

Yechaveh Da'as on Whether a Boy Younger than Bar Mitzvah May Have an Aliyah

Yechaveh Da'as, chelek 2, siman 15, page 62 states: **Meseches Megilla** 23A quotes a braisa that even a woman and katan can be called up to the 7 aliyahs on Shabbos.

In practice, a woman is not an *oleh* (i.e., one called up for an aliyah) out of *kavod tsibur*.

But regarding a katan (i.e. boy under bar mitzvah), the following applies:

Several poskim (**Rokeach** and **Magen Avraham** and **Arizal**) hold the braisa's permission to give a katan an aliyah applies only on Shabbos. But not to Monday and Thursday, because a child getting an aliyah is less noticeable when there are 7 aliyahs than when there are only 3 aliyahs.

But almost all other poskim (including **Rambam** and **Maharam Merutenberg** and **Mordechai** and **David Avodraham** and **Me'iri** and **Rabeinu Yerucham** and **Rashbatz** and **Tashbatz** and **Yachin Uboaz** and **Ran** and **Gur Arie'el Yehuda** and the kabalist **Shmuel Vital** and **Or Zarua**) hold this braisa was *lirevusa*, in that a katan may be an *oleh* on Monday/Thursday even more so than on Shabbos because laining on Monday/Thursday is less important than on Shabbos.

Perhaps not all of the aliyahs may go to a katan.

And some authorities held that a *katan* should not be given the first aliyah and the last aliyah. But that was only for ancient times when only the first *oleh* said the *bracha rishona* and only the last *oleh* said the *bracha achrona*. **Yechaveh Da'as** says that now-a-days, when each *oleh* recites both *brachas*, a katan may even be the first *oleh* and the last *oleh*.

Rabainu Yerucham even gives an example where it is preferable to call up a katan or woman. That is when the only men around are kohanim, and in that case one kohain gets the first 2 aliyahs, and the remaining aliyahs should go to *katanim* and women rather than to additional kohanim.

The boy may even wear tefillin before bar mitzvah for chinuch purposes.