



# Anatomy of a Service



# Cycles



- Life
- Yearly
  - Festivals
- Within Festivals
  
- Prayers are like cycles – there is a rhythm, order and cohesion in the Siddur, which means ‘Order.’

# Jewish Prayer

- Cycles within Cycles
- 3 Services
  - Ma'ariv – Ya'akov
  - Shacharit – Avraham
  - Minchah – Yitzach

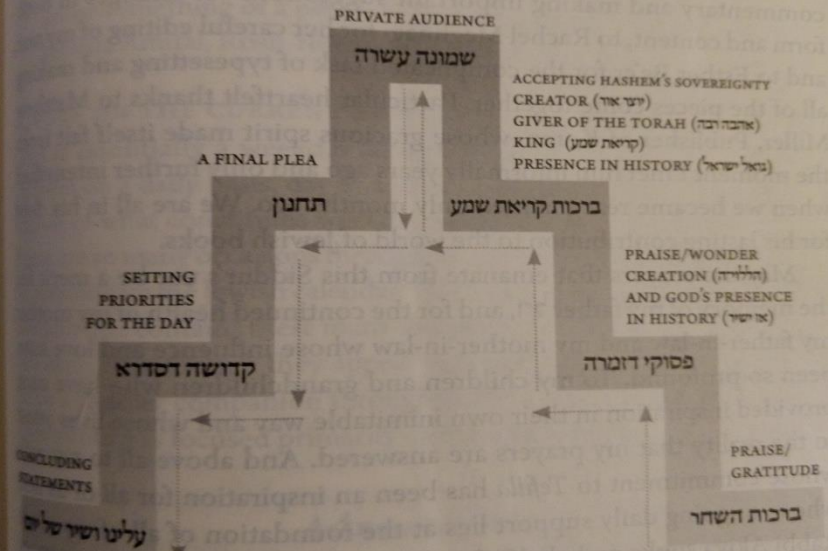
Most people just use a Siddur for their congregational worship – but services are for daily use.

# Parts of the Service

- - Blessings
  - Supplication
  - Acknowledgment
  - Sharing with others
- - Praise
  - Ask or petition
  - Give Thanks / Affirmation
  - Making ourselves better

# Diagram of the Service

Recall that the word Siddur means "arrangement" or "order." To the untrained eye, it may seem like just a random collection of verses and sentences but, in truth, there is an order that is designed to take one on a step-by-step journey toward a rendezvous with God. How all of the pieces fit together is a question to which you can provide your own answer. On this page and the next are the brief outlines of just two possibilities.



\* Based on a diagram conceived by Rabbi Moshe Drelich.

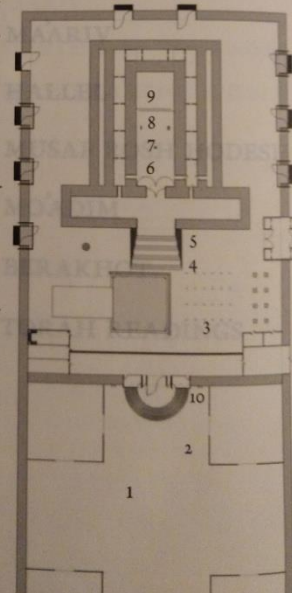
# Diagram of the Service

## Service of the heart

Rav Shimon Schwab (d. 1995) the leader of the German Jewish community in Washington Heights for close to 40 years, suggests that our "service of the heart" (עבודה שבלב) corresponds to the Service (עבודה) in the Beit HaMikdash. All of *Shaharit* can therefore be seen as a symbolic path toward a private meeting with God.

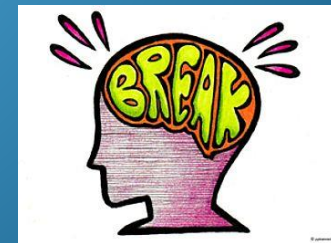
What follows is but a brief summary of his more detailed and poetic description.

1. The *Ezrat Nashim* – the place where everyone congregated before the doors opened. Corresponds to things said before *Shaharit* begins:  
אדון עולם, נטילת ידים, אשר יצר, אלקי נשמה.
2. The 15 steps leading up to the *Ezrat Yisrael*. Corresponds to the 15 ברכות השחר.
3. The *Ezrat Kohanim*, location of the *Mizbe'ah* (Altar). Corresponds to the *Korbanot* section.
4. Steps leading from the *Ezrat Kohanim* to the *Ulam*. The 12 steps plus the platform correspond to the 13 *midot* of Rabbi Yishmael.
5. The *Ulam* or antechamber. Corresponds to *Pesukei DeZimra*.
6. The *Heikhal* or Holy Place, location of the *Shulhan* and *Menora*. Corresponds to the two blessings before *Shema*, one which focuses on the material world (יצר אור) and the other on the spiritual (אהבה רבה).
7. The *Mizbe'ah HaKetoret* – the In-



# The Breakdown

- Morning Blessings – Usually recited at home
- Blessing for Torah Study
- Entry into the place of worship
- Morning Blessings – recited while standing
  - Beginning with “Baruch Atah Adoshem . . .”
  - Ends with a small supplication
- Akeida
- Recitations – how we should worship
  - Scripture
  - Mishnah
  - Talmud
- Interpretations of R. Yishmael



# More of the Breakdown

- Psalms of Praise



# The Shema Service

- 3-Fold Call to Worship – From the Temple Call
  - Hashem is the Creator
  - Hashem is the Light
  - The Heavenly Bodies will worship with us

All will declare His supremacy with the exclamation:

“Holy, Holy, Holy is Hashem, L-rd of Legions, the whole world is filled with His glory.”

The Universe recognizes His greatness.

# Shema Service, cont.

- He has loved us with a great love.
- We gather the Tzit-tzit and recognize that He will gather those spread abroad.
- The Shema – the recognition and declaration that He is One and He is our King.
- V'ahavta

# Shema, cont.

- Emet – True

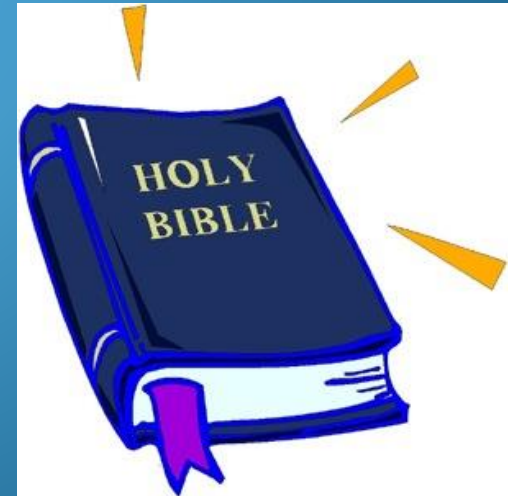


# Shema, cont.

- Giving thanks that He has answered His people when they cry out to Him.
- “Who is like You, L-rd among the mighty?”
  - The culmination of giving thanks for the deliverance from Egypt
- Rock of Israel – the prayer that all Yisrael and Yehuda will worship Him as one.

# Shemoneh Esrei - Amidah

- The Beginning
- And Hashem remembered Hannah
- . . . . And we stand . . .



# Shemoneh Esrei - Amidah

- 1. Avot – Fathers
- 2. Gevurot – His Power
- 3. Kedusha – Holiness
- 4. Binah – Understanding
- 5. Teshuvah – Repentance
- 6. Selichah – Forgiveness
- 7. Ge'ulah – Redemption
- 8. Refu'ah – Healing
- 9. Birkat Hashanim –  
Blessing of the Year
- 10. Kibbutz Galuyot –  
Gathering Exiles
- 11. Din – Judges
- 12. Birkat Haminim –  
Over Enemies
- 13. Tzaddikim –  
Righteous Ones
- 14. Binyan Yerushlayim
- 15. Malchut Ben David
- 16. Kabbalat Tefillah
- 17. Avodah – Service
- 18. Hoda'ah – Thanksgiving
- 19. Shalom
- Closing