שבת פרשת ויקרא תש"ע

## הפמרה

When did the practice begin to read a portion of the נביאים after ברוחה קריאת התורה של שבת מפר אבודרהם שחרית של שבת ואחר שגוללין ספר תורה קורא ההפטרה. וצריך שיהא בה מענין פרשת היום. ולמה מפטירין בנביאים? לפי שגזרו על ישראל שלא יקראו בתורה, וכנגד שבעה שהיו עולין לקרות בתורה, ואין קורים פחות משלשה פסוקים עם כל אחד ואחד, תקנו לקרות כ"א פסוקים בנביאים ולא יפחות מהם. ואם נשלם הענין בפחות מכ"א, כגון הפטרת שובה שהיא קטנה, אינו צריך לקרות יותר.

Translation: After rolling the Sefer Torah closed, he reads the Haftorah. The text of the Haftorah must reflect the theme of the Torah reading of that day. Why do we read from the Prophets? Because a decree was issued against the Jews prohibiting them from reading the Torah. Because the Haftorah became a substitute for the Torah reading, it needed to include the same number of verses that would have been read if seven people had been called to read from the Torah. Since each one called must read a minimum of three verses, the Haftorah must include a minimum of 21 verses. However, if the related material in the Prophets is less than 21 verses as in the Haftorah for Shabbos Shuva, it is not necessary to read more than the relevant material.

Professor Lee Levine, on page 143 of his book: *The Ancient Synagogue*, refers to the statement of the בודרהם and points to the era in which the decree against reading from the have been issued:

It is impossible to say when these readings from the Prophets were introduced into synagogue worship. Since they followed and presumably related to the Torah portion, (B. Megilah 29b) they would seem to postdate the introduction of the Torah -reading liturgy, which was in the Third century B.C.E. at the latest. Abudraham (fourteenth century) dates the institution of the reading from the Prophets to the time of Antiochus IV's persecutions. While this medieval source has little historical value for our purposes, the period designated may, in fact, not be far off the mark. Both Ben Sira and II Maccabees (2:13, 15:9) already speak of books of the Prophets as sacred literature alongside the Torah. The Hasmonean era-with its many upheavals and dramatic political, military, social, and religious developments-gave rise to messianic expectations and hopes of renewed grandeur in certain circles; apocalyptical speculation emerged, and eschatalogical groups such as the Dead Sea sect combined the prophets for contemporary allusions. The use of the prophetic corpus-or variations of it, as the apocalyptic mode appear to be -seems to have flourished at the time, and it may well have been this climate that gave rise to such institutionalized recitations.

Eliezer Levy on pages 297-298 of his book: יסודות התפלה argues that a practice of listening to the words of the נביאים was already in place earlier in Jewish history:

יסודות התפלה – עוד בימי הבית הראשון קראו בנביא מתוך מגילה לפני העם שהתאסף לעבודת ה' בשער בית המקדש: כשעצרו את ירמיה הנביא ומנעו ממנו לבוא לבית ה' להשמיע את דבריו, כתב ברוך בן נריה דברי ה', אשר דבר אל ירמיה "על מגילת ספר בדיו" וקרא דברי ירמיה "באזני כל יהודה הבאים מעריהם... בחצר העליון פתח שער בית ה', החדש." ובימי גלות בבל ישבו זקני יהודה לפני הנביאים לשמוע נבואה ונחמה. דניאל –בגלות בבל - קרא "בספרים . . . דבר ד' אל ירמיה הנביא" וכשהתאספו העם בבתי כנסיותיהם בבבל לתפלה, קראו בספרי הנביא: "ויקרא ברוך את הספר הזה (של ירמיה) באזני יכניה בן יהויקים, מלך יהודה, ובאזני הקהל, אשר התאספו אתו וכל העם בכו בכי גדול ויצומו ויתפללו אל ה'. עזרא היה תלמידו של ברוך ולמד מפיו דברי תורה ודברי נביאים. וכשעלה ארצה ותיקנו – הוא וסיעתו – תפלה וקריאת התורה, יש להניח, שקראו גם בספרי הנביאים בבית הכנסת בשעת התפלה. והקריאה בנביא הפסירה את הקריאה בתורה. וכן במשנה: "מפסירין בנביא".
"מתחילים בתורה ומשלימים בנביא."

Translation: Already during the period of the first Temple, it was the practice to read the Prophets from a scroll before the People who gathered to participate in the Service to G-d in the gates of the Beis Hamikdash. When Yirmiyahu the Prophet was stopped and kept from entering the grounds of the Beis Hamikdash so that he could not deliver his message, Baruch Ben Neriya wrote the words of G-d that G-d had asked Yirmiya to deliver to the Jewish People in a scroll with ink. Baruch then read the words of Yirmiya to the People of Judea who came from their cities to the opening in the gate in front of the House of G-d. In the Babylonian exile the elders of Judea sat before the Prophets to hear their prophecies and words of comfort. Daniel in the Babylonian exile read from books what G-d had said to Yirmiyahu the Prophet. When Jews congregated in synagogues in Babylonia to pray, they too read from the books of the Prophets: "And Baruch read this book (of Yirmiyahu) before Yichonya, son of Yihoyokim, King of Judea and to the people who gathered with him. All of them wept profusely. They fasted and they prayed." Ezra was a student of Baruch and learned Torah from him and studied the words of the Prophets. We can assume that when Ezra went to Israel and he and his colleagues instituted the practice of praying and reading from the Torah, they also included readings from the Prophets in the synagogue and during the prayer services. The readings of the prophets brought the Torah reading to a close. That is what we learned in the Mishna where it was written that they came to a conclusion with the reading from the Prophets. They began with Torah reading and ended with the reading from the Prophets.

## להבין את התפלה

## בתלמוד כדי לקיים לא ימיש.

Translation: I found in the name of Rashi that a practice was followed among our ancestors to remain one hour in synagogue after completing services as we learned: the first righteous people would remain for an hour after completing the prayer services etc. Based on that practice Chazal added the prayer that begins: Ashrei Yoshvei Baisecha; in other words: and they stayed in Kadeish. I found in the name of a Gaon that a person who prayed with a group of ten men and completed the service and then went to a different synagogue and found that they were saying Tehila L'Dovid, should recite the prayer with them because that was the proper way to act. And Rav Ada son of Ahava said: recite with the congregation whatever prayer they were saying. Let us return to the words of Rashi. While remaining in synagogue for an extra hour, books would be brought out so that they could study the Torah, the Prophets, the Mishna and the Gemara, as we learned that a person should divide his study time into three sections, one third of the time studying Torah, one third studying Mishna and one third studying Talmud in order to fulfill the obligation that you should be involved with Torah at all times.

והרי כבר קראו בתורה קודם תפלה שבחרו בהך קריאת שמע שיש בו דברים הרבה ואחר התפלה היו שוהין וקורין בדברי הנביאים. ולאחר שעה במשנה ובשמועות התלמוד וכיון שרבתה העניות והיו צריכין למעשה ידיהן לא יכלו לעסוק בתורה כל כך והניחו התורה במקומה זולתי קריאת שמע שיש בה מלכות שמים ועשרת הדברות ועול המצות אותה לא עקרו. ואעפ״כ היו קורין בנביא אלו שני פסוקים ובא לציון ואני זאת בריתי שיש בהן מעין קריאת התורה ועדיין הם קבועים במקומם עלינו בכל יום. ובשבת ויום מוב שיש בו בימול מלאכה לעם ויום פנאי החזירו העמרה ליושנה לקרות בתורה ולתרגם מענינו של יום. ועל כן אין אנו אומרין ובא לציון גואל בשחרית בשבת וביום מוב שהרי כבר קראו בנביא. ואעפ״כ אומרין אותו במנחה שלא ישתכח בימות החול ומנהג אבות תורה הוא.

Translation: In the regular services they fulfilled the obligation to study Torah by reciting Kriyas Shema before Shemona Esrei which has within it many laws of the Torah. After completing the service they would remain and study the prophets. After an hour they would study Mishna and then excerpts from the Talmud. Over time, their economic situation deteriorated. They needed to spend more time working and could not spend as much time studying Torah. They had to discontinue studying Torah after the services and relied on their study of Torah through the recital of Kriyas Shema which contained within it the acceptance of the yoke of heaven, references to the Ten Commandments and the acceptance of the responsibility to perform Mitzvos. That form of Torah study was not removed from the services. Nevertheless they continued to recite two verses from the Prophets; the verse of Oo'Vah L'Tzion Go'Ail and V'Ani Zos Breisi that were equal to reading from the Torah. Those two verses remained as part of the morning service until today. On Shabbos and on Yom Tov, days on which we abstain from work and have free time, the original practice to read from the Torah and to provide a Targum of the Torah was restored and they included the practice of reading a section from the Prophets that related to the Torah reading. As a result, we omit the verse of Oo'Vah L'Tzion Go'Ail in Shacharis on Shabbos and Yom Tov since we fulfilled our obligation to study the Prophets by reading the Haftorah. Nevertheless we recite the verses during Shabbos Mincha so that we are reminded not to skip those verses on weekdays because observing the practices of our forefathers is tantamount to keeping the Mitzvos of the Torah.

What is the origin of the word: הפטרה?

ספר אבודרהם שחרית של שבת-ולכן נקראת הפטרה, לפי שהיו נפטרין בה מקריאת התורה.

ור״ת כתב מעם אחר. למה נקראת הפטרה לפי שאמרינן בסוטה בפרק ואלו נאמרין כיון שנפתח ספר תורה אסור לדבר אפילו בדבר הלכה, שנא׳ ובפתחו עמדו כל העם. ולאחר קריאת התורה הותרו לפתוח ולדבר, והוא מלשון יפטירו בשפה, ומלשון פטר רחם, פתוח. וי״א שהוא מלשון אין מפטירין לאחר הפסח, לשון סלוק מן הדבר. כלומר אחר שקראו ההפטרה נסתלקו מתפלת יוצר ומתחילין בתפלת מוסף.

Translation: It is called "Haftorah" because in an era in which Jews were prohibited from reading the Torah they would fulfill their obligation to read from the Torah by reading from the Prophets. Rabbienu Tam provided a different origin for the word "Haftorah." Why is it called: "Haftorah"? It is based on what we learned in Maseches Sotah in the chapter entitled: V'Ailu Ne'Emarim; once the Sefer Torah is opened, we are prohibited from engaging in any conversations including those involving matters of Halacha. This practice was based on the verse: When the Torah was opened, the nation stood (this is interpreted not as "standing" but as "remaining silent.") Once Kriyas Ha'Torah was completed, they were permitted to engage in conversations. Based on that explanation the word Haftorah means "open" as in conversation. In the Torah we find a similar use of the word in the phrase: Petter Rechem. The word "Petter" there means "opening" of the womb. Others say the definition of the word can be traced to the phrase: Ain Maftirin L'Achar Ha'Peseach in which the word means "to fulfill." In other words, after reading the Haftorah, they fulfilled their obligation of reciting Tefilas Shacharis and they then began to fulfill the obligation to recite Tefilas Mussaf.

The Encyclopedia Talmudit presents an alternative word to describe the הפטרה: אנציקלופדיה תלמודית כרך י, [הפטרה] טור א/2–יש שקראו אותה בשם "אשלמתא", וענינה ההשלמה של הקריאה בתורה.

Translation: Some call the reading of the Prophets by the name: Ashlamasa. Its meaning is the completion of Kriyas Ha'Torah.

In general the theme of the שבתות tracks the major theme of the שבתות. On twelve שבתות or about a fourth of the year, we do not follow that rule:

לבוש אורח חיים סימן תכח–מבראשית עד י״ז בתמוז מפטירין ההפטרות המדברות בענין הפרשיות דומה בדומה, כמו שיתבאר בעזה״י כל אחת במקומה, משם ואילך לפי הזמן ולפי המאורע, דהיינו תלתא דפורענותא ושב דנחמתא ותרתי דתיובתא. תלתא דפורענותא כנגד ג׳ שבועות של פורעניות מי״ז בתמוז עד מ׳ באב, . . . ושב דנחמתא כדי לנחם את העם מן החורבן עד כלות השנה . . . . תרתי דתיובתא מפני שהם בין ראש השנה ליום הכפורים שהם ימי תשובה.

Translation: From Parshas Bereishis to the 17th of Tamuz, we read Haftoros whose theme mimics the theme of the Parsha, as I expect to demonstrate later. After that date, each Haftorah is based on the time of year or event; i.e. three weeks that foretell of punishment, seven weeks that provide comfort and two weeks of rebuke. The three weeks that foretell of punishment correspond to the three weeks between the 17th of Tamuz and Tisha B'Av. The seven weeks that provide comfort correspond to the Shabbos after Tisha B'Av to the Shabbos before Rosh Hashonah. The two weeks of rebuke correspond to the weeks between Rosh Hashonah and Yom Kippur.