

Instructions for the blessings before and after Torah, by Rabbi Leana Moritt

Transcript

These are the instructions for the person who is given the opportunity to chant the blessings before and after the reading of the Torah. They can be found on page 250 of our siddur, Mishkan T'fillah.

When you're called up to the bima, somebody will likely ask you for your Hebrew name which will be announced.

You will take your place in front of the Torah and hold onto the handles, also called Atzay Chayim.

The person who is actually reading the Torah will be pointing to the very first word which is to be read.

It's customarily that if you're offering these blessings, you'll come up to the bima wearing a Tallit, and you'll take the corner of your Tallit at this point, the tzit-tzit, the little fringes on the corner and touch that first word with the tzit-tzit and give it (the tzit-tzit) a little kiss before chanting these words...

<CHANT before blessing>

You'll then move over a little bit, so that allows the person reading the Torah to be standing in front of the Torah

You can still hold on to one of the Atzay Chayim, one of those handles, while the person chants the Torah.

When they're finished, they're gonna keep the yad, the pointer, on the last word that they chanted, which is your opportunity then to customarily take your tzit-tzit and touch the last word and give it (the tzit-tzit) a kiss, before taking hold of the Atzay Chayim, the handles, and chanting the blessing after the Torah reading, which is at the bottom of page 250.

<CHANT after blessing>

At which point everybody around you will wish you Yashir Koach, shake your hand, give you hugs and kisses.

You then will move to the other side of the bima, at which point the person leading the service will call up the next person who will be chanting those blessings before and after the reading. And you'll stay up there for that next reading. Yashir Koach — good job!