

Haftorah Speech/Intro

In this Torah portion, specific instructions were given to the Israelites about how to construct different parts of the Holy Temple. The parts included are the offering, the ark, the table, the lamp [or menorah], the beams, partition, the altar, and the enclosure. All of these things were extremely important, and each had a very detailed set of instructions.

Both the Torah portion and Haftarah describe how to build religious structures. The tabernacle, during the time of Moses, and the Temple, built by King Solomon, need lots of attention. The instructions provide great detail for both religious buildings.

King Solomon, who was blessed with wisdom, needed about thirty thousand men to build God's temple. Many of the men were sent to Lebanon to prepare the raw materials. The Temple would be 90 feet long, 30 feet wide and 45 feet high. The house was stone, and wasn't made with an axe or hammer, or any other metal tool. The house of God was made exactly as instructed; the hard work of many men, sweating for God's house. Specific instructions and many parts were required to make the tabernacle complete. Each of us is, in a sense, a building of some sort. The people in our lives are the parts that make the structure, and our actions are the instructions.

When I was in 4th grade I was on my first volleyball team. When we lost a point or game I would get angry and upset the other girls. My actions affected the team, and made me a terrible player. In 5th grade I began to clean up my attitude, and became a conscientious athlete and a more spirited. That made my teammates happier and made me that much better. With a little perspective, I learned how my emotions could affect me and those around me. I was a lucky person because I had the ability to re-construct my life. I was able to change out the instructions for the new and improved ones. Today I am able to see the difference and I hope that everyone is able to find the courage to make changes when necessary.

Thank you Speech

A bat mitzvah, to most, seems like the sign of entering adulthood, but I believe that we've been adults before and have done mitzvahs and have lived a giving life, but we're still growing. To me a bat mitzvah is the time to celebrate becoming a Jewish person, and to me it means that it's time to start being the example, instead of following it.

I'd like to thank my parents first, they both have taught me so much, and without their love, and their ability to repeat things a thousand times over, I wouldn't be where I am. I thank my brothers for teaching me the absolute definition of endurance but also responsibility. Lane has outstanding energy and always is ready to give his all, which makes me proud to be his sister.

Then Zachary is such a crowd pleaser that it makes me smile to see him smile.

I also would like to thank my Kaplan grandparents, they showed me the most about my Jewish culture, and have been excited and happy to see me since I was born. My Evans grandparents, though I hardly see them, I love as well. They've always said I was the best at everything and have spoken nothing but kind words about me.

My Uncle Larry and Aunt Elisa have always been enthusiastic about taking me different places. My Uncle Michael and Aunt Wendy have always been a strong family, they and Stephanie my little cousin; have definitely always represented strong family bonds. It's never a perfect Hanukkah without Uncle Michael's latkes and Stephanie and Aunt Wendy's constant love.

My tutor, Ms. Massarella, has been a great impact with her kindness and above all, patience, with me. My teachers have allowed me to think in a different way than I have before, which made me more educated in the world around me. And of course, my friends have always been there for me. Anyone that even knew me a bit could tell you that I absolutely love my friends, from camp, school, and volleyball. Many of them are close enough to be family. And my last thank you goes to Rabbi Weinberg for allowing me the to prepare thoroughly for this day.

My mitzvah project is to send at least 15% of my bat mitzvah funds to Darfur to buy stoves, so I could make it a long-term mitzvah. I will continue working towards Darfur, and also other misfortunate areas that have not the ability to help themselves. You can help by learning more about Darfur. Darfur is a land in Africa that is going through a lot of mass murder and poverty. They are unable to help themselves because the government is causing it.

I'd like to recite a prayer I made myself.

Dear G-d,

I'd like to thank you for my amazing family, and the health of this country and people in it. I thank you so much for everything around me and how fortunate I am to have it. I hope that good health stays in my family and friends, and that good wishes may be sent to places like Darfur and misfortunate people that truly need help. May all be blessed and I hope one day we can all finally be in a peaceful world.

Amen.