

הכנסת בת לברית

Covenant Service For



Sunday, August 3, 2003

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Covenant Service For

Sophie Shaiya
שׁוֹשָׁנָה

*(Sophie is brought in by her grandmothers,
wrapped in a tallit and held in a special chair.)*

זֶה הַכֵּסֵּא שֶׁל אֱלִיהוּ זְכוֹר לְטוֹב.

This is the chair of Elijah, whose spirit is with us. May his remembrance be for good, bearing the promise of God's redemption.

בְּרוּכָה הַבָּאָה בְּשֵׁם יי.

Blessed is she who comes here in God's name.

We rejoice! A child has come into the world. We rejoice as we welcome this child into the Brit, the Covenant between God and the Jewish people.

When the people of Israel stood at Mt. Sinai, ready to enter into the Brit, God addressed these words to Moses: "Thus shall you say to the House of Jacob, and tell the Children of Israel" Our rabbis taught: "House of Jacob" refers to the women of Israel, and "Children of Israel" refers to the men. (Midrash Rabba, Ex. 28:2)

May we, like all the men and women at Sinai, obey the commandment of God: "You shall be unto Me a kingdom of priests and a holy people." (Exodus 19:6)

When Israel stood at Sinai to receive the Torah, the Holy One said: “Present to Me good guarantors that you will guard my Torah, and then I shall give it to you.”

They said: “Our ancestors are our guarantors.”

The Holy One said: “Your ancestors are not sufficient guarantors. Bring me better guarantors, and I shall give you the Torah.”

They said: “Ruler of the universe, our prophets are our guarantors.”

God said to them: “The prophets are not sufficient guarantors. Yet bring Me better guarantors, and I shall give you the Torah.”

They said: “Our children will be our guarantors.”

The Holy One said: “They are certainly good guarantors. For their sake I give the Torah to you.”

The Psalmist said:

הִנֵּה נַחֲלַת יְיָ בְּנִים שְׂכָר פְּרֵי הַבֶּטֶן.

“Children are a heritage of God, the fruit of the womb is a precious reward.” (Psalm 127:3)

Our God and God of all generations, we thank You for many blessings:

For the mystery of creation, for Torah and mitzvot, for companionship and love, for the warmth of family, for the joy and sacred privilege of parenthood.

Parents:

We joyfully bring our daughter into the Covenant of Israel.

זָכַר לְעוֹלָם בְּרִיתוֹ, דָּבַר צְוָה לְאַלְפֵי דוֹר. אֶתָּה, יְיָ, כּוֹרֵת הַבְּרִית.

God remembers the Covenant forever, the word commanded to a thousand generations. We praise You, O God, who establishes the Covenant.