

# Bris Milah of Baby Boy Freedman

2 Nissan, 5779 | March 15, 2021

Dear friends,

For over 3000 years, Jews have been performing this mitzvah often at times under great duress and even at the risk of their lives and we are truly blessed that we live in such a time and place in which there is no need to fear any sort of repercussion for practicing our religion and following our traditions.

The bris milah ceremony is usually fast-paced and is over quickly. It is easy to get confused about what is happening when and by who. We therefore put together this guide to help you follow along. If you have any questions about what was happening or why something is done a certain way, please don't hesitate to reach out to either of us, during the meal or anytime afterwards.

Lastly, no simchah is complete without friends and family to celebrate it with and we are so honored and appreciative that you took time out of your busy day to join us for this celebration. May we continue to share in happy occasions together!

Sincerely,

Shani and Mayer Freedman

# Bris Milah Ceremony Outline

1. The *kvatterin* (often translated as Godmother) brings the baby into the room in which the bris will take place. She gives the baby to the *kvatter* (often translated as Godfather), who is usually her husband, who brings the infant into the bris area.
2. Everyone greets the baby with '*Baruch Habah!*' – 'Blessed is the one who has come!'
3. The *Mohel* (circumciser) greets the baby with an extended blessing and recites a few verses from the Torah about God's bris (covenant) of peace as well as the introductory words of God to Abraham when he first told him about this special mitzvah of bris milah, "Walk before me in perfection."
4. An honoree is called upon to place the baby on the 'Chair of Elijah'. According to Jewish tradition, Elijah comes to every circumcision to testify before the Almighty to the commitment of the Jewish people to this great mitzvah throughout the generations.
5. The *Mohel* declares that this is Elijah's chair and recites a few verses asking for God's salvation and about the importance of Torah study
6. The *sandak*, the one who will hold the baby during the circumcision, is invited up and sits down on the chair next to the Chair of Elijah
7. The father then takes the baby from Elijah's chair and places him onto the lap of the *sandak*
8. The *Mohel* recites a blessing on the performance of the mitzvah of Bris Milah
9. The *Mohel* performs the circumcision
10. As the *Mohel* performs the circumcision, the father of the baby recites a blessing, thanking God for this special 3000-year-old mitzvah of Bris Milah
11. Everyone present blesses the child, "Just as he has entered into the covenant, so to may he enter into the study of Torah, the ceremony of marriage, and the performance of good deeds!"
12. With the circumcision itself completed, an honoree is called up to hold the baby while a second honoree recited a blessing over a cup of wine and then another blessing praising God for giving us this special Bris Milah mitzvah and asking that in merit for our performance of it, may the Final Redemption come speedily
13. Another honoree is called up to hold the baby, while yet another honoree names the child and pronounces him a full-fledged member of the Jewish people
14. The *Mohel* blesses the child that he should have a speedy recovery from the bris as well as success in his future spiritual undertakings
15. The baby is taken out of the area by the *kvatter* as the everyone else present recites the Aleinu prayer
16. Kaddish is recited by anyone who is within the 12-month mourning period for a parent
17. Everyone is invited to partake in a festive meal at which Torah thoughts will be shared and usually one of the parents explains why they chose that specific name for their child