



Volume 8. Issue 42

The Mitzvah of Chatzotzrot

Masechet Taanit opens with discussing when we begin to ask for rain and how the nation responds if rain does not fall in the days that follow. The *Mishnah* describes the rounds of fasting and how they increase in intensity if the drought unfortunately continues. During the final and most intense round of fasting the *shofar* was blown. This requirement is found in the following *pasuk* (*Bamidbar* 10:9):

When you go to war in your Land against an enemy who oppresses you, you shall sound short blasts of trumpets, and you shall be recalled before *Hashem*, your G-d, and you shall be saved from your enemies.

The *Rambam* (*Taanit* 1:1) explains that it is a biblical *mitzvah* to cry out to *Hashem* and blow trumpets when any calamity befalls the community.

The next *pasuk* is as follows:

On a day of your gladness, and on your festivals, and on your new moons, you shall sound the trumpets over your elevation-offerings and over your feast peace offerings; and they shall be a remembrance for you before your G-d; I am *Hashem* your G-d.

The *Rambam* (*Klei Ha'Mikdash* 3:5) explains that above *pasuk* teaches that there is a *mitzvah* to blow trumpets when the festive and daily *korbanot* were offered.

Thus far it appears that we have two separate *mitzvot*; while they both involve trumpets, the times they are used are quite different. It might therefore seem surprising that the *Rambam* lists them together as one *mitzvah* (*Aseh* 59). The *Magid Mishneh* finds this difficult because, as mentioned above, they are sourced from two different *pesukim*. The *Magid Mishneh* suggest that there is perhaps an overarching *mitzvah* of blowing trumpets, but ultimately leave the question requiring further analysis.

The *Minchat Chinnuch* cites the *Parshat Derachim* who also finds this *Rambam* difficult. He adds to this difficulty from the *mitzvot* of blowing the *shofar* on *Rosh*

Hashanah (170) and on *Yovel* (137). Despite the fact that their actions is the same, since they are performed at different times are listed as separate *mitzvot*.

The *Pri Megadim* (*Mishbetzot Zahav* OC 575:2) suggests the following explanation. The *Sefer HaChinnuch* (384), when discussing the *mitzvah* of blowing trumpets while the *korbanot* were offered explains as follows:

At the root of the precept lies the reason that at the time of an offering they had to focus their thoughts well about its purpose. As is known, it could become disqualified through certain specific thoughts. Moreover, an offering required perfect concentration of intention before the Sovereign Master of all, who commanded us about it. So also at time of trouble, a man needs great concentration when he is before his Creator that He should have pity on him and rescue him from his misfortune. Therefore they were commanded about sounding the trumpets at these times. For man, being possessed of physical matter, requires a great arousal to matters. For human nature, with nothing to arouse it, will remain asleep. And nothing will stir him like sounds of melody – it is a know matter – and all the more certainly trumpets, the blast of which is the strongest sound among all musical instruments.

The *Trumat Hadeshen* explains that with *korbanot*, pure intent that the *korban* is solely for *Hashem* is critical. Likewise, it is vital that on a fast day, one recognises that the calamities being endured are not by chance. Both of these require tremendous *hitorerut* (awakening). Consequently since the intent of the *chatzotzrot* are the same for these two events, the *Rambam* lists them as the same *mitzvah*. The same cannot be said for *Rosh Hashanah* and *Yovel* where the intents for blowing the *shofar* at these two times is very different.

Yisrael Yitzchak Bankier

Revision Questions

ראש השנה ד': ה' ט'

- How many *p'sukim* are recited for *malchiyot, zichronot* and *shofarot*? (ד': ו')
- Which *chazzan* recites *Hallel* on *Rosh Hashanah*? (ד': ז')
- Can one climb a tree to retrieve a *shofar* on *Rosh Hashanah*? (ד': ח')
- Is one allowed to clean out a *shofar* with water or wine on *Rosh Hashanah*? (ד': ט')
- If one hears someone practicing blowing the *shofar*, have they fulfilled their obligation? (ד': י')
- How many blasts must be heard on *Rosh Hashanah*? (ד': יא')
- How long is a *tekiya*? (ד': יב')
- How long is a *teruah*? (ד': יג')

טענית א': א' ב' ג'

- From what date do we begin to recite "*mashiv ha'ruach u'morid ha'gashem*"? (א': א')
- When do we stop asking from rain? (א': ב')
- From what date do we begin to ask for rain? (Include both opinions) (א': ג')
- By which date do "individuals" begin fasting if rain has not yet fallen? (א': ד')
- How many fast days do these people undertake? (א': ד')
- By which date does *beit din* decree fast days on the public if rain has still not fallen? (א': ה')
- How many fast days does the *Beit Din* institute? (א': ה')
- If it still has not rained how many more fast days does the *Beit Din* institute and how do these differ from the previous ones? (א': ו')
- If yet again it still has not rained how many more fast days does the *Beit Din* institute and how do these differ from the previous ones? (א': ו')
- If it still has not rained, what else would everyone take upon themselves? (א': ז')
- Did anyone still fast during this period? (א': ז')
- If it eventually rained in *Nissan* was it considered positive? (א': ז')
- For the final set of fasts, where would they all gather? (א': ז')
- What would they put on their heads? (א': ח')
- According to the *Mishnah* what was the most vital component of the fast days? (א': ח')
- Who would they elect to lead them in the *tefillot*? (א': ט')
- How many *brachot* would they add to *sh'monah esrei*? (א': ט')
- What were these additional *brachot*? (א': י')

Local Shiurim

Melbourne, Australia

Sunday -Thursday

10 minutes before *Mincha*
Mizrachi Shul
Melbourne, Australia

Friday & Shabbat

10 minutes before *Mincha*
Beit Ha'Roeh
Melbourne, Australia

Efrat, Israel

Shiur in English

Sunday -Thursday

Rabbi Mordechai Scharf
9:00am
Kollel Magen Avraham
Reemon Neighbourhood

ONLINE SHIURIM

Rabbi Chaim Brown
www.shemayisrael.com/mishna/

Rav Meir Pogrow
613.org/mishnah.html

Rabbi E. Kornfeld
Rabbi C. Brown
<http://www.dafyomi.co.il/calendar/myomi/myomi-thisweek.htm>

SHIUR ON KOL HALOSHON

Rabbi Moshe Meir Weiss
In US dial: 718 906 6400
Then select: 1 – 2 – 4

Next Week's Mishnayot...

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	שבת קודש
11 th March י"ז אדר	12 th March י"ח אדר	13 th March י"ט אדר	14 th March כ' אדר	15 th March כ"א אדר	16 th March כ"ב אדר	17 th March כ"ג אדר
Taanit 2:4-5	Taanit 2:6-7	Taanit 2:8-9	Taanit 2:10-3:1	Taanit 3:2-3	Taanit 3:4-5	Taanit 3:6-7

