



Copper Mezuzah

The Mezuzah is a small case in which a small hand written scroll of parchment called a klaf is placed. The scroll contains the words of the "Shema Israel" in which God commands Jews to keep His words constantly in their minds and in their hearts. The scroll also contains another passage. The passages are written in Hebrew, and contain 22 lines of 713 painstakingly written letters.

The meaning of the Hebrew word Mezuzah is simply "a doorpost". The meaning of the words "Shema Israel" is "Hear Israel!".

On the back of the scroll, a name of God is written. The scroll is then rolled so that the first letter of the Name (the letter Shin) is visible (or, more commonly, the letter Shin is written on the upper exterior of the case).

Every time you pass through a door with a Mezuzah on it, you kiss your fingers and touch them to the Mezuzah, expressing love and respect for God and his commandments.

The Mezuzah is not, as some may think, a good-luck charm, nor does it have any connection with the lamb's blood placed on the doorposts in Egypt. Rather, it is a constant reminder of God's presence and God's commandments.

For the Mezuzah to be Kosher, it must meet the following criteria:

The Mezuzah must contain a scroll.

The scroll must be hand written by a certified God fearing scribe (Sofer) with special black ink and quill on one piece of specially prepared and scored parchment.

The scroll may not contain mistakes or additions to its text. Any mistake, even one letter that was written incorrectly, would render the scroll, and the Mezuzah invalid (pasul).

The Mezuzah must be affixed to the right side doorpost on an angle.

A small ceremony, called Channukat Ha-Bayit (dedication of the house) was done.

