



liberal judaism **LECTIONARY**

A Guide to Recommended Torah & Haftarah Readings
for Shabbat, Festivals & Special Shabbatot

Thursday 1 Tishri 5785 – Friday 29 Ellul 5786
3 October 2024 – 11 September 2026

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*Additional copies of this Lectionary are available without charge, on application
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LIBERAL JUDAISM LECTIONARY 5785 & 5786

TABLE 1: A Guide to Recommended Torah & Haftarah Readings for Shabbat

A name in *italics* under the date indicates that the Shabbat is a 'special Shabbat'. The appropriate Haftarah will be found in TABLE 2 below, and replaces the regular Haftarah reading listed in the main Lectionary.

A Shabbat which is a Festival appears in TABLE 2, and is therefore "missing" from TABLE 1.

5785 2024	5786 2025	SHABBAT	RECOMMENDED TORAH READING	RELATED HAFTARAH
5 October <i>(Shuvah)</i>	4 October	Ha'azinu הַאֲזִינוּ	Deuteronomy 32:1-12 or 32:13-29 or 32:30-47	Hosea 14:2-10 & Micah 7:18-20 (<i>Shuvah</i>) II Samuel 22:1-20 Psalm 78* 1-39 Joel 2:15-27
19 October	11 October	CHOL HA-MO'ED SUKKOT חול-המועד סוכות	Exodus 23:1-17 or 33:12-23 or 34:1-8	Ecclesiastes* 1:1-18 & Ecclesiastes* 12:1-14 I Kings 8:1-21 I Kings 8:54-66
26 October	18 October	B'reishit בראשית	Genesis 1:1-19 or 3:1-24 or 4:1-16	Isaiah 42:5-21 Job* 38:1-18 Psalm 139* 1-18, 23-24
2 November <i>Rosh Chodesh Heshvan</i>	25 October	No'ach נח	Genesis 6:9-22 or 8:1-19 or 11:1-9	Isaiah 54:1-10 Jeremiah 31:23-36 Zephaniah 3:8-20 Isaiah 66:1-13; 22-23 (<i>Rosh Chodesh</i>)
9 November	1 November	Lech-L'cha לך-לך	Genesis 12:1-9 or 13:1-18 or 17:1-14	Isaiah 40:27- 41:16 Isaiah 51:1-16 Jeremiah 3:22-4:4
16 November	8 November	Va-yeira וירא	Genesis 18:1-19 or 21:1-21 or 22:1-19	II Kings 4:8-37 I Samuel 1:1-20 Jeremiah 7:1-23
23 November	15 November	Chayyei Sarah חיי שרה	Genesis 23:1-20 or 24:1-26 or 24:53-67	Proverbs* 1:10-31 I Kings 1:5-31 Ruth* 2:1-12
30 November	22 November	Toldot תולדות	Genesis 25:19-34 or 27:1-29 or 27:30-45	Malachi 1:1-11 Proverbs* 4:1-23 The Book of Obadiah
7 December	29 November	Va-yeitze ויצא	Genesis 28:10-22 or 29:1-20 or 31:22-34	Hosea 11:7-12:7 Proverbs* 22:1-12 I Kings 20:1-13
14 December	6 December	Va-yishlach וישלח	Genesis 32:23-33 or 33:1-20 or 35:9-21	Malachi 3:1-12 Joshua 9:1-15 Jeremiah 31:1-17
21 December	13 December	Va-yeishev וישב	Genesis 37:1-20 or 39:1-23 or 40:1-23	I Samuel 3:1-18 Proverbs* 6:20-7:5 Amos 2:6-3:8
28 December <i>Chanukkah III</i>	20 December <i>Chanukkah VI</i>	Miketz מקץ	Genesis 41:1-16 or 41:25-40 or 43:1-15	Zechariah 2:14-17 & 4:1-7 (<i>Chanukkah</i>)
2025 4 January	27 December	Va-yiggash ויגש	Genesis 45:1-15 or 45:25-46:7 or 47:1-12	Ezekiel 37:15-28 Psalm 105* 1-23 Amos 8:4-11
11 January	2026 3 January	Va-y'chi ויחי	Genesis 47:28-48:9 or 49:1-12 or 49:28-50:6	I Chronicles* 28:1-10 Job* 5:17-27 I Kings 2:1-12
18 January	10 January	Sh'mot שמות	Exodus 1:1-20 or 3:1-15 or 4:1-17	Isaiah 27:6-13 Jeremiah 1:1-10 Job* 40:1-14
25 January	17 January	Va-eira והארא	Exodus 6:2-13 or 7:14-26 or 9:22-35	Ezekiel 28:25-29:21 Isaiah 42:5-17 Psalm 78* 38-55
1 February	24 January	Bo בא	Exodus 10:1-11 or 12:1-11 or 13:3-16	Jeremiah 46:13-24, & 27-28 Ezra* 6:13-22 Chronicles II* 35:1-19

5785 2025	5786 2026	SHABBAT	RECOMMENDED TORAH READING		RELATED HAFTARAH	
8 February	31 January	B'shallach בשלח	Exodus or or	13:17-14:4 15:1-18 16:1-18	Judges Judges Psalm 78*	4:4-15 5:1-21 1-29
15 February	7 February	Yitro יתרו	Exodus or or	18:1-12 19:16-24 20:1-14	Isaiah Isaiah Nehemiah*	6:1-13 43:1-12 8:1-12
22 February	14 February (Shekalim)	Mishpatim משפטים	Exodus or or	21:1-11 22:20-23:9 24:1-18	Jeremiah Amos Ezekiel II Kings	34:8-17 & 33:25-26 5:6-24 1:1-14 12:1-17 (Shekalim)
1 March Rosh Chodesh Adar (Shekalim)	21 February	T'rumah תרומה	Exodus or or	25:1-16 25:31-40 27:1-8	I Kings I Chronicles* I Kings II Kings Isaiah	5:26-6:7 22:1-13 8:22-32 & 41-43 12:1-17 (Shekalim) 66:1-13; 22-23 (Rosh Chodesh)
8 March (Zachor)	28 February (Zachor)	T'tzavveh תצוה	Exodus or or	27:20-28:12 29:1-9 29:44-30:10	I Samuel	15:10-26 (Zachor)
15 March	7 March	Ki Tissa כי תשא	Exodus or or	31:1-17 32:1-14 34:1-10	I Kings II Chronicles* Psalm 96*	18:20-39 1:18-2:15
22 March	-	Va-yakheil ויקהל	Exodus	35:1-10	I Kings	7:40-51
29 March	-	P'kudei פקודי	Exodus or	39:32-43 40:24-38	I Kings I Kings	8:1-21 9:1-10
-	14 March	Va-yakheil-P'kudei ויקהל-פקודי	Exodus or or	35:1-10 39:32-43 40:24-38	I Kings I Kings I Kings	7:40-51 8:1-21 9:1-10
5 April	21 March	Va-yikra ויקרא	Leviticus or or	2:1-13 4:22-31 5:14-26	Isaiah Ecclesiastes* Isaiah	43:21-44 5:1-19 33:2-16
12 April (Ha-Gadol)	28 March (Ha-Gadol)	Tzav צו	Leviticus or or	6:1-11 7:22-38 8:1-13	Malachi Jeremiah	3:4-24 (Ha-Gadol) 7:21-8:3 & 9:22-23
19 April	4 April	CHOL HA-MO'ED PESACH חול-המועד פסח	Leviticus Exodus Exodus	23:1-8 or 33:12-23 or 34:1-8	Song of Songs* Ezekiel	2:8-17 & 8:6-7 or 37:1-14
26 April (Atz'ma'ut)	11 April	Sh'mini שמיני	Leviticus or or	9:1-10 10:1-11 11:1-12	Micah Isaiah I Chronicles* II Samuel Ecclesiastes*	4:1-7 (Atz'ma'ut) or 60:1-22 (Atz'ma'ut) 17:1-22 6:1-19 6:1-12
3 May	18 April (Rosh Chodesh Iyar) (Atz'ma'ut)	Tazri'a-M'tzora תזריע-מצורע	Leviticus or or	12:1-8 14:33-45 15:19-33	II Kings II Kings Isaiah	4:42-5:19 7:3-20 66:1-13 & 22-23 (Rosh Chodesh)
10 May	25 April	Acharei Mot-K'doshim אחרי מות-קדושים	Leviticus or or	16:1-10 19: 1-4, 9-18 19:23-37	II Kings Jeremiah Amos	23:1-3 & 19-25 11:1-14 9:7-15
17 May	2 May	Emor אמור	Leviticus or or	23:1-14 23:23-38 24:1-9	Nehemiah* Psalm 81* II Chronicles* Ezekiel	9:1-14 4:19-5:10 44:15-31
24 May	9 May	B'har-B'chukkotai בהר-בחקותי	Leviticus or or	25:1-13 25:39-55 26:3-13	Jeremiah Jeremiah Amos	32:6-27 16:19-17:14 8:1-11
31 May	16 May	B'midbar במדבר	Numbers or or	1:1-19 3:1-13 3:40-51	Hosea Psalm 28* Nehemiah*	2:1-3; 18-25 12:27-30 & 43-47
7 June	23 May ♦ see note (d)	Naso נשא	Numbers or or	4:21-33 6:1-12 6:22-7:11	Judges Judges II Chronicles*	13:2-25 16:1-31 6:1-17

5785 2025	5786 2026	SHABBAT	RECOMMENDED TORAH READING	RELATED HAFTARAH
14 June	30 May ♦ see note (d)	B'ha'alot'cha בהעלתך	Numbers 8:1-14 or 10:1-10 or 11:1-14	Zechariah 2:14-4:6 Joel 2:15-27 Psalm 90*
21 June	6 June ♦ see note (d)	Sh'lach L'cha שלח-לך	Numbers 13:21-33 or 14:1-20 or 14:26-44	Joshua 2:1-24 Job * 36:1-26 Joshua 14:6-15
28 June	13 June ♦ see note (d)	Korach קורח	Numbers 16:1-19 or 16:20-35 or 17:6-24	I Samuel 11:14-12:11 I Samuel 12:12-22 Ezekiel 44:15-31
5 July	20 June ♦ see note (d)	Chukat חוקת	Numbers 20:1-13 or 20:14-29 or 21:6-20	Micah 5:6-6:8 Habakkuk 3:1-19 Joshua 24:1-15
12 July	27 June ♦ see note (d)	Balak בלק	Numbers 22:21-35 or 23:5-27 or 24:1-18	Micah 5:6-6:8 Habakkuk 3:1-19 Joshua 24:1-15
19 July	4 July	Pinchas פינחס	Numbers 25:10-26:4 or 27:1-11 or 27:12-23	I Kings 18:46-19:21 Joshua 17:1-10 Joshua 23:1-14
26 July <i>Rosh Chodesh Av</i>	11 July	Mattot-Mass'ei מטות-מסעי	Numbers 32:1-19 or 33:1-11 or 35:1-14	Joshua 22:1-10 Jeremiah 2:4-19 & 4:1-2 Joshua 20:1-9 Isaiah 66:1-13; 22-23 (<i>Rosh Chodesh</i>)
2 August <i>Chazon</i>	18 July	D'varim דברים	Deuteronomy 1:1-14 or 2:1-9 or 3:8-22	Isaiah 1:1-27
9 August <i>Nachamu</i>	25 July	Va-etchannan ואתחנן	Deuteronomy 3:23-4:9 or 5:1-18 or 6:1-15	Isaiah 40:1-26
16 August	1 August	Eikev עקב	Deuteronomy 8:1-10 or 9:25-10:11 or 11:13-25	Psalm 136* Psalm 19* Isaiah 50:1-51:3
23 August	8 August	R'eh ראה	Deuteronomy 13:1-12 or 15:1-11 or 16:1-17	Isaiah 54:11-55:5 Proverbs* 16:1-17 Isaiah 26:1-15
30 August	15 August	Shoftim שופטים	Deuteronomy 17:14-18:5 or 19:1-10 or 20:1-12	Jeremiah 23:16-32 Isaiah 51:12-23 Isaiah 52:1-12
6 September	22 August	Ki Teitze כי תצא	Deuteronomy 22:1-12 or 24:10-22 or 25:1-10	Isaiah 54:1-10 Proverbs* 30:1-14 Jeremiah 22:10-22
13 September	29 August	Ki Tavo כי תבוא	Deuteronomy 26:1-11 or 27:1-10 or 28:1-14	Isaiah 60:1-22 Joshua 4:1-14 Isaiah 35:1-10
-	5 September	Nitzavim Va-yelech נצבים-וילך	Deuteronomy 30:1-10 or 30:11-20 or 31:1-13	Isaiah 61:10-62:12 Isaiah 63:1-9 Jeremiah 31:26-35
20 September	-	Nitzavim נצבים	Deuteronomy 30:1-10 or 30:11-20	Isaiah 61:10-62:12 Isaiah 63:1-9 Jeremiah 31:26-35
27 September <i>Shuvah</i>	-	Va-yelech וילך	Deuteronomy 31:1-13	Hosea 14:2-10 & Micah 7:18-20 (<i>Shuvah</i>)

- (a) The books of the Hebrew Bible are divided into three groups: the Torah, the books of the Prophets (*Nevi-im*), and the Writings (*Ketuvim*). Traditionally, the Haftarah has always been chosen from one of the books of the Prophets, echoing the theme of the week's Torah portion. However, in our Lectionary, we have extended the range of Haftarah readings by selecting texts from the Writings that equally echo or amplify the theme of the Torah. These Haftarah where selected are indicated by an asterisk (*). If your synagogue chooses to use texts from the Writings for the Haftarah, the words of the blessings before and after the Haftarah need to be modified.

Following a suggestion from Rabbi Dr John Rayner CBE, ז"ל,
we would suggest replacing the blessing *before* the Haftarah with:

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתָיו, וְצִוָּנוּ לִקְרֹא בְּכַתְבֵי הַקּוֹדֶשׁ.

We praise You, Eternal God, Sovereign of the Universe.
You sanctify us by Your commandments, and enjoin us to read from the holy Writings.

In the blessing *after* the Haftarah, the words וְעַל־הַנְּבִיאִים 'for the Prophets',
should be replaced by וְעַל־כָּל־כְּתָבֵי הַקּוֹדֶשׁ 'for the Writings'.

- (b) There are several 'special shabbatot' during the year, which fall just before a festival. On these shabbatot, *a special Haftarah reading replaces the regular one*, according to the second table in the Lectionary. To indicate that a shabbat is one of these 'special shabbatot', its name is *shown in italics* below the date in the main Lectionary.
- (c) LJ synagogues do not generally observe the following 'special shabbatot': Parah, HaChodesh & Machar Chodesh. We do not celebrate the second days of festivals; nor do we observe Rosh Chodesh on the last day of a 30-day month, but only on the first day of the new month. The special Haftarah readings for all these occasions have therefore not been included.
- (d) The six shabbatot between 23 May and 27 June 2026 have been marked in red ♦ *see note (d)*, in the main table. This is because on these Shabbatot our Torah readings will differ from those read in Orthodox synagogues. The reason is that Orthodox synagogues outside Israel celebrate the major festivals for two days, whilst we follow the Biblical calendar and keep just one day, as do all synagogues in Israel. Shabbat 23 May 2026 will be, for the Orthodox, the second day Shavuot – so they will be reading the festival Torah reading. We, who observe seven days for Pesach, will regard those days as 'ordinary' Shabbatot and so will read the appropriate parashah within the annual cycle, as in Israel.
- (e) Very occasionally, the chapter and verse references cited in our Lectionary will differ from the references to the same texts given in Christian Bibles. Using a Jewish Bible will guarantee that the text read comprises exactly the verses intended! The best current Jewish translation is 'Tanach', published by the Jewish Publication Society of America. This is also the translation used in the Plaut Chumash.

**TABLE 2: A Guide to Recommended Torah & Haftarah Readings
for Festivals & Special Shabbatot**

5785 2024/2025	5786 2025/2026	FESTIVAL / SPECIAL SHABBAT	RECOMMENDED TORAH READING	SPECIAL HAFTARAH
3 October <i>Thursday</i>	23 September <i>Tuesday</i>	Rosh Hashanah	Genesis 22: 1-19 or Genesis 21:1-21	Isaiah 55:6-13 or I Samuel 1:1-20
5 October <i>Saturday</i>	27 September <i>Saturday</i>	Shabbat Shuvah <i>before Yom Kippur</i>	Normal Shabbat reading (see table above)	Hosea 14:2-10 & Micah 7:18-20
12 October <i>Saturday</i>	2 October <i>Thursday</i>	Yom Kippur morning	Deuteronomy 29:9-14, & 30:11-20	Isaiah 58:1-14
12 October <i>Saturday</i>	2 October <i>Thursday</i>	Yom Kippur afternoon	Leviticus 19:1-4, 9-18, & 32-37	The Book of Jonah
17 October <i>Thursday</i>	7 October <i>Tuesday</i>	Sukkot <i>First day</i>	Leviticus 23:33-44	Joel 2:12-3:2 or Isaiah 32:1-8 & 14-20 or Isaiah 35:1-10
24 October <i>Thursday</i>	14 October <i>Tuesday</i>	Simchat Torah	Deuteronomy 34:1-12 & Genesis 1:1-5	Joshua 1:1-17 or Nehemiah* 8:1-18
28 December <i>Saturday</i>	20 December <i>Saturday</i>	Shabbat Chanukah	Normal Shabbat reading (see table above)	Zechariah 2:14-17 & 4:1-7
1 March <i>Saturday</i>	14 February <i>Saturday</i>	Shabbat Shekalim <i>before Rosh Chodesh Adar</i>	Normal Shabbat reading (see table above) Plus Exodus 30:11-16	II Kings 12:1-17
8 March <i>Saturday</i>	28 February <i>Saturday</i>	Shabbat Zachor <i>before Purim</i>	Normal Shabbat reading (see table above)	I Samuel 15:10-26
12 April <i>Saturday</i>	28 March <i>Saturday</i>	Shabbat Ha-Gadol <i>before Pesach</i>	Normal Shabbat reading (see table above)	Malachi 3:4-24
13 April <i>Sunday</i>	2 April <i>Thursday</i>	Pesach <i>First day</i>	Exodus 12:37-42 & 13:3-10	Isaiah 43:1-2 & 10-21 or Nehemiah* 9:6-31
19 April <i>Shabbat</i>	8 April <i>Wednesday</i>	Pesach <i>Seventh day</i>	Exodus 14:30-15:18 or Deuteronomy 4:32-40	Ezekiel 37:1-14 or Isaiah 11:1-12 & 11:16-12:6
26 April <i>Saturday</i>	18 April <i>Saturday</i>	Shabbat Atz'ma'ut <i>before Israel Independence Day</i>	Normal Shabbat reading (see table above)	Micah 4:1-7 or Isaiah 60:1-22
2 June <i>Monday</i>	22 May <i>Friday</i>	Shavu'ot	Exodus 19:1-18 & 20:1-14 or Deuteronomy 5:1-18	Ruth* 1:1-2:12 & 4:13-17 or Isaiah 42:1-12 or Isaiah 49:1-13

When Rosh Chodesh falls on a Shabbat, the normal Shabbat reading should be followed by the special Haftarah:

5785	5786	SHABBAT & ROSH CHODESH	TORAH READING	HAFTARAH
2 November (<i>Heshvan</i>) 1 March (<i>Adar</i>) 26 July (<i>Av</i>)	18 April (<i>Iyar</i>)	Shabbat & Rosh Chodesh	Normal Shabbat reading (see table above)	Isaiah 66:1-13; 22-23

FESTIVAL	2024/2025 5785	2025/2026 5786	2026/2027 5787	2027/2028 5788	2028/2029 5789
ROSH HA-SHANAH <i>1 Tishri</i>	Thursday 3 October	Tuesday 23 September	Saturday 12 September	Saturday 2 October	Thursday 21 September
YOM KIPPUR <i>10 Tishri</i>	Saturday 12 October	Thursday 2 October	Monday 21 September	Monday 11 October	Saturday 30 September
1ST DAY SUKKOT <i>15 Tishri</i>	Thursday 17 October	Tuesday 7 October	Saturday 26 September	Saturday 16 October	Thursday 5 October
SHEMINI ATZERET / SIMCHAT TORAH * <i>22 Tishri</i>	Thursday 24 October	Tuesday 14 October	Saturday 3 October	Saturday 23 October	Thursday 12 October
1ST DAY CHANUKKAH <i>25 Kislev</i>	Wednesday 25 December	Monday 15 December	Saturday 5 December	Saturday 25 December	Wednesday 13 December
TU BI-SH'VAT <i>15 Shevat</i>	Thursday 13 February	Monday 2 February	Saturday 23 January	Saturday 12 February	Wednesday 31 January
PURIM <i>14 Adar</i>	Friday 14 March	Tuesday 3 March	Tuesday 23 March	Sunday 12 March	Thursday 1 March
1ST DAY PESACH <i>15 Nisan</i>	Sunday 13 April	Thursday 2 April	Thursday 22 April	Tuesday 11 April	Saturday 31 March
7TH DAY PESACH <i>21 Nisan</i>	Saturday 19 April	Wednesday 8 April	Wednesday 28 April	Monday 17 April	Friday 6 April
YOM HA-SHO'AH <i>generally 27 Nisan</i>	Thursday 24 April <i>(26 Nisan)</i>	Tuesday 14 April	Tuesday 4 May	Sunday 23 April	Thursday 12 April
YOM HA-ATZ'MA'UT <i>generally 5 Iyar</i>	Thursday 1 May	Wednesday 22 April	Wednesday 12 May	Monday 1 May	Thursday 19 April <i>(4 Iyar)</i>
SHAVU'OT <i>6 Sivan</i>	Monday 2 June	Friday 22 May	Friday 11 June	Wednesday 31 May	Sunday 20 May
TISH'AH B'AV <i>generally 9 Av</i>	Sunday 3 August	Thursday 23 July	Thursday 12 August	Tuesday 1 August	Sunday 22 July <i>(10 Av)</i>
S'LICHOT (night of)	Saturday 13 September	Saturday 5 September	Saturday 25 September	Saturday 16 September	Saturday 1 September

* Most Progressive Jews in the Diaspora observe the eighth day of Sukkot as Simchat Torah, some may follow the orthodox practice and instead observe the next day.