Contents

Foreword: The Haftarah Reading: The Leopard in Our Sanctuary	xvii
Rabbi Jonah Dov Pesner	xxiii
Acknowledgments Introduction	
Rabbi Barbara AB Symons	XXV
How to Use This Book	xxxi
Haftarah from Biblical Times to the Present	
Historical Context and Core Messages: Who Were the Biblical Prophets? Rabbi Elizabeth Bahar	3
Reading from the Prophets: The History and Significance of the Haftarah Readings in Rabbinic Judaism and in the Reform Movement <i>Rabbi Richard S. Sarason</i> , <i>PhD</i>	25
Connecting the Haftarah Readings with Social Justice Work: Reform Judaism from the Beginning of the Social Justice Movement to Today <i>Rabbi Lance J. Sussman</i> , <i>PhD</i>	39
The Prophetic Voice in the Reform Movement Today Rabbi Rachel Timoner	49
Contemporary Blessings for Prophetic Readings Rabbi Samantha G. Frank and Rabbi Daniel G. Zemel	55
Alternative Blessings Rabbi Samantha G. Frank and Rabbi Daniel G. Zemel, Cantor David Berger, Cantor Margot E.B. Goldberg and Rabbi Barbara AB Symons	59
Haftarot for the Weekly Torah Portions	
GENESIS	65
B'reishit	67
Isaiah 42:5–43:10	
I Samuel 20:31–42	
Nehemiah 8:1-3; Rabbi Regina Jonas	
Noach	71
Isaiah 54:1-55:5	
"Tel Aviv: 1935," by Leah Goldberg	
"The Rainbow Haftarah," by Rabbi Arthur Waskow	

Lech L'cha	77
Isaiah 40:27–41:16	
"Traveler's Prayer," by Rabbi Sheila Peltz Weinberg	
"Let Go," by Alden Solovy	
Vayeira	81
II Kings 4:1–37	
Maimonides, Mishneh Torah, Hilchot Mat'not Aniyim 10:4	
From Messengers of God: Biblical Portraits and Legends, by Elie Wiesel	
Chayei Sarah	86
I Kings 1:1-31	
Jeremiah 1:11–19	
From The Chosen, by Rabbi Chaim Potok	
Tol'dot	91
Malachi 1:1–2:7	
From Everyday Holiness, by Alan Morinis	
"A Call to the Leaders of Islam for Peace and Brotherhood,"	
by Rabbi Ben-Zion Meir Hai Uziel and Rabbi Yitzhak HaLevi Herz	og
Vayeitzei	96
Hosea 12:13–14:10	
"Where Will I Find You," by Y'hudah HaLevi	
From "I and Thou," by Martin Buber	
Vayishlach	IOI
Hosea 11:7–12:12	
II Samuel 13:1-3, 5, 9-12, 14-16, 18-20	
"God Wrestler," by Rick Lupert	
Vayeishev	107
Amos 2:6–3:8	
Psalm 126:1–6; Babylonian Talmud, <i>Taanit</i> 23a	
The First Shabbat of the Winter Cycle: Shabbat of Thanksgiving	III
Joshua 1:1–11, 5:1	
Mikeitz	113
I Kings 3:15–4:1	
Sh'mot Rabbah 18:12	
The Second Shabbat of the Winter Cycle	116
Jeremiah 29:4–14	
Vayigash	118
Ezekiel 37:15–28	
Psalm 73:1–3, 21–28	

	CONTENTS
► The Third Shabbat of the Winter Cycle	122
Isaiah 2:1-5	
Va-y'chi	124
I Kings 2:1-12	
Babylonian Talmud, B'rachot 12a	
The Fourth Shabbat of the Winter Cycle: Shabbat of New Year's	127
Isaiah 56:1–7	
EXODUS	129
Sh'mot	131
Isaiah 27:6–28:13, 29:22–23	
The Sephardic Tradition / Jeremiah 1:1–10	
Babylonian Talmud, B'rachot 63a; Pirkei Avot 2:6	
Va-eira	136
Ezekiel 28:25–29:21	
"Pride," by Dahlia Ravikovitch	
Americans with Disabilities Act	
Bo	142
Jeremiah 46:13–28	
Zechariah 8:14–23	
From "Religion and Race," by Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel	Ĺ
B'shalach/Shabbat Shirah	146
Judges 4:4-5:31	
From "My Parents' Lodging Place," by Yehuda Amichai	
"The Fourfold Song," by Rabbi Abraham Isaac Kook	
Yitro	150
Isaiah 6:1–7:6, 9:5–6	
Pirkei Avot 3:21	
From Standing Again at Sinai, by Judith Plaskow	
Mishpatim	155
Jeremiah 34:8–22, 33:25–26	
"The New Colossus," by Emma Lazarus	
"The low road," by Marge Piercy	
T'rumah	160
I Kings 5:26–6:13	
Song of Songs 3	
Orchot Tzaddikim 2:6	
T'tgapeh	т64

Ezekiel 43:10-27

vii

Isaiah 61:1-4, 6-11	
Psalm 122	
KiTisa	169
I Kings 18:1–39	
"Before the Statue of Apollo," by Shaul Tchernichovsky	
"K'hilah K'doshah," by Dan Nichols and Rabbi Michael Moskowitz	
Vayak'heil	175
I Kings 7:40–50	
"To be of use," by Marge Piercy	
From "When We Make Art Together, We Dream a Better World	
into Existence," by Caroline Rothstein	
P'kudei	180
I Kings 7:51-8:21	
Babylonian Talmud, Gittin 55a	
"Gods Change, Prayers Are Here to Stay," by Yehuda Amichai	
	-0.
LEVITICUS	185
Vayikra	187
Isaiah 43:21–44:23	
From "Where Judaism Differs," by Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver	
S'firat HaOmer, Week 1:	190
Pirkei Avot 1:1	
Tzav	192
Jeremiah 7:21–8:3, 9:22–23	
Avot D'Rabbi Natan 4	
S'firat HaOmer, Week 2:	195
Babylonian Talmud, <i>M'nachot 29b</i>	
Sh'mini	197
II Samuel 6:1–7:17	
Job 38:1-6, 40:1-5	
S'firat HaOmer, Week 3:	20
Babylonian Talmud, Taanit 7a; Pirkei Avot 4:15	
Tazria	203
II Kings 4:42-5:19	
From Critique of the Gotha Program, by Karl Marx, 1875	
S'firat HaOmer, Week 4:	206
Babylonian Talmud, Eiruvin 13b; Pirkei Avot 5:20	
M'tzora	208
II Kings 7:3–20	
Mishnah Yoma 8:0	

► S'firat HaOmer, Week 5:	211
Babylonian Talmud, <i>Yoma</i> 35b	
Acharei Mot	213
Ezekiel 22:1–19	
From "To a Young Jew of Today," by Elie Wiesel	
► S'firat HaOmer, Week 6:	217
Babylonian Talmud, Gittin 6b; B'rachot 7a	
K'doshim	219
Amos 9:7–15	
"V'ahavta," by Marge Piercy	
► S'firat HaOmer, Week 7:	222
Sh'mot Rabbah 28:6	
Emor	224
Ezekiel 44:15–31	
Isaiah 1:11–17	
"Ready and Prepared," by Trisha Arlin	
B'har	230
Jeremiah 32:6–27	
Joel 4:9–21	
"The Horrors of Slavery," by Ernestine Rose	
B'chukotai	236
Jeremiah 16:19–17:14	
"Teach Me, O God," by Leah Goldberg	
"For Complete Healing," by Debbie Perlman	
NUMBERS	24I
B'midbar	243
Hosea 2:1–22	
Psalm 136:1–9, 23–26	
From Zohar 1:15b; Pardes Rimonim, by Moses Cordovero	
Naso	248
Judges 13:2–25	
Psalms 67:2, 116:12, 104:1a, 118:5, 27:9, 18:29, 31:8, 42:3, 34:15, 42:6	
From "To Be a Jew: What Is It?" by Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel	
B'haalot'cha	253
Zechariah 2:14–4:7	
I Kings 19:1-8	
From "I Speak to You as an American Jew," by Rabbi Joachim Prinz	

Sh'lach L'cha	257
Joshua 2:1–24	
Psalm 91:1–12	
"The Silver Platter," by Natan Alterman	
Korach	262
I Samuel 11:14–12:22	
From Ben-Gurion, by Shimon Peres	
From Jews and Words, by Amos Oz and Fania Oz-Salzberger	
Chukat	266
Judges 11:1–33	
"Reciprocity," by Laura Eve Engel	
"You Are My Rock," by Moshe Lavee	
Balak	270
Micah 5:6-6:8	
"When Evil Darkens Our World," by Rabbi Chaim Stern	
"Bein Kodesh L'chol" / "Between the Holy and the Mundane," by	
Amir Dadon and Shuli Rand; Psalm 51:13–17	
Pinchas	274
I Kings 18:46–19:21	
II Samuel 21:8–14	
From "Bashert," by Irena Klepfisz	
Matot	278
Jeremiah 1:1–2:3	
From "Can Women Serve as Rabbis?" by Rabbi Regina Jonas	
From "Patriarchal Poetry," by Gertrude Stein	
Mas'ei	284
Jeremiah 2:4–28, 3:4 (Ashkenazic) or 2:4–28, 4:1–2 (Sephardic)	
Babylonian Talmud, B'rachot 29b; T'filat HaDerech	
From "Trees," by Leah Goldberg	
DEUTERONOMY	289
D'varim	291
Isaiah 1:1–27	
Babylonian Talmud, Sanhedrin 98a	
From "Take This Poem and Copy It," by Almog Behar	
Va-et'chanan/Shabbat Nachamu	295
Isaiah 40:1–26	
"V'ahavta," by Aurora Levins Morales	
"Tears, Too Close: A Prayer of Consolation," by Alden Solovy	

Eikev	301
Isaiah 49:14–51:3	
"The Death of Adam," by Howard Schwartz	
"A Holy Nation," by Rabbi Regina Jonas	
R'eih	305
Isaiah 54:11-55:5	
Jeremiah 5:20–31	
"Blessing and the Curse," by Rabbi Joe Black	
Shof'tim	310
Isaiah 51:12–52:12	
Correspondence, Moses Seixas to George Washington, August 17, 1790	
► Elul, Week 1: Wisdom of Solomon 1:1, 8:1–13, 21	
Ki Teitzei	315
Isaiah 54:1–10	
Nachmanides on Deuteronomy 21:13	
► Elul, Week 2: Maimonides, Mishneh Torah, Hilchot Dei-ot 1:4, 7	
Ki Tavo	319
Isaiah 60:1–22	
From When Bad Things Happen to Good People, by Rabbi Harold S. Kushne.	r
► Elul, Week 3: "Would an All-Powerful God Be Worthy of Worship?"	
by Rabbi Harold S. Kushner	
Nitzavim	324
Isaiah 61:10–63:9	
Ezekiel 18:21–32	
► Elul, Week 4: Nehemiah 6:1–13, 15	
Vayeilech/Shabbat Shuvah	328
Isaiah 55:6-56:8/Hosea 14:2-10; Micah 7:18-20; Joel 2:15-27	
Letter by Rabbi Stephen S. Wise, 1942	
"The Place Where We Are Right," by Yehuda Amichai	
Haazinu	332
II Samuel 22:1–51	
Psalm 90	
"Two Candles," by Rabbi Zoë Klein	
V'zot Hab'rachah	337
Joshua 1:1–18	
Micah 4:1–10	
Babylonian Talmud, B'rachot 16b	

Haftarot for the Traditional Jewish Calendar	
Shabbat Rosh Chodesh	345
Isaiah 66:1-13, 23	
Psalm 104:19–35	
"Split at the Root," by Adrienne Rich	
Shabbat Machar Chodesh	350
I Samuel 20:18–42	
From "Beautiful City," by Stephen Schwartz (from the musical Godspell)	
"Adoni," from Beloved King by J. Sylvan	
Rosh HaShanah	355
I Samuel 1:1–2:10	
Jeremiah 31:2–20	
"The Shofar's Calling," by Rabbi Israel Zoberman	
"The Judgment of Creation," by Aharon Berechiah of Modena, 1610	
From "Jews in the U.S.: The Rising Costs of Whiteness," by Melanie	
Kaye/Kantrowitz	
From "The Real Hero," by Yehuda Amichai	
For Shabbat Shuvah, see Vayeilech/Shabbat Shuvah, page 328	
Yom Kippur, Morning	363
Isaiah 57:14–58:14	
"Merger Poem," by Judy Chicago	
Leonard Fein, as quoted in a sermon by Rabbi Aryeh Azriel, 2011	
Yom Kippur, Afternoon	367
The Book of Jonah	
Babylonian Talmud, B'rachot 10a	
"I Remember You," by Rabbi Joe Black	
Sukkot, Day 1	372
Zechariah 14:7-9, 14:16-21	
"Be the Change," by Sue Horowitz	
"Beauty Dances," by Alden Solovy	
Shabbat Chol HaMo-eid Sukkot	377
Ezekiel 38:18–39:7	
From The Essence of Judaism, by Rabbi Leo Baeck	
"A Man in His Life," by Yehuda Amichai	
Simchat Torah	381
Joshua 1:1–18	
Nehemiah 8:1–10	
"Blessed Are You," by Ruhama Weiss, PhD	

Chanukah, Shabbat 1	385
Zechariah 4:1–7	
"In Exile," by Emma Lazarus	
From "Some Notes on Jewish Lesbian Identity," by Melanie	
Kaye/Kantrowitz	
Chanukah, Shabbat 2	390
I Kings 7:40–50	
Jeremiah 31:27–40	
"At Your Feet, Jerusalem," by Uri Zvi Greenberg	
Shabbat Sh'kalim	395
II Kings 12:5–16	
Babylonian Talmud, Sanhedrin 17b	
From "Religion and Race," by Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel	
Shabbat Zachor	399
Esther 7:1–10, 8:15–17	
Jeremiah 29:1–9	
Babylonian Talmud, <i>M'gillah</i> 7b	
Shabbat Parah	403
Ezekiel 36:22–36	
"Esther," by Else Lasker-Schüler	
"And You Shall Draw Water ," by Rabbi Sue Levi Elwell	
Shabbat HaChodesh	407
Ezekiel 45:16–25	
From "The First Day of Pesach, 1857," by Rabbi David Einhorn	
"Book of Mercy #43," by Leonard Cohen	
Shabbat HaGadol	411
Malachi 3:4–24	
"God's Beloved," Anonymous	
"Tefillah for Agunot," by Shelley Frier List	
Pesach, Day 1	416
Isaiah 43:1-15	
"Reform Is Historical," by Rabbi Abraham Geiger	
"Discovery," by Ruth Brin	
Shabbat Chol HaMo-eid Pesach	420
Ezekiel 37:1–14	
Song of Songs 2:8–13, 5:2, 8:6–7, 13	
From the writings of Rabbi Dr. Shmuly Yanklowitz	

Pesach, Day 7	425
II Samuel 22:1–51	
Henrietta Szold's Letter to Haym Peretz, on Saying <i>Kaddish</i> for Her Moth "Passover's Peace Partners," by Rabbi Israel Zoberman	er
Shavuot	429
Ezekiel 1:1-28, 3:12 and Isaiah 42:1-12	
"A Ketubah for Shavuot," by Rabbi Israel Najara	
"We All Stood Together," by Merle Feld	
Tishah B'Av	434
Jeremiah 8:13–9:23 and Isaiah 55:6–56:8	
"For the Anniversary of the Destruction of Jerusalem," by Rabbi David	
Einhorn	
From Listening to Battered Women: A Survivor-Centered Approach to Advocacy,	by
Lisa A. Goodman and Deborah Epstein	
Haftarot for the American Jewish Calendar	
Martin Luther King Day	44I
From "Why We Went: A Joint Letter from the Rabbis Arrested in	
St. Augustine," 1964	
Tu BiSh'vat	442
Babylonian Talmud, <i>Taanit</i> 5b	
Black History Month	444
From "All the Things We Can Do with Hope," by Evan Traylor, 2019	
Presidents' Day	445
Proverbs 16:15–31	
Women's History Month	447
Esther 4:14; Speech by Rabbi Sally J. Priesand, Ordained as the	
First Female Rabbi at a Rabbinical Seminary, in June 1972	
International Women's Day	448
From "Brown v. Board of Education in International Context,"	
by Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg	
Equal Pay Day	450
From "The Women of Reform Judaism Resolution on Pay Equity," 2015	
Transgender Day of Visibility	451
"Invisibility in Academe," by Adrienne Rich	
Baseball Opening Day	452
From "Kenneth Holtzman," Jewish Virtual Library	
Yom HaShoah	454
Ezekiel 37:1–14	

The Shabbat between Yom HaShoah and Yom HaAtzma-ut	455
Zechariah 4:1–14	
Yom HaAtzma-ut	457
The Israeli "Scroll of Independence" (M'gillat HaAtzma-ut)	
Earth Day	458
Pirkei D'Rabbi Eliezer 12:4, 6	
Lesbian Visibility Day	460
"I Shall Sing to the Lord a New Song," by Rabbi Ruth Sohn	
Mental Health Awareness Month	461
Jeremiah 20:7–18	
Jewish American Heritage Month	463
"Prayer for the Government" of the Reformed Society of Israelites,	
Charleston, South Carolina, 1825	
Mother's Day	465
"Women at the Head of the Class," by Jessica de Koninck	
Harvey Milk Day	466
From "The Hope Speech," by Harvey Milk	
Memorial Day	467
II Chronicles 10:1–11	
Gun Violence Prevention Day	469
Nachum 3:1, 3, 7, 18–19	
Beginning of Summer Camp	470
From Next Generation Judaism, by Rabbi Mike Uram	
Father's Day	471
"A Father's Blessing," from a Sermon by Rabbi Jerome Malino, 1974	
Pride Shabbat	473
Isaiah 58:1–12	
Juneteenth	475
From "Why Black Lives Matter to a People for Whom God Promised	
a Holy Place," by Graie Hagans	
Independence Day	476
Isaiah 1:11–7; Psalm 137:1–4	
Opening the Olympic Games	478
From "Exclusive: Aly Raisman Speaks Out on Sexual Harassment,	
Judaism, and Her Future," by Aiden Pink	
Labor Day	480
Speech by Rose Schneiderman, April 2, 1911, after the	
Triangle Shirtwaist Fire	

xvi | CONTENTS

September II	481
"The Sandcastles," by Haim Gouri	
Bisexual Visibility Day	482
Ruth 1:12–22	
Breast Cancer Awareness Month	484
Psalm 27	
Domestic Violence Awareness Month	486
From "In the Midst of History," by Martin Buber	
Invisible Illness Awareness Week	487
From Tomer Devorah (The Palm Tree of Deborah), by Moses Cordovero	
National Coming Out Day	488
From "Coming Out: An Act of Love," by Rob Eichberg	
Indigenous Peoples' Day	489
From the speeches of Justice Raquel Montoya-Lewis	
Election Day	491
I Samuel 8:4–6, 10–20	
Kristallnacht	492
"The Salty Taste of Tears," by Rabbi Joe Black	.,
Veterans Day	494
Judges 7:1–9	.,.
Thanksgiving	496
II Samuel 22:17–20, 38–51	.,
Kaf Tet B'November (UN vote in favor of the Palestine Partition Plan)	498
Psalm 47	17
World AIDS Day	499
"Wingsong: For All the Lovers and Friends Who Died of AIDS,"	122
by Maggid Andrew Elias Ramer	
International Human Rights Day	501
From the Universal Declaration of Human Rights Adopted by the	3
General Assembly of the United Nations on December 10, 1948	
Secular New Year	502
From "Three Calendars," by Shalom Aleichem	302
Tiom Times Catellands, by Charlett Heleneth	
Sources and Permissions	505
Contributors	517
Index of Commentary Authors	519
Index of Alternative Haftarah Authors	523