

Rabbi Emanuel Ben-David

I was born in Israel; both of my parents came from Hungary and consequently my mother tongue is Hungarian. My father made Aliyah to Eretz Yisrael in 1925 after receiving his Smiḥa from a Hungarian Orthodox Rabbinical Yeshiva and Bet Din, my mother arrived to Israel in 1949 after surviving the Holocaust. My parents kept an orthodox household and raised my elder brother and I with traditional values and observance. Every Shabbat included study of Torah and Talmud and it was the only time we could argue with our very strict father! Obviously, when it came to my Bar-Mitzvah, I learned and chanted the whole Parashah and the Haftarah.



Living in Israel in small communities on top of mountains in the Galilee, I had served as a spiritual leader of those communities for several decades. I conducted all services one can imagine; everyday, Shabbat, all the Festivals' services including all High Holidays services. I adapted the style and contents of the services to the congregation: from modern-orthodox to progressive and reform styles. For years, I conducted the complete High Holidays services in our community in the Galilee solo from Erev Rosh Hashana through Ne'ila.

Shortly after moving to Ashland, Oregon in 2014, I became engaged as a lay leader at the two congregations here - Temple Emek Shalom (Reconstructing Judaism) and Havurah Shir Hadash (Renewal), in parallel to enrolling to Rabbinical studies. I received my Smiḥa in mid-2018. In addition to leading services and leining Torah and haftarah, I engaged in teaching about Judaism, Israel, Talmud and Torah study classes, provided sermons and was active in the congregation's life.

My former career and education consisted of a Mechanical Engineering degree with honors from the Technion in Haifa and an MBA with honors from Harriot-Watt University in Scotland. During my entire career I was engaged in Israel's defense. I was an active service Naval Officer for 5 years with an additional 20-odd years in Reserves Service. I held positions as an Engineer, Product Manager, and Director for RAFAEL (one of the three major defense companies in Israel), as well as other defense companies. My new vocation as a Rabbi continues this same dedication for the strengthening and defense of Am Israel through education and spiritual-religious leadership.

I am looking forward to meeting and engaging with all of you, as we walk along the spiritual path of the High Holidays of 5780 ahead of us.

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