

Friday Tefillah: Blessing 9

Years

Bless this year for us, 'ה, our God,
and all its types of produce for good.

^{Winter} Grant dew and rain as a blessing ^{Other seasons} Grant blessing
on the face of the earth, and from its goodness satisfy us,
blessing our year as the best of years.
Blessed are You, 'ה, who blesses the years.

בָּרַךְ עֲלֵינוּ ה' אֱלֹהֵינוּ אֶת־הַשָּׁנָה הַזֹּאת
וְאֶת־כָּל־מִינֵי תְבוּאָתָהּ לְטוֹבָה
בְּחֹרֶף וְתַן טַל וּמָטָר לְבִרְכָה בְּקִיץ וְתַן בְּרָכָה
עַל פְּנֵי הָאֲדָמָה וְשַׂבְּעֵנוּ מִטוֹבָה
וּבִרְךָ שְׁנֵתָנוּ כְּשָׁנִים הַטּוֹבוֹת
בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה ה' מְבָרַךְ הַשָּׁנִים

From the Genizah

Bless this year for us, 'ה, our God,
for good and for blessing in all kinds of produce
and quickly draw near the time of our redemption,
and grant dew and rain on the face of the earth
and satisfy Your world from Your blessings
and give blessing to the work of our hands.
Blessed are You, 'ה, who blesses the years.

ברך עלינו ה' אלהינו את השנה הזאת
לטובה ולברכה בכל מיני תבואתה
וקרב מהרה שנת קץ גאולתינו
ותן טל ומטר על פני האדמה
ושבע עולמך מברכותיך
ותן ברכה במעשה ידינו
ברוך אתה ה' מברך השנים

Blessing for Rain / Blessing for Prosperity

<p>Mishnah Berakhot 5:2 One mentions the might of the rains and recites: He makes the wind blow and the rain fall, in " the revival of the dead". And the request for rain in "the blessing of the years".</p>	<p>משנה ברכות ה"ב מְזַכְרִין גְּבוּרוֹת גְּשָׁמִים בְּתַחֲתֵי הַמַּיִתִּים, וְשׂוֹאֲלִין הַגְּשָׁמִים בְּבִרְכַּת הַשָּׁנִים</p>
<p>Babylonian Talmud Avodah Zarah 8a Rav Hiyya bar Ashi says that Rav says: Although the Sages said a person requests his own needs in: "Who listens to prayer"; if he has a sick person in his house he recites a prayer during the blessing of the sick. And if he is in need of sustenance, he recites a request in the blessing of the years.</p>	<p>תלמוד בבלי עבודה זרה ח"א א"ר חייא בר אשי אמר רב אע"פ שאמרו שואל אדם צרכיו בשומע תפלה אם יש לו חולה בתוך ביתו אומר בברכת חולים ואם צריך לפרנסה אומר בברכת השנים</p>
<p>We pray for God's blessing on our efforts to earn a livelihood. Israel's agriculture depends on rain, so this blessing includes - during the winter months - a prayer for rain. Israel is a land that teaches its inhabitants the need for prayer. Unlike the praise "He makes the wind to blow and the rain fall", which we begin saying on Shemini Atzeret, the actual prayer for rain is said later to coincide with the rainy season itself. Outside Israel, it is said from the 60th day after <i>Tekufat Tishrei</i>, the fall equinox.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">R' Jonathan Sacks, <i>The Koren Siddur</i></p>	

Ecclesiastes 5:9

He who loves money **will not be sated** with money, and he who loves wealth **will have no crop.**

קחלת ה'

אהב לֶסֶף לֹא יִשְׂבַע לְסֹף וּמִי־אֵהָב בְּהֶמְוֶן לֹא תִבּוֹאָה גַם־זֶה הַבֵּל:

from Tanakh

1 Kings 17 and 18:1

¹Elijah the Tishbite, an inhabitant of Gilead, said to Ahab, "As ה' lives, the God of Israel whom I serve, there will be **no dew or rain** except at my bidding."

²The word of ה' came to him:

³"Leave this place; turn eastward and go into hiding by the Wadi Cherith, which is east of the Jordan.

⁴You will drink from the wadi, and I have commanded the ravens to feed you there."

⁵He proceeded to do as ה' had bidden: he went, and he stayed by the Wadi Cherith, which is east of the Jordan.

⁶The ravens brought him bread and meat every morning and every evening, and he drank from the wadi.

⁷After some time the wadi dried up, because there was no rain in the land.

⁸And the word of ה' came to him:

⁹"Go at once to Zarephath of Sidon, and stay there; I have designated a widow there to feed you."

¹⁰So he went at once to Zarephath. When he came to the entrance of the town, a widow was there gathering wood. He called out to her, "Please bring me a little water in your pitcher, and let me drink."

¹¹As she went to fetch it, he called out to her, "Please bring along a piece of bread for me."

¹²"As ה' your God lives," she replied, "I have nothing baked, nothing but a handful of flour in a jar and a little oil in a jug. I am just gathering a couple of sticks, so that I can go home and prepare it for me and my son; we shall eat it and then we shall die."

¹³"Don't be afraid," said Elijah to her. "Go and do as you have said; but first make me a small cake from what you have there, and bring it out to me; then make some for yourself and your son.

¹⁴For thus said ה', the God of Israel: The jar of flour shall not give out and the jug of oil shall not fail until the day that ה' sends rain upon the ground."

מלכים י"ז - י"ח:

¹וַיֹּאמֶר אֵלֶיהוּ הַתִּשְׁבִּי מִתְּשֻׁבֵי גִלְעָד אֶל־אֲחָאָב חִי־ה' אֱלֹהֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל אֲשֶׁר עִמָּדָתִי לִפְנֵי אִם־יְהִי הַשָּׁנִים הָאֵלֶּה טַל וּמָטָר כִּי אִם־לִפִּי דְבָרִי:

²וַיְהִי דְבַר־ה' אֵלָיו לֵאמֹר:

³לֵךְ מִזֶּה וּפְגִיתָ לָךְ קַדְמָה וְנִסְתַּרְתָּ בְּנַחַל כְּרִית אֲשֶׁר עַל־פְּנֵי הַיַּרְדֵּן:

⁴וְהָיָה מִהֲנַחַל תִּשְׁתֶּה וְאֶת־הָעֹרְבִים צִוִּיתִי לְכַלְכֶּלְךָ שָׁם:

⁵וַיֵּלֶךְ וַיַּעַשׂ כַּדְבַר ה' וַיֵּלֶךְ וַיֵּשֶׁב בְּנַחַל כְּרִית אֲשֶׁר עַל־פְּנֵי הַיַּרְדֵּן:

⁶וְהָעֹרְבִים מְבֹאִים לוֹ לֶחֶם וּבֶשֶׂר בַּבֶּקֶר וּלְחֶם וּבֶשֶׂר בַּעֲרָב וּמִן־הַנַּחַל יִשְׁתֶּה:

⁷וַיְהִי מִקֵּץ יָמִים וַיִּיבֹשׁ הַנַּחַל כִּי לֹא־הָיָה גֶשֶׁם בְּאֶרֶץ:

⁸וַיְהִי דְבַר־ה' אֵלָיו לֵאמֹר:

⁹קוּם לֵךְ צַרְפַּתָּהּ אֲשֶׁר לְצִדּוֹן וַיִּשְׁבֶּתָּ שָׁם הַיָּהָ צִוִּיתִי שָׁם אִשָּׁה אֲלַמְנָה לְכַלְכֶּלְךָ:

¹⁰וַיִּקָּם וַיֵּלֶךְ צַרְפַּתָּהּ וַיְבֹא אֶל־פֶּתַח הָעִיר

וְהָיָה שָׁם אִשָּׁה אֲלַמְנָה מְקַשְׁשֶׁת עֵצִים וַיִּקְרָא אֵלֶיהָ וַיֹּאמֶר קְחִי־נָא לִי מַעֲט־מִים בְּכִלִּי וְאִשְׁתֶּה:

¹¹וַתֵּלֶךְ לִקְחַת וַיִּקְרָא אֵלֶיהָ וַיֹּאמֶר לִקְחִי־נָא לִי פַת־לֶחֶם בַּיַּדְךָ:

¹²וַתֹּאמֶר חִי־ה' אֱלֹהֶיךָ אִם־יִשְׁלִי מֵעוּג כִּי

אִם־מֵלֶא כִּפ־קִמְחָ בְּכַד וּמַעֲט־שֶׁמֶן בְּצַפְחַת וְהַנְּנִי מְקַשְׁשֶׁת שְׁנַיִם עֵצִים וּבָאתִי וַעֲשִׂיתִיהוּ לִי וּלְבְנִי וְאֶכְלֶנָהּ וּמָתְנוּ:

¹³וַיֹּאמֶר אֵלֶיהָ אֵלֶיהוּ אֶל־תִּירְאִי בָּאִי עֲשִׂי כַדְבָּרְךָ אַךְ עֲשִׂי־לִי־מִשֶׁם עֲגָה קִטְנָה בְּרֹאשְׁנָהּ וְהוֹצֵאת לִי וְלֵךְ וּלְבַנְךָ תַעֲשִׂי בְּאֶחְרָנָהּ:

¹⁴כִּי כֹה אָמַר ה' אֱלֹהֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל כַּד הִקְמַח לֹא תִכְלֶה וְצַפְחַת הַשֶּׁמֶן לֹא תִחְסַר עַד יוֹם תִּתֶּהֱ גֶשֶׁם עַל־פְּנֵי הָאָדָמָה:

Friday Tefillah: Blessing 9

Years

¹⁵She went and did as Elijah had spoken, and she and he and her household had food for a long time.

¹⁶The jar of flour did not give out, nor did the jug of oil fail, just as ה' had spoken through Elijah.

¹⁷After a while, the son of the mistress of the house fell sick, and his illness grew worse, until he had no breath left in him.

¹⁸She said to Elijah, "What harm have I done you, O man of God, that you should come here to recall my sin and cause the death of my son?"

¹⁹"Give me the boy," he said to her; and taking him from her arms, he carried him to the upper chamber where he was staying, and laid him down on his own bed.

²⁰He cried out to ה' and said, "ה' my God, will You bring calamity upon this widow whose guest I am, and let her son die?"

²¹Then he stretched out over the child three times, and cried out to ה', saying, "ה' my God, let this child's life return to his body!"

²²ה' heard Elijah's plea; the child's life returned to his body, and he revived.

²³Elijah picked up the child and brought him down from the upper room into the main room, and gave him to his mother. "See," said Elijah, "your son is alive."

²⁴And the woman answered Elijah, "Now I know that you are a man of God and that the word of ה' is truly in your mouth."

¹Much later, in the third year the word of ה' came to Elijah: "Go, appear before Ahab; then I will send rain upon the earth."

¹⁵וַיֵּלֶךְ וַתַּעֲשֶׂה כַּדְּבַר אֱלֹהֵי-וַתֹּאכַל הַיֶּאֱוָהוּ
וּבֵיתָהּ יָמִים:

¹⁶כִּד הַקֶּמַח לֹא כָלְתָה וְצַפְחַת הַשֶּׁמֶן לֹא חָסָר
כַּדְּבַר ה' אֲשֶׁר דִּבֶּר בְּיַד אֱלֹהֵי:

¹⁷וַיְהִי אַחֲרֵי הַדְּבָרִים הָאֵלֶּה חָלָה בֶן-הָאִשָּׁה בְּעֵלְת
הַבַּיִת וַיְהִי חָלִיו חֲזֵק מְאֹד עַד אֲשֶׁר לֹא-נִוְתַרְהָ בִּו
נְשָׁמָה:

¹⁸וַתֹּאמֶר אֶל-אֱלֹהֵי מַה-לִּי וְלָךְ אִישׁ הָאֱלֹהִים
בָּאת אֵלַי לְהַזְכִּיר אֶת-עֲוֹנִי וְלְהַמִּית אֶת-בְּנִי:

¹⁹וַיֹּאמֶר אֵלֶיהָ תְּנִי-לִי אֶת-בְּנִי וַיִּקְחֶהּ מִחִיקָהּ
וַיַּעֲלֶהּוּ אֶל-הָעֵלְיָה אֲשֶׁר-הוּא יֹשֵׁב שָׁם וַיִּשְׁכְּבֶהּ
עַל-מִטָּתוֹ:

²⁰וַיִּקְרָא אֶל-ה' וַיֹּאמֶר ה' אֱלֹהֵי הֲגַם עַל-הָאֱלֻמָּנָה
אֲשֶׁר-אַנִּי מִתְגַּוְּרָר עִמָּה הַרְעוֹת לְהַמִּית אֶת-בְּנִי:

²¹וַיִּתְמַדֵּד עַל-הַיֶּלֶד שְׁלֹשׁ פְּעָמִים וַיִּקְרָא אֶל-ה'
וַיֹּאמֶר ה' אֱלֹהֵי תִשָּׁב נָא נַפְשׁ-הַיֶּלֶד הַזֶּה
עַל-קִרְבִּי:

²²וַיִּשְׁמַע ה' בְּקוֹל אֱלֹהֵי וַתִּשָּׁב נַפְשׁ-הַיֶּלֶד
עַל-קִרְבִּי וַיְחִי:

²³וַיִּקַּח אֱלֹהֵי אֶת-הַיֶּלֶד וַיִּרְדֵּהוּ מִן-הָעֵלְיָה
הַבַּיִתָּה וַיִּתְּנֶהוּ לְאִמּוֹ וַיֹּאמֶר אֱלֹהֵי רְאֵי חֵי בְּנִי:

²⁴וַתֹּאמֶר הָאִשָּׁה אֶל-אֱלֹהֵי עַתָּה זֶה יִדְעָתִי כִּי
אִישׁ אֱלֹהִים אַתָּה וּדְבַר-ה' בְּפִיךָ אִמְתָּ:

וַיְהִי יָמִים רַבִּים וּדְבַר-ה' הָיָה אֶל-אֱלֹהֵי בְּשִׁנָּה
הַשְּׁלִישִׁית לֵאמֹר לָךְ הִרְאָה אֶל-אַחָאָב וְאַתְּנָה
מָטָר עַל-פְּנֵי הָאֲדָמָה:

From Talmud

Babylonian Talmud Ta'anit 23a

An incident in which they sent to Honi HaMe'aggel. The Sages taught: Once, most of Adar had passed but rain had not fallen. They sent to Honi HaMe'aggel: Pray, and rain will fall. He prayed, but no rain fell. He drew a circle and stood inside it, in the manner that the prophet Habakkuk did, as it is stated: "And I will stand upon my watch and set myself upon the tower, [and I will look out to see what He will say to me, and what I shall answer when I am reproved]" (Habakkuk 2:1).

מַעֲשֵׂה שְׁשֻׁלְחוֹ לְחוּנֵי הַמַּעְגָּל וְכוּ'. תָּנוּ רַבָּנַן: פְּעַם
אַחַת יָצָא רוֹב אֲדָר וְלֹא יָרְדוּ גְשָׁמִים, שְׁלַחוּ לְחוּנֵי
הַמַּעְגָּל: הַתְּפִלָּל וַיִּרְדוּ גְשָׁמִים! הַתְּפִלָּל, וְלֹא יָרְדוּ
גְשָׁמִים. עַג עוֹגָה וְעָמַד בְּתוֹכָהּ, כְּדֶרֶךְ שְׁעֵשָׂה
חִבְקוּק הַנְּבִיא, שֶׁנֶּאֱמַר: "עַל מִשְׁמַרְתִּי אֶעֱמְדָה
וְאֶתִּיצְבֶּה עַל מְצוֹר וְגו'".

Honi said before God: Master of the Universe, Your children have turned their faces toward me, as I am like a member of Your household. I take an oath by Your great name that I will not move from here until you have mercy upon Your children.

Rain began to drip.

His students said to him: Rabbi, we have seen you, but we will not die. It appears to us that rain is falling only to enable you to dissolve your oath.

Honi said to God: I did not ask for this, but rain to fill the cisterns, ditches, and caves.

Rain began to fall furiously, until each and every drop was as big as the mouth of a barrel, and the Sages estimated that no drop was less than a *log* in size.

His students said to him: Rabbi, we have seen you and we will not die, it appears to us that rain is falling only to destroy the world.

Honi said before God: I did not ask for this but for rain of benevolence, blessing, and generosity.

Rain fell in their standard manner, until all of the people sought higher ground and ascended to the Temple Mount due to the rain. They said to him: Rabbi, just as you prayed that the rains should fall, so too, pray that they should stop. He said to them: This is the tradition that I received, that one does not pray over an excess of good.

Nevertheless, bring me a bull as a thanks-offering

They brought him a bull as a thanks-offering. He placed his two hands on it and said before: Master of the Universe, Your nation Israel, whom You brought out of Egypt, cannot bear either an excess of good or an excess of punishment. You grew angry with them and withheld rain, and they are unable to bear it. You bestowed upon them too much good, and they were also unable to bear it. May it be Your will that the rain stop and that there be relief for the world.

Immediately, the wind blew, the clouds dispersed, the sun shone, and everyone went out to the fields and gathered for themselves truffles and mushrooms.

Shimon ben Shetaḥ relayed to him: If you were not Honi, I would have decreed ostracism upon you. For were these years like the years of Elijah, when the keys of rain were in Elijah's hands, wouldn't the name of Heaven have been desecrated by you.

However, what can I do to you, as you nag God and He does your bidding, like a son who nags his father and he

אָמַר לַפָּנָיו: רַבּוֹנוֹ שֶׁל עוֹלָם! בְּנִיךָ שָׁמוּ פְּנֵיהֶם
עָלַי, שְׂאֲנִי כְּבֵן בֵּית לַפָּנִיךָ. נִשְׁבַּע אָנִי בְּשִׁמְךָ
הַגָּדוֹל שְׂאֲנִי זֶז מִכָּאן עַד שֶׁתִּרְחַם עַל בְּנִיךָ.
הִתְחִילוּ גְשָׁמִים מִנְּטָפִין. אָמְרוּ לוֹ תִלְמִידָיו: רַבִּי!
רְאִינוּךָ וְלֹא נִמּוּת, כִּמְדוּמִין אָנוּ שְׂאִין גְּשָׁמִים
יִרְדִּין אֲלָא לְהִתִּיר שְׁבוּעֶתְךָ.

אָמַר: לֹא כָּה שְׂאֵלְתִי, אֲלָא גְשָׁמֵי בּוֹרוֹת שִׁיחִין
וּמַעְרוֹת. יִרְדוּ בְּזַעַף, עַד שֶׁכָּל טֶפֶה וְטֶפֶה כְּמֵלֶא
פִי חֲבִית. וְשִׁיעְרוּ חֲכָמִים שְׂאִין טֶפֶה פְּחוּתָהּ
מִלּוֹג. אָמְרוּ לוֹ תִלְמִידָיו: רַבִּי, רְאִינוּךָ וְלֹא נִמּוּת,
כִּמְדוּמִין אָנוּ שְׂאִין גְּשָׁמִים יִרְדִּין אֲלָא לְאַבֵּד
הָעוֹלָם.

אָמַר לַפָּנָיו: לֹא כָּה שְׂאֵלְתִי, אֲלָא גְשָׁמֵי רְצוֹן בְּרַכָּה
וְנִדְבָה. יִרְדוּ כְּתִיקוֹן, עַד שֶׁעָלוּ כָּל הָעָם לְהַר
הַבַּיִת, מִפְּנֵי הַגְּשָׁמִים. אָמְרוּ לוֹ: רַבִּי, כָּשֶׁם
שֶׁהִתְפַּלַּלְתָּ שִׁירְדוּ, כָּה הִתְפַּלַּל וְיִלְכוּ לָהֶם. אָמַר
לָהֶם: כָּה מְקוּבְּלֵנִי שְׂאִין מִתְפַּלְּלִין עַל רוֹב הַטּוֹבָה.

אֵף עַל פִּי כֵן, הִבִּיאוּ לִי פֶר הַוּדָאָה. הִבִּיאוּ לוֹ פֶר
הַוּדָאָה, סִמָּה שְׁתֵּי יָדָיו עָלָיו, וְאָמַר לַפָּנָיו: רַבּוֹנוֹ
שֶׁל עוֹלָם! עֲמֵךְ יִשְׂרָאֵל שֶׁהוֹצֵאתָ מִמִּצְרַיִם אֵינֶן
יְכוּלִין לֹא בְּרוֹב טוֹבָה וְלֹא בְּרוֹב פּוֹרְעָנוֹת. כְּעֵסֶת
עֲלֵיהֶם — אֵינֶן יְכוּלִין לַעֲמוֹד, הַשְּׁפַעַת עֲלֵיהֶם
טוֹבָה — אֵינֶן יְכוּלִין לַעֲמוֹד, יְהִי רְצוֹן מִלְּפָנֶיךָ
שִׁיפְסְקוּ הַגְּשָׁמִים, וְיִהְיֶה רְיוּחַ בְּעוֹלָם. מִיַּד נִשְׁבָּה
הָרוּחַ, וְנִתְפָּזְרוּ הָעֵבִים, וְזָרְחָה הַחֲמָה, וְיִצְאוּ
הָעָם לַשָּׂדֶה וְהִבִּיאוּ לָהֶם כִּמְהִין וּפְטָרִיּוֹת.

שְׁלַח לוֹ שְׁמֵעוֹן בֶּן שֵׁטַח: אֲלֵמָלָא חוֹנֵי אַתָּה,
גּוֹזְרֵנִי עֲלֶיךָ נִידוּי. שְׂאִילוֹ שְׁנַיִם כֶּשֶׁבִי אֲלֵיָהוּ
שְׁמִפְתָּחוֹת גְּשָׁמִים בִּידוֹ שֶׁל אֲלֵיָהוּ, לֹא נִמְצָא שֵׁם
שְׁמַיִם מִתְחַלֵּל עַל יָדְךָ,

אָבֵל מָה אַעֲשֶׂה לָּךְ, שְׂאֵתָה מִתְחַטֵּא לַפָּנֵי הַמָּקוֹם
וְעוֹשֶׂה לָּךְ רְצוֹנָךְ, כְּבֵן שְׂמִתְחַטֵּא עַל אָבִיו וְעוֹשֶׂה

Friday Tefillah: Blessing 9

Years

does his bidding. And the son says: Father, take me to be bathed in hot water; wash me with cold water; give me nuts, almonds, peaches, and pomegranates. And his father gives him. About you, the verse states: “Your father and mother will be glad and she who bore you will rejoice” (Proverbs 23:25).

לו רצונו, ואומר לו: אבא, הוליכני לרחצני בחמין. שטפני בצונן. תן לי אגוזים, שקדים, אפרסקים ורמונים — ונתן לו. ועליך הכתוב אומר: “ישמח אביך ואמך ותגל יולדתך”.

Human Action to Bring the Rain

Pesikta DeRav Kahana 1

Another explanation of “Who will go up to heaven [and come down?]” (Prov. 30:4). Who is the one whose prayer will go up to heaven and bring down rain? The one who distributes tithes with his fist, he will bring down **dew and rain** to the world. “Who has gathered up the wind in the hollow of his hand? Who has wrapped the waters in his garment? Who has established all the extremities of the earth?” (Prov. 30:4). Who is the one whose prayer does not go up to heaven and does not bring down the rain? The one who does not distribute tithes with his fist, he stops the heaven from bringing down **dew and rain** to the world.

פסיקתא דרב כהנא פיסקא א”
מי עלה שמים (משלי ל), מי הוא זה שתפילתו עולה לשמים ומורידה גשמים, זה שהוא מחלק מעשרותיו בחפניו שהוא מוריד **טל ומטר** לעולם. מי אסף רוח בחפניו מי צרר מים בשמלה מי הקים כל אפסי ארץ (משלי ל), מי הוא זה שאין תפלתו עולה לשמים ולא מורידה את הגשמים, זה שאינו מחלק מעשרותיו בחפניו שהוא עוצר את השמים מהוריד **טל ומטר** לעולם.

The Earth

Siddur Lev Chadash

Bless this year for us, ה', our God,
and all its types of produce for good.
Grant blessing on the face of the earth
that it may have a future and a hope, abundance and peace.
Blessed are You, ה', who blesses the years.

דודור לב חדש
בִּרְךָ עֲלֵינוּ ה' אֱלֹהֵינוּ אֶת־הַשָּׁנָה הַזֹּאת
וְאֶת־כָּל־מִיְּנֵי תְבוּאָתָהּ לְטוֹבָה
וְתֵן בְּרִכָּה עַל־פְּנֵי הָאֲדָמָה
וְתֵהִי לָהּ אַחֲרִית וְתִקְוָה, שְׁבַע וְשָׁלוֹם
בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה ה' מְבָרֵךְ הַשָּׁנִים.