

Short F.A.Q. On Jewish Readings

Below is a brief explanation of some terms and explanations concerning the area of customary Jewish readings.

Parshah means *portion*, and is the weekly Torah portion of Scripture read in the Orthodox Synagogues around the world. There are 54 parshah, and each one is given a name (e.g., parshah *Noach*). At **YMMC** our main Message each week coincides with teachings in the weekly Parshah and Haftarah. These are skillfully explained to display the relevance to the teachings of our Messiah in the N.T.

Aliyot refer to the smaller sections of the weekly parshah that are assigned to people of the congregation for public reading during the Torah Reading service. In most congregations it is customary for the person "**called up**" to recite a blessing for the Torah before and after the assigned section. For Traditional Shabbat services, there are seven aliyot (and a concluding portion called a *maftir*). The person who is called to make aliyah is referred to as an *oleh* (*olah*, if female).

Divrei Torah ("words of Torah") refers to a commentary, a sermon, or devotional on the Torah portion of the week.

Torah refers to first five books of the O.T. called the Pentateuch.

Haftarah refers to the Prophets Section of the O.T. , or often called the Tanakh.

Mei Ketuvim refers to a portion read from the Ketuvim, or writings in the Tanakh. Readings from the Ketuvim are usually reserved for Jewish holidays at the synagogue.

Brit Chadashah refers to New Testament readings.

Perek Yomi Tehillim refers to the daily portion of psalms (*mizmorim*) recited so that the entire book of Psalms (*Tehillim*) is read through in a month.



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