

33A.
Rabbis, Parents, Grandparents, Relatives & Friends:

Tomorrow, here in the synagogue, I will read a special Haftorah. Today is not only the Sabbath, but also Rosh Chodesh, or the first day of a new month according to the Jewish calendar. Today begins the month of Iyar. According to our tradition, the first day of every month is a semi-holiday, and we recite special prayers. If the semi-holiday falls on a Sabbath a special Haftorah is read.

Just as the Haftorah is special this Sabbath, I also feel special and proud to be Bar Mitzvah in this synagogue. For it is here on this very pulpit that my father celebrated his Bar Mitzvah.

My Haftorah comes from the Book of Isaiah. Isaiah tells us how in his day there were people who ridiculed those who tried to lead a moral and ethical life. They claimed that in order to survive in the world a person had to cheat. It was either cheat or be cheated, destroy or be destroyed.

G-d tells Isaiah to speak to these people and to convince them that good will triumph over evil. Judaism firmly believes that there is a moral basis in the world, that right will eventually prevail.

I believe that the reason our rabbis chose this Haftorah to be read when the Sabbath and the first day of the new Jewish month coincides was to emphasize the important lesson that no matter how bad things may look right will prevail.

Every Jewish month must begin on a new moon. Two or three days before a new moon appears the sky is dark, no moon is visible, but we know it is there. In the same way, often it may look like there is not justice or right in the universe, but we, as Jews, know it is there and will soon be visible.

I hope and pray that I will always remember this lesson throughout my life, that when I am tempted to think that there is no morality in the universe, I will remember that soon, like the moon, justice and righteousness will be visible. I hope and pray that I will always be a credit to my family, my country, and my faith.