



Volume 1. Issue 1.

The Evening *Sh'ma*

This week on Shmini Atzeret the new Mishnah Yomit cycle began. Thousands around the world started learning just two mishnayot a day aiming to complete the entire Shas Mishnayot in less than six years. This weekly publication is intended to compliment the learning of people studying Mishnah Yomit. Each week articles will be presented by different people studying in Beit Midrash Naftali Herc related to the Mishnayot studied that week.

Brachot begins by explaining that the earliest time one can recite *sh'ma* at night is *tzeit ha'kochavim* – nightfall. In some communities however, the difficulty in delaying *Ma'ariv* has forced the service to be scheduled close to *Mincha* before nightfall.¹ *Rashi* asks, if so, how can we say *sh'ma* during *Ma'ariv* when we pray early? *Rashi* therefore concludes that the obligatory evening *sh'ma* is the *sh'ma* that people recite before they go to sleep. The *Yerushalmi* further supports this position explaining that people say the *sh'ma* during *Ma'ariv* so that they read sections from the *Torah* just prior to praying the *sh'monah esrei*.²

One may ask, if someone does not fulfil the *mitzvah* of *kriyat sh'ma* during an early *Ma'ariv*, how can they recite the *brachot kriyat sh'ma*? The *Rashba* (אוי"ח ס' א) explains that the *brachot kriyat sh'ma* are not like normal *brachot* connected to the performance of a *mitzvah*, rather they were instituted independently and placed in the *siddur* before and after the *sh'ma*.

Rabeinu Tam argues however, that the *sh'ma* recited during *Ma'ariv* is the obligatory one. The *Chachamim* and *R' Yehuda* argue about the latest time that one can

pray *Mincha*. The *Chachamim* maintain that *Mincha* can be recited till sunset. *R' Yehuda* on the other hand argues that the latest time is "*plag ha'mincha*" – 1.25 (relative) hours before nightfall. After that time, one can pray *ma'ariv*. *Rabeinu Tam* explains that praying *ma'ariv* before nightfall means that people rely on the opinion of *R' Yehuda* and since they consider it night for *ma'ariv*, it is considered night for *sh'ma* as well.

The *Rosh* however argues the *ma'ariv* and *sh'ma* are based on two different ideas. He explains that the *tefillot* were instituted to match the times when the *korbanot* were offered. One prays *Shacharit* during the same period of time as the daily morning sacrifice was offered; *Mincha* when the afternoon daily sacrifice was offered, and *Ma'ariv* during the time when the different sacrificial parts were allowed to burn. The time for reciting *sh'ma* however is based on "*ויבשכבך ובקומך*" – the times when people wake up and go to sleep. Therefore the appropriate time for *ma'ariv* and *sh'ma* must be dealt with separately.³

The *Shulchan Aruch* therefore rules that if the *tzibur* prays *ma'ariv* before nightfall, one should recite the *sh'ma* with the *brachot* and pray with the *minyan*. After nightfall however, one should ensure that they recite the three chapters of *sh'ma* again with the intention of fulfilling the *mitzvah* of *kriyat sh'ma*. The *Mishnah B'rurah* adds, in such a case one should not rely on reciting *sh'ma* before going to sleep even if they generally recite all three chapters since one ordinarily does not intend to fulfill the *mitzvah* at that time.

D. Bankier

¹ See the *Orach Ha'Shulchan* (235) for an alternative explanation of the origin of this custom.

² See the *Ba'alei Tosfot* (ד"ה מאימתי) a number of questions raised against this opinion.

³ See the *Ba'alei Tosfot* (שם) for another explanation about how one can fulfill the *mitzvah* of *kriyat sh'ma* before nightfall

Revision Questions

ברכות א' א' – ב' א'

"כל הלומד ואינו חוזר כאילו זורע ואינו קוצר"

It is intended that each week will provide questions to assist in revision.

- When is the starting time for *kriyat sh'ma* at night? (א' א')
- What are the three opinions regarding the latest time that one can recite *sh'ma* at night? (א' א')
- For what *mitzvah*, other than *kriyat sh'ma*, did the *chachamim* bring forward the latest time that one can perform the *mitzvah* "to prevent one from transgressing"? (א' א')
- What are the two opinions regarding the starting time for *kriyat sh'ma* in the morning? (א' ב')
- What are the two opinions regarding the latest time that one can recite *sh'ma* in the morning? (א' ב')
- If the time for reading *sh'ma* in the morning has passed (but the *zman tefillah* has not been completed) can one read *sh'ma* with the *brachot kriyat sh'ma*? (א' ב')
- Explain the debate surrounding the halachic significance of "ויבשכבך ובקומך"? (א' ג')
- Which *tanna* put himself in danger to recite *sh'ma* in the manner held by *Beit Shammai*? (א' ג')
- How many *brachot* does one recite before and after *kriyat sh'ma* in the morning and at night? (א' ד')
- Is there a *mitzvah* of remembering *yetziyat mitzrayim* at night? If so, how is it fulfilled? (א' ה')
- Explain the debate between *Ben Zoma* and the *Chachamim* about the *passuk*: "למען תזכר את יום צאתך ממצרים כל ימי חיידך" (דברים ט"ז ג'). (א' ה')
- If someone happens to be reading the chapter of *sh'ma* from the *Torah* during *zman kriyat sh'ma* do they fulfill the *mitzvah* of *kriyat sh'ma*? (א' ב')
- Explain the debate between *R' Meir* and *R' Yehuda* about permissible interrupt during and in between the chapters of *sh'ma*?

Local Shiurim

Sunday-Thursday

6:10pm

(15 mins before *mincha*)

Mizrachi Shule

David Bankier

Sunday-Thursday

9:50pm (after *ma'ariv*)

Beit Midrash -

Naftali Herc

Yehuda Gottlieb

To add another mishnah yomit shiur send an email to: mishnahyomit@hotmail.com

Next Week's Mishnayot...

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	שבת קודש
10 th Oct. כ"ה תשרי	11 th Oct. כ"ו תשרי	12 th Oct. כ"ז תשרי	13 th Oct. כ"ח תשרי	14 th Oct. כ"ט תשרי	15 th Oct. ל' תשרי (ר"ח)	16 th Oct. א' חשוון (ר"ח)
Berachot 2 - 2	Berachot 2 - 4	Berachot 2 - 6	Berachot 2 - 8	Berachot 3 - 2	Berachot 3 - 4	Berachot 3 - 6

