

אבל אנחנו עמך בני בריתך. בני אברהם אהבה
שנשבעת לו בהר המורה. גרע יצחק יחידו שנעקד על גב
המזבח. עדת יעקב בנה בכורך שמאהבתך שאהבת אתו
ומשמחתך ששמחת בו קראת את שמו ישראל וישרון:

לפיך אנחנו חיים להודות לך ולשבחך ולפארה
ולברך ולקדש ולתת שבח והודיה לשמך:

אשרינו. מה טוב חלקנו

ומה נעים גור לנו ומה יפה ירשתנו.

אשרינו. שאנחנו משכימים ומעריבים ערב ובקר

ואומרים פעמים בכל יום.

שמע ישראל יי אלהינו יי אחד:

ברוך שם כבוד מלכותו לעולם ועד:

אתה הוא עד שלא נברא העולם. אתה הוא משנברא העולם.
אתה הוא בעולם הזה ואתה הוא לעולם הבא: קדש את
שמך על מקדישי שמך וקדש את שמך בעלמך. ובישועתך
תרים ותגביה קרננו. ברוך אתה יי מקדש את שמך ברכים:

THE COVENANT AS HERITAGE AND CHALLENGE

A timeless truth to tell, an invaluable service to render, a prophetic mission to deliver, a deathless message to preach, an abiding principle to enunciate—these, and more, constitute the heritage which the House of Israel carries on the high road toward human ennoblement. (Abraham A. Kellner)

When asked by his students for the definition of a good Jew, Rabbi Louis Finkelstein responded: A good Jew is a Jew who wants to be a better Jew!

THE COVENANT: Our privilege and duty

But we are Your people, children of Your Covenant, descendants of Your beloved Abraham, to whom You made a promise on Mount Moriah. We are the seed of Isaac, his son, who was bound on the altar. We are Your first-born, the congregation of Jacob, whom You named "Israel" and "Jeshurun" because of Your love for him and Your delight in him.

Therefore it is our duty to thank, to praise, to glorify, and to sanctify You.

IN JOYOUS THANKSGIVING

Ashreynu!

How fortunate are we!

How good is our portion!

How pleasant is our lot!

How beautiful is our heritage!

How fortunate are we that twice each day,

morning and evening, we can declare:

"HEAR, O ISRAEL: THE LORD IS OUR GOD, THE LORD IS ONE."

Praised be God's glorious sovereignty for ever and ever.

O eternal God before Creation and since Creation, Lord of this world and the world to come, reveal Your holiness through those who sanctify You. Reveal Your holiness throughout the world. Uplift us and exalt us through Your deliverance. Praised are You, O Lord, who reveals Your holiness before all.

We are bound to God, Israel, and the Torah, through a Covenant—which can be disobeyed but cannot be denied. Many who repudiated the Covenant, and denied that the Jewish people still has a providential role to play, came to learn the "brotherhood of suffering" which binds them. But such a feeling of common peril is surely not enough. As A. J. Heschel taught: Our existence is either superfluous or indispensable; it is either tragic or holy; . . . We were not born by mere chance in the obscurity of a primitive past. . . . To be a Jew is to be committed to the continued experience of great ideas. (Max Arzi)