

## ✠ BLESSING OF THE CHILDREN ✠

IT IS CUSTOMARY FOR PARENTS TO BLESS THEIR CHILDREN INDIVIDUALLY – YOUNG AND OLD – BEFORE LEAVING FOR THE SYNAGOGUE AFTER THE FINAL EREV YOM KIPPUR MEAL.

■ I attempt to articulate my most fervent wishes and aspirations for my children, namely that they live a virtuous and successful life with the Torah as their guide.

BLESSING BESTOWED ON A SON:

**Y'SIM'CHO** Elohim יְשִׁמְךָ אֱלֹהִים  
k'efra-yim v'chim-na-she. כְּאֶפְרַיִם וְכִמְנַשֶּׁה.

*May God make you like Ephraim and Menashe.\**

**Y'VORECH'CHO** Adōnoy v'yish-m'recho. וְיִשְׁמְרֶךָ יְהוָה וְיִשְׁמְרֶךָ.  
*May HASHEM bless you\* and safeguard you.*

Yo-ayr Adōnoy ponov aylecho vi-chuneko. יָאֵר יְהוָה פָּנָיו אֵלֶיךָ וַיְחַנֶּכֶךָ.  
*May HASHEM illuminate His countenance for you and be gracious to you.*

Yiso Adōnoy ponov aylecho יִשָּׂא יְהוָה פָּנָיו אֵלֶיךָ,  
*May HASHEM turn His countenance to you*

v'yosaym l'cho sholōm. וַיְשִׂם לְךָ שְׁלוֹם.  
*and establish peace for you.*

IT IS PREFERABLE TO SAY THE FOLLOWING PRAYER IN THE LANGUAGE ONE UNDERSTANDS.

**M**ay it be the will of our Father in Heaven, that He instill in your heart His love and reverence. May the fear of HASHEM be upon your face all your days, in order that you not sin. May your craving be for the Torah and the commandments. May your eyes gaze toward truth; may your mouth speak wisdom; may your heart meditate with awe; may your hands engage in the commandments; may your feet run to do the will of your Father in heaven. May He grant you righteous sons and daughters who engage in the Torah and the commandments all their days. May the source of your posterity be blessed. May He arrange your livelihood for you in a permissible way, with contentment and with relief, from beneath His generous hand, and not through the gifts of flesh and blood; a livelihood that will free you to serve HASHEM. And may you be inscribed and sealed for a good, long life, among all the righteous of Israel. Amen.

**וַיְהִי רְצוֹן מִלְּפָנֵי אָבִינוּ שְׁבַשְׁמִים,**  
**שִׁיתָן בְּלִבָּךְ אֶהְבְּתוּ וַיִּרְאַתּוּ.**  
**וְתִהְיֶה יִרְאַת יְהוָה עַל פְּנֶיךָ כָּל יְמֶיךָ,**  
**שֶׁלֹּא תִחַטָּא. וַיְהִי חֲשֻׁקְךָ בַּתּוֹרָה**  
**וּבְמִצְוֹת. עֵינֶיךָ לִנְכַח יְבִיטוּ; פִּיךָ**  
**יְדַבֵּר חֻמּוֹת; וְלִבְךָ יִהְיֶה אִימוֹת;**  
**יָדֶיךָ יַעֲסֻקוּ בְּמִצְוֹת; רַגְלֶיךָ יִרְצוּ**  
**לַעֲשׂוֹת רְצוֹן אָבִיךָ שְׁבַשְׁמִים. וַיִּתֵּן לְךָ**  
**בָּנִים וּבָנוֹת, צְדִיקִים וְצְדִיקָנוֹת,**  
**עוֹסְקִים בַּתּוֹרָה וּבְמִצְוֹת כָּל יְמֵיהֶם.**  
**וַיְהִי מְקוֹרְךָ בְרוּךְ. וַיִּזְמֵן לְךָ פְּרִנְסָתְךָ**  
**בְּהֵתֵר בְּנִחַת וּבְרִנָּה, מִתַּחַת יָדוֹ**  
**הַרְחֵבָה, וְלֹא עַל יְדֵי מִתְּנַת בֶּשֶׂר**  
**וְדָם; פְּרִנְסָה שֶׁתִּהְיֶה פְּנוּי לַעֲבוֹדַת**  
**יְהוָה. וְתִכְתֵּב וְתִחַתֵּם לְחַיִּים טוֹבִים**  
**וְאֲרוּכִים, בַּתּוֹךְ כָּל צְדִיקֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל.**  
**אָמֵן.**

### ✠ Blessing of the Children

The flow of Divine beneficence and blessing which comes with the onset of this sacred day makes it a particularly auspicious time for such blessings. When the parent recites the text of

the blessing, both hands should be placed upon the head of the child to signify that the blessing is conveyed with complete generosity of spirit.

יְשִׁמְךָ אֱלֹהִים כְּאֶפְרַיִם וְכִמְנַשֶּׁה – *May God make you like Ephraim and Menashe.* This is the

BLESSING BESTOWED ON A DAUGHTER:

**Y'SI-MAYCH** Elohim **יְשַׁמְךָ אֱלֹהִים**  
 k'soro rivko rochayl v'layo. **כְּשָׂרָה רַבְקָה רָחֵל וְלֵאָה.**

*May God make you like Sarah, Rebecca, Rachel and Leah.\**

**Y'VORECH'CHO** Adōnoy v'yish-m'recho. **יְבָרְכֶךָ יְהוָה וְיִשְׁמְרֶךָ.**  
*May HASHEM bless you\* and safeguard you.*

Yo-ayr Adōnoy ponov aylecho vi-chuneko. **יָאֵר יְהוָה פָּנָיו אֵלֶיךָ וְיַחַנְךָ.**  
*May HASHEM illuminate His countenance for you and be gracious to you.*

Yiso Adōnoy ponov aylecho **יִשָּׂא יְהוָה פָּנָיו אֵלֶיךָ,**  
*May HASHEM turn His countenance to you*

v'yosaym l'cho sholōm. **וְיִשֵּׂם לְךָ שְׁלוֹם.**  
*and establish peace for you.*

IT IS PREFERABLE TO SAY THE FOLLOWING PRAYER IN THE LANGUAGE ONE UNDERSTANDS.

**M**ay it be the will of our Father in heaven, that He instill in your heart His love and reverence. May the fear of HASHEM be upon your face all your days, in order that you not sin. May your craving be for the Torah and the commandments. May your eyes gaze toward truth; may your mouth speak wisdom; may your heart meditate with awe; may your hands engage in the commandments; may your feet run to do the will of your Father in heaven. May He grant you righteous sons and daughters who engage in the Torah and the commandments all their days. May the source of your posterity be blessed. May He arrange your livelihood for you in a permissible way, with contentment and with relief, from beneath His generous hand, and not through the gifts of flesh and blood; a livelihood that will free you to serve HASHEM. And may you be inscribed and sealed for a good, long life, among all the righteous of Israel. Amen.

**וַיְהִי רָצוֹן מִלְּפָנֵי אָבִינוּ שְׁבַשְׁמִים,**  
**שִׁיתָן בְּלִבָּךְ אֶהְבְּתוּ וְיִרְאַתוּ.**  
 וְתִהְיֶה יִרְאַת יְהוָה עַל פְּנֶיךָ כָּל יְמֶיךָ,  
 שְׁלֵא תַחַטָּא. וַיְהִי חֶשְׁקֶךָ בַּתּוֹרָה  
 וּבְמִצְוֹת. עֵינֶיךָ לְנֹכַח יְבִישׁוּ; פִּיךָ  
 יְדַבֵּר חֻמּוֹת; וְלִבָּךְ יִהְיֶה אִימוֹת;  
 יָדֶיךָ יַעֲסֻקוּ בְּמִצְוֹת; רַגְלֶיךָ יָרוּצוּ  
 לַעֲשׂוֹת רָצוֹן אֲבִיךָ שְׁבַשְׁמִים. יִתֵּן  
 לְךָ בָּנִים וּבָנוֹת, צְדִיקִים וְצַדִּיקָנוֹת,  
 עוֹסְקִים בַּתּוֹרָה וּבְמִצְוֹת כָּל יְמֵיהֶם.  
 וַיְהִי מְקוֹרָךְ בְּרוּךְ. וַיִּזְמֵן לְךָ פְּרִנְסָתְךָ  
 בְּהֵטֵר בְּנִחַת וּבְרִנָּה, מִתַּחַת יָדוֹ  
 הַרְחֵבָה, וְלֹא עַל יְדֵי מִתְּנֵת בְּשֵׁר  
 וְדָם; פְּרִנְסָה שְׁתֵּהִי פְנוּיָה לַעֲבוֹדַת  
 יְהוָה. וְתַכְתְּבִי וְתַחַתְּמִי לְחַיִּים  
 טוֹבִים וְאֲרוּכִים, בְּתוֹךְ כָּל צְדִיקֵי  
 יִשְׂרָאֵל. אָמֵן.

blessing that the Patriarch Jacob conferred upon his grandchildren, the two sons of Joseph. They grew to be sources of pride to the Patriarch, despite having been raised in Pharaoh's court at a time when there was no Jewish religious life in Egypt except for the intimacy of their own family. Jacob himself indicated that this blessing should be given by Jewish parents to their children throughout history.

Scriptural quote. However, it is logical to wish Jewish girls that they emulate the Matriarchs who grew up in alien surroundings and surmounted the hardship of infertility and other distress to become the mothers of the nation.

*יְשַׁמְךָ אֱלֹהִים כְּשָׂרָה רַבְקָה רָחֵל וְלֵאָה* – *May God make you like Sarah, Rebecca, Rachel and Leah.* Unlike that of sons, this blessing is not a

*יְבָרְכֶךָ ה'* – *May HASHEM bless you.* These verses comprise *Bircas Kohanim* [the Priestly Blessings]. The *Kohanim* were designated as the conduit through which God allows His blessing to rest upon Israel. Similarly, parents in their own families serve as agents to bestow God's blessing upon their children.