

MINISTER'S HAND BOOK

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Minister's Hand Book by Central Conference of American Rabbis

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CENTRAL CONFERENCE OF AMERICAN RABBIS

**MINISTER'S
HAND BOOK**

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The Central Conference of American Rabbis



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Service for Laying the Cornerstone of a Synagogue

Anthem

Choir

Opening Prayer

○ LORD, OUR GOD AND GOD OF OUR FATHERS, we ask that Thy blessing may rest upon us in this sacred hour. We have come to lay the corner-stone of a house to be dedicated unto Thee and Thy worship. Grant that even now its glorious purpose may be made manifest and its consecrating influence abide with us for all time to come.

May it be Thy will to prosper the progress of this edifice. May its foundations be laid in righteousness, so that its walls may be called 'salvation' and its gates 'praise'. May neither hurt nor harm come to any who labor here. We know, O Lord, that unless Thou art with us, the workmen work in vain and the watchmen keep vigil for naught.

May this stone, which we are now about to set in its place, be a stone tried and well founded—a sure support of all that rests thereon. Grant that through the inspiration of this hour we may be enabled not alone to uprear this house, but also to build within our hearts a sanctuary wherein Thy presence may ever dwell. Establish Thou the work of our hands; yea, the work of our hands establish Thou it. AMEN.

Here follows a short address by the Chairman of the Building Committee, containing a statement of the plan of the building to be constructed. An address should then be delivered, preferably by a Rabbi.

Anthem

Choir

(At this point the cornerstone is to be placed at the eastern corner of the building. Into the stone should be put objects of current congregational, wider Jewish and general communal interest. The outside of the stone should contain an inscription with the name of the congregation, the year of its organization and the year of the erection of the new building, according to the current and Jewish calendar.)

As the cornerstone is being put in place by the President of the Congregation, he recites the following words:

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הַשָּׁמַיִם שְׂהַחֲיֵנוּ וְקִיַּמְנוּ
וְהִגִּיעָנוּ לְיָמֵינוּ הַזֶּה:

"Be praised, O Lord our God, King of the Universe, Who hast granted us life, sustained us and permitted us to celebrate this happy occasion."

וְהָאֶבֶן הַזֹּאת אֲשֶׁר-שָׂמַתִּי מִצְבָּה יִהְיֶה בַיִת אֱלֹהִים:

"And this stone which I have set up for a pillar shall be God's house." (*Gen. 28:22*)

Here follows the singing of Hallelujah.

The service is concluded with the Benediction.

Service for Dedication of a Synagogue

March

Organ

(Processional)

The Building Committee, President, Past Presidents, Officers and Rabbis carrying the Scrolls of the Law, enter in procession.

Choir

Lift up your heads, O ye gates,	שאו שערים ראשיכם
And be ye lifted up, ye everlasting doors;	והנשאו פתחי עולם
That the King of glory may come in.	ויבא מלך הקבוד:
'Who is the King of glory?'	מי זה מלך הקבוד
'The Lord strong and mighty,'	יזעוז ונגבור.
The Lord mighty in battle.	יזבור מלחמה:
Lift up your heads, O ye gates,	שאו שערים ראשיכם
Yea, lift them up, ye everlasting doors;	ישאו פתחי עולם
That the King of glory may come in.	ויבא מלך הקבוד:
'Who then is the King of glory?'	מי הוא זה מלך הקבוד
'The Lord of hosts; He is the King of glory.' Selah.	יזבאות הוא מלך הקבוד סלה:

When the procession reaches the Ark, minister recites and choir responds to the following declaration:

Hear, O Israel, the
Lord our God, The Lord
is One.

שמע ישראל יי אלהינו
יי אחד:

The scrolls are then deposited in the Ark and the minister repeats:

The law of the Lord
is perfect, restoring the
soul; the testimony of
the Lord is sure, making
wise the simple.

תורת יי תמימה
משיבת נפש. עדות יי
נאמנה מחכימת פתי:

The precepts of the
Lord are right, rejoicing
the heart; the fear of
the Lord is clean, enduring
forever.

פקודי יי ישרים משמחי
לב. יראת יי כהורה
עומדת לעד:

For I give you good
doctrine; Forsake ye not
my teaching.

כי לקח טוב נתתי לכם
תורת אל מעזבו:

She is a tree of life to
them that lay hold upon
her, and happy is every-
one that holdeth her
fast. Her ways are ways
of pleasantness and all
her paths are peace.

עץ חיים היא למחזיקים
בה ותומכיה מאשר:
דרךיה דרכי נעם וכל
נתיבותיה שלום: