

## WHAT YOU WILL BE LEARNING

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FOR YOUR BAR-MITZVAH YOU WILL LEARN TO SING TWO DIFFERENT THINGS. THE FIRST THING YOU WILL BE SINGING IS CALLED THE **MAFTIR** AND IT IS READ FROM THE TORAH. HEBREW IN THE TORAH LOOKS A LITTLE DIFFERENT THAN HEBREW IN A REGULAR BOOK. THE LETTERS ARE FANCIER, AND THERE ARE NO VOWELS OR SYMBOLS. IN ORDER TO HELP YOU PREPARE FOR THE MAFTIR, THIS BOOK HAS YOUR MAFTIR WRITTEN IN BOTH REGULAR HEBREW LETTERS, AND TORAH LETTERS. ALONG WITH THE MAFTIR, THERE ARE TWO BLESSINGS: THE BLESSING BEFORE AN ALIYAH, AND THE BLESSING AFTER AN ALIYAH.

THE SECOND THING THAT YOU WILL LEARN IS CALLED THE **HAFTARAH** (NOT HALF-TORAH!). HAFTARAH DOES NOT COME FROM THE TORAH; IT COMES FROM ONE OF THE BOOKS OF THE PROPHETS. ON YOUR BAR-MITZVAH DAY, YOU WILL READ THE HAFTARAH RIGHT FROM THIS VERY BOOK! YOU WON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT THE HEBREW LETTERS LOOKING DIFFERENT, OR THE VOWELS DISAPPEARING. IF YOU ARE SHARING YOUR BAR-MITZVAH WITH SOMEONE, THEN YOU WILL EACH SING HALF OF THE HAFTARAH, EVEN THOUGH YOU WILL LEARN IT ALL. ALONG WITH THE HAFTARAH, THERE ARE BLESSINGS BEFORE AND AFTER THE HAFTARAH.