

[RESOURCE 1]

Audio Recording of Hatikvah

Visit: <https://bit.ly/hatikvah-audio>

Or scan below

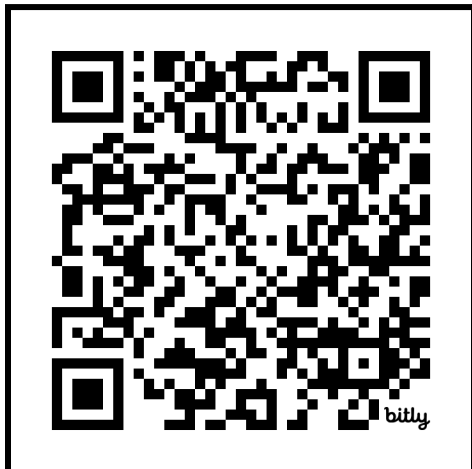


[RESOURCE 2]

Hatikvah Sung on the Light Rail

Visit: <https://bit.ly/hatikvah-light-rail>

Or scan below



[RESOURCE 3]

Hatikva “The Hope”: Israel’s National Anthem

Lyrics (Hebrew and English)

The words to Israel's national anthem were written in 1886 by Naphtali Herz Imber, an English poet originally from Bohemia. The melody was written by Samuel Cohen, an immigrant from Moldavia. Cohen actually based the melody on a musical theme found in Bedrich Smetana’s "Moldau."

Hatikva Naftali Herz Imber	התקווה נפתלי הרץ אימבר
As long as the Jewish spirit is yearning deep in the heart, With eyes turned toward the East, looking toward Zion,	כָּל עוֹד בְּלִבְּב פְּנִימָה נִפְּשׁ יְהוּדֵי הוֹמִיָּה, וְלִפְאַתֵי מִזְרַח קְדִימָה עַיִן לְצִיּוֹן צוֹפֶיָה
Then our hope – the two-thousand-year-old hope – will not be lost: To be a free people in our land, The land of Zion and Jerusalem.	עוֹד לֹא אֶבְדֶּה תְּקוּוֹתֵנוּ, הַתְּקוּוֹה בֵּת שְׁנוֹת אֲלָפִים, לִהְיוֹת עִם חֶפְשֵׁי בְּאֶרְצֵנוּ, אֶרֶץ צִיּוֹן, יְרוּשָׁלַיִם.

[RESOURCE 4]

Quote by Rabbi Jonathan Sacks

“Optimism and hope are not the same. Optimism is the belief that the world is changing for the better; hope is the belief that, together, we can make the world better. Optimism is a passive virtue, hope an active one. It needs no courage to be an optimist, but it takes a great deal of courage to hope. The Hebrew Bible is not an optimistic book. It is, however, one of the great literatures of hope.”

- To Heal a Fractured World, Rabbi Jonathan Sacks, p. 166

[RESOURCE 5]

Background Information on Hatikvah

Israel's national anthem, Hatikvah, has had an untraditional path to becoming the country's anthem. Its story is one of growth and transformation, complete with unexpected turns and questions about representation and identity.

CORE IDEAS

- The ongoing journey and evolution of Hatikvah as Israel's national anthem is the story of the journey and evolution of the State of Israel and the Jewish people.
- Hatikvah, the national anthem of the State of Israel, underscores Israel's status as both a Jewish state and a state for the Jews.
- Since national anthems most often reflect a country's culture, history, and traditions, they can evoke a sense of patriotism (and sometimes a feeling of exclusion), most often connecting the singer to the place, its culture, history, and people.

Israel's national anthem, "Hatikvah" (התקווה), "The Hope," is adapted from a longer poem titled "Tikvatenu" (תקוותינו), "Our Hope," written in the late 1800's by Naftali Herz Imber, a little-known Polish Jewish poet. Hatikvah recounts the Jews' undying connection to Zion and dreams of return to their homeland. After reciting the poem for Zionist pioneers across pre-State Israel, it was embraced as an unofficial anthem for the movement, becoming official at the First Zionist Congress in 1897. Hatikvah was finally designated as the official national anthem of Israel in 2004—more than five decades after the founding of the state! Hatikvah continues to be sung at official events in Israel and in Jewish communities all over the world.

Over the years, different groups within Israel have voiced concerns about the content of Hatikvah. For example, some religious Jews have expressed discontent that the anthem lacked overtly religious themes. Broader concerns focus on non-Jewish Israelis, who feel little connection to an anthem that celebrates Jewish hopes and dreams. Non-Jewish state officials have sometimes declined to sing the anthem, though discussions about altering the words, or choosing a different anthem, have gained little traction.

Additional Background Information and Resources:

1. iCenter: https://theicenter.org/icenter_resources/hatikvah-programs/
2. Makom: <https://www.4hq.education/>
3. Rabbi Jonathan Sacks: <https://rabbisacks.org/teaching-resources/israel-75/>
4. Deena Sacks (daughter of Jonathan Sacks): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c7q6ktGKxm0>
5. Unpacked: <https://unpacked.education/podcast/hatikvah-the-story-behind-the-anthem/>