their hopes fulfilled

You are the latest and best chapter in the unfolding lives of your parents.

You are brand new — a symbol of today and tomorrow; your life is a new clean slate upon which events and people will leave their impression.

You are a bridge over which we who welcome you can gaze from this day into future days, from our generation into yours.

You are the newest link in the endless chain of our people's history.

B'rucha HaBa-ah B'ahavah — We welcome you to life with love.

Rabbi:

זֶה הַכִּסֵּא שֶׁל אֵלֵינוּ זְכוֹר לְטוֹב.

This is your chair, Elijah, who returns to children the heart of a parent, and to parents the heart of a child.

This is your chair, Elijah: send your guardian angels to protect this child as she strives throughout her life to keep the covenant into which we welcome her today.

This is your chair, Elijah: help all of us to spread the message that the time is coming for victory over oppression, and that the time is ripe for the arrival of a newborn world of joy.

Parents together:

Blessed with the gift of a new life, privileged to participate in the miracle of creation, we rejoice with gratitude to God for the special gift of our daughter. With family and friends we celebrate her entry into the Jewish community. Through Brit, our covenant with God, we have linked her destiny to that of our people Israel, here and throughout the world, now and throughout history.

If one parent gave birth with in the last month:

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם,
הַגּוֹמֵל לְחַיִּים טוֹבוֹת, שְׂגַמְלֵנִי כָּל טוֹב.

Blessed Eternal God, Ruler of the universe, You grant us goodness beyond our merit and have bestowed great goodness upon me.

All:

מִי שְׂגַמְלֵךְ כָּל טוֹב, הוּא יִגְמְלֵךְ כָּל טוֹב סְלָה.

May the one who has been gracious to you continue to favour you with all that is good.

Lighting of candles by parents:

(Two candles are lit and two or more candles are unlit.)

There is a new light in our hearts and in our home. These candles celebrate the birth of our child. Out of the creative darkness of the womb she has come. These candles celebrate her emergence into light. Child of light, you know not yet the love and joy overflowing from our hearts.

Like the sun that lights up everything it sees and never runs out of light, so too, our love does not run out. First there was (older child/ren's name), and the light of our love burned brightly for her/him/them. (Parents light sibling's candle together.) Now there is (baby's name) and our love also burns brightly for her. (Parents light candle together.) Just like fire that when it lights one candle it is not diminished but can continue to light other candles just as brightly, so too, our love extends fully to (older child/ren), but does not run out. Our love extends fully to (baby) but does not run out. Our love will always burn brightly for each child and for each other.

All:

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם,
שְׁהַחֲיֵנוּ וְקִיַּמְנוּ וְהַגִּיעֵנוּ לְזֶמַן הַזֶּה.

Blessed Eternal God, Creator of the universe, You have given us life, sustained us, and brought us to this moment in time.

Grandparents (or other senior family members):

Our God and God of all generations, we are grateful for new beginnings, for the bond of life that links one generation to the other. We are thankful for the blessings of family which bring meaning and happiness to our lives.



To Parents:

We rejoice with you at the birth of your child, (our granddaughter). May you grow together as a family in health and in strength, in harmony, wisdom and love, your home filled with words of love and acts of kindness. May we be enabled to share in the joy of seeing your little girl grow into adulthood, a blessing to her family, her people and all humanity.

May you be granted years to watch your daughter grow, wisdom and understanding to teach her the lessons that life has taught you, and patience to let her apply those lessons to her own life and circumstances. May your daughter's life be a source of blessing for you and for all who come in contact with her.

Rabbi:

We rejoice with gratitude for the privilege of bringing this child into our ancestral covenant. We pray that God will grant this newborn daughter in the House of Israel the blessings of health, fulfillment and peace. We pray that she will find beauty in her heritage which will strengthen and sustain her throughout life.

Parents:

היום אָנוּ מִתְחַבְּרִים לְתוֹלְדוֹת יִשְׂרָאֵל. אֵל הַנְּעָרָה
הַזֹּאת הִתְפַּלְלָנוּ. יְהוָה נָתַן אֶת שְׂאֵלָתֵנוּ. עַל־
לִבֵּנוּ בִּיהוָה.

Today we join the generations of Israel. It is for this child that we prayed. We were granted our desire and our hearts rejoice. (I Samuel 1:28 and 2:1)

We give thanks, O God, for the life which has been entrusted to us. May her name, _____, be a token of every virtue. May your blessing be upon her, guarding her from evil and danger.

Before this gathering of our Jewish community, we dedicate ourselves to raise her to love her community, her people and her family. Give us the wisdom, courage, and faith that we, as parents, may perform our sacred task in a manner worthy of your blessing.

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר
קִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתַי וְצִוָּנוּ לְהִכְנִיֵס בְּנוֹתֵינוּ לְבְרִית
אֲבֹרָהּם וְשָׂרָה.

Blessed is the Eternal, our God, Ruler of the Universe, who sanctifies our lives with commandments and commands us to welcome our daughters into the covenant.

Parents or Rabbi may want to offer further explanation of the name:

Rabbi:

מי שִׁבְרָךְ אֲבוֹתֵינוּ אַבְרָהָם, יִצְחָק,
וְיַעֲקֹב, שָׂרָה, רִבְקָה, לֵאָה, וְרַחֵל,
הוּא יְבָרְךָ אֶת הַיְלָדָה הַרְכָּה הַזֹּאת,
וְיִקְרָא שְׁמָהּ בְּיִשְׂרָאֵל: _____
בֵּת _____!
כְּשֵׁם שְׁנִכְנִסָּה לְבְרִית, בְּן תִּכְנִס לְתוֹרָה,
וְלַחֲפָה, וְלַמַּעֲשִׂים טוֹבִים. וְנֹאמַר: אָמֵן.

O Eternal God who blessed our ancestors, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, Sarah, Rebecca, Rachel and Leah; bless this beautiful little girl, and may she proudly wear the name of _____, the daughter of _____ and _____. Just as she this day enters into the covenant of Abraham and Sarah, so may she enter into a life dedicated to the study of Torah, doing of good deeds, and to family, and let us say together, *Amen*.

Blessings that may be Offered by Other Family Members

Here is Your First Gift By Jody Bolz

Here is your first gift
(this blessing, this echo):
sound you'll answer to
turning, always, to see who spoke.
Here is your name,
which people we don't know
will call you years from now,
when your infant face
with its astonished look
is just a picture
and our huge, parental love
a blur of hands.

A Prayer for a Future Woman

We pray that (baby) draw inspiration from the examples of her foremothers:

From Eve the hope to choose life and sustain it after
Paradise was lost;

From Noah's wife the nurturing qualities and patience to be
a steward for earth's creatures;

From Sarah the faith to follow a dream into wilderness and
to believe the impossible is possible;

From Rebecca the wisdom to weave new custom into the
old;

From Leah endurance and perseverance in the face of loneliness;

From Rachel the compassion and love for her sister that spared Leah pain and anguish;

From Dina the ability to take risks to break out of confinement to seek friendship with other women;

From the midwives Shifrah and Pu'ah the courage to defy death to rescue the next generation;

From Miriam the ability to be outspoken in her views even when they are unpopular;

From Deborah the self-esteem that enabled her to rally and lead resistance and to take pride in her achievements;

And from Yaël the courage to do what she knows she must do. (from RRC files)



A Blessing By Danny Seigel (based on Brachot 17a, Eruvin 54a)

May your eyes sparkle with the light of Torah, and your ears hear the music of its words. May the space between each letter of the scrolls bring warmth and comfort to your soul. May the syllables draw holiness from your heart, and may this holiness be gentle and soothing to you and all God's creatures. May your study be passionate, and meanings bear more meanings until life itself arrays itself to you as a dazzling wedding feast. And may your conversation even of the commonplace, be a blessing to all who listen to your words and see Torah on your face.

Rabbi:

May the Holy One bless you and protect you.

יְבָרְכֶךָ יְהוָה וַיִּשְׁמְרֶךָ

May the Holy One shine light upon you and be gracious to you.

יָאֵר יְהוָה פָּנָיו אֵלֶיךָ וַיַּחַנֶּךָ

May the Holy One turn towards you and give you peace.

יֵשֵׂא יְהוָה פָּנָיו אֵלֶיךָ וַיִּשֶׂם לְךָ שָׁלוֹם

(Num. 6:24-26)

מזל טוב!