

Bnei Noach and Blessings

Why, what and how?

Types of blessings

- **For Mitzvot – commandments**
 - Before fulfilling.
- **For Benefit**
 - Before and after eating.
 - Smell.
- **For Events**
 - Good and Bad happenings.
 - Natural events (rain, thunder, lightning, earthquakes).
 - Blossoming trees (Nissan).

Source and generalities

- **Men of the Great Assembly**

- They instituted prayers and blessings
- One of the Seven Rabbinical Commandments
 - Shabbat candles
 - Eiruv
 - Hallel
 - **Blessings**
 - Netilat Yadaim (Hands washing)
 - Chanukah
 - Purim

- **Liturgy**

- Blessed are You G-d (Psalm 119:12)
- All blessings that don't have the Name and

the Kingship is not a blessing
(Talmud Brachot 40b)

- Some open with “Blessed” and close with “Blessed”
- Some open with “Blessed but don't close with “Blessed”
- Some don't open with “Blessed” and close with “Blessed”
- Don't change the shape of the blessings
(Talmud Brachot 40b)
- **Don't make up new blessings**
 - Shulján Aruj HaRav, Orach Chaim 46:6
 - Argument regarding the morning blessing of “Who gives the tired strength”
- **Bnei Noach are not into the rabbinical decrees**

Blessings for Mitzvot

- **Don't recite...**

- “Blessed are You G-d, Our Lord, King of the Universe, that sanctified with His commandments, and **commanded us** to ...”
 - By Bnei Noach would be to lie!
 - Bnei Noach may fulfill certain Mitzvot of the Jews, but as “not commanded” (Rambam, Laws of Kings, 10:10).
 - Consult with a Rabbi.
 - Why? Motivation for fulfilling.
 - How to do I properly..
 - Even in that case, don't recite the blessing!

Blessings fo Benefit

- **Where do they come from?**

- **It's a logic.** It is forbidden for a person to benefit from the world without reciting a blessing (Talmud Brachot 35a)
 - To G-d belong the earth and what fills it (Psalm 24a).
 - The heavens are heavens to G-d, and the earth He gave to human beings (Psalms 11:16)
 - One case is before reciting a blessing and the other is after reciting.
- Bnei Noach are obligated to logical commandments
 - Ramba"n (Bereshit 6:13, Rabbeinu Nissim Gaon, Manul HaTalmud).

- **Blessings before eating**

- Fruits of Earth - "Who creates fruits of the earth"
- Fruits of Trees - "Who creates fruits of the trees"
- Pastries - "Who creates different kinds of food"
- General - "that everything was called into being by His word"

- Wine - "Who creates the fruit of the vine"
- Bread - "Who makes bread come out of the earth"

- **Blessings after eating**

- Abraham: Blessed is the Lord of the world, from Whom we ate (Breshit Rabba, 49:4).
- Blessed is the Lord, our G-d, King of the universe, Master of this bread (Talmud Brachot 40b).
- General blessing after foods (*bore nefashot*).

- **Measures where not given for Bnei Noach**

- Rambam, Laws of Kings, 9:10

- **Smell**

- "Who creates different kinds of species"

Blessings for Events

- **Good news just for you**
 - “Who gave us life, sustained us and made us reach this moment”
- **Good news for you and others**
 - “Who is good and does good”
- **Thunder or earthquake**
 - “Whose strength and power fill creation”
- **Lightning or shooting star**
 - “Who makes creation”
- **Rainbow**
 - “Who remembers the covenant and is faithful to His covenant and upholds His word”
- **Bad news**
 - “Who is a true Judge”

Some mysticism...

- **Blessed**
 - “*Baruj*” comes from the word “*Breicha*”, a channel of water. That means **projection**.
- **Are You**
 - “You” refers to a level of Godliness that is so high and profound that doesn’t even have a name.
- **G-d**
 - This refers to the Tetragrammaton, that represents infinity and transcendence.
- **Our Lord**
 - This refers to the name of G-d that represents nature (*Elokim* = *haTeva* = 86).
- **King of the Universe**
 - This refers to a level where G-d is already so related to the world that He is its King.