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DAY-TO-DAY HALACHIC GUIDE

Chanukah 5785

Also:

19-20 Kislev, 5 Teves & 10 Teves



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Under the auspices of Horav Yosef Yeshaya Braun, shlita
 Member of the Badatz of Crown Heights

B"H

DAY-TO-DAY HALACHIC GUIDE

**Laws & Customs for the
Chanukah 5785**

Also:
19-20 Kislev, 5 Teves & 10 Teves

By
Horav Yosef Yeshaya Braun, shlita
member of the Badatz of Crown Heights

TABLE OF CONTENTS

FOREWORD	7
Time to Prepare / To Realize Redemption	
THURSDAY, 18 KISLEV	9
Today in History / Erev Yud-Tes Kislev	
FRIDAY, 19 KISLEV	9
Opening Hayom Yom / Personal Farbrengens / Friday afternoon	
FRIDAY NIGHT, 20 KISLEV	12
Day of Farbrengen / Kiddush in Shul / Brachos for Other Food & Drink / Women & Kiddush	
SHABBOS PARSHAS VAYEISHEV, 20 KISLEV	14
MOTZOEI SHABBOS	14
SUNDAY, 21 KISLEV	14
Today in History	
NITTEL NACHT - TUESDAY NIGHT, EVE OF 24 KISLEV	15
Customs for Nittel / What is Nittel? / When is Nittel? / The Rebbeim & Nittel	
CHANUKAH PREPARATIONS	16
What type of fuel? / What about the wicks? / And the receptacle? / Who lights? / Travel Plans / Scheduling Parties / The Dreidel	
MENORAH LIGHTING TIMES FOR CROWN HEIGHTS	21
WEDNESDAY, 24 KISLEV, EREV CHANUKAH	22
Today in History	
LIGHTING IN SHUL	22
Where to Light / When to Light / How to Light / Law of Redemption: Who Will Light?	
WEDNESDAY NIGHT, 1ST NIGHT OF CHANUKAH	23
Pre-lighting Activity	
WHEN TO LIGHT	24
Lighting on Time / Latest Possible Time / Earliest Possible Time	
WHERE TO LIGHT?	26
Light at Home / Guests, Travelers, & Students / Menorah Placement / Law of Redemption: We'll Light Where? / How High? / The Shamash	

WHO LIGHTS?	29
Gather the Family / Children Lighting / Lighting for Chinuch / Women Lighting / Lighting Instructions 30 / A blessing on seeing the candles / First Night's Light / Law of Redemption: Hillel & Shamai / The Blessings / Post-Lighting / Doing Chores / Drawing Light In / Maariv	
MIVTZA CHANUKAH	34
CHANUKAH CUSTOMS	35
Latkes & Donuts / V'al Hanissim / Gelt & More / Share & Farbreng	
THURSDAY, 25 KISLEV, 1ST DAY OF CHANUKAH	37
Shacharis / Reciting Hallel / Fasting, Work, Gravesites / Law of Redemption: The Chanukah Megillah	
THURSDAY NIGHT, 26 KISLEV, 2ND NIGHT OF CHANUKAH	39
Today in History / Second Night Lights	
FRIDAY, 26 KISLEV, 2ND DAY OF CHANUKAH	40
Erev Shabbos Customs / The Shabbos Menorah	
FRIDAY NIGHT, 3RD NIGHT OF CHANUKAH	42
Davening & Bentching / Menorah Care / Chanukah Melachos	
SHABBOS PARSHAS MIKETZ, 27 KISLEV, 3RD DAY OF CHANUKAH	43
Today in History / Shacharis / Krias Hatorah / Shabbos Afternoon	
MOTZOEI SHABBOS, 28 KISLEV, 4TH NIGHT OF CHANUKAH	45
Maariv / Menorah Lighting / Meals & Gelt	
SUNDAY, 28 KISLEV, 4TH DAY OF CHANUKAH	46
Today in History	
SUNDAY NIGHT, 5TH NIGHT OF CHANUKAH	46
CHANUKAH GELT	46
When to Give / How to Give / Who Should Give / What to Give / Give & Get / Collect & Connect	
MONDAY, 29 KISLEV, 5TH DAY OF CHANUKAH	48
Today in History	
MONDAY NIGHT, EVE OF 30 KISLEV, 6TH NIGHT OF CHANUKAH	48
TUESDAY, 30 KISLEV, 6TH DAY OF CHANUKAH	49
Shacharis / Krias Hatorah / Law of Redemption: Every Rosh Chodesh / Rosh Chodesh Observances / Rosh Chodesh Study / In the Afternoon	
WEDNESDAY, 1 TEVES, 7TH DAY OF CHANUKAH	50
Law of Redemption: Wood Endowment / Happy New Year?	

WEDNESDAY NIGHT, 8TH NIGHT OF CHANUKAH	51
Tactical Advantage / Oil Disposal	
THURSDAY, 2 TEVES, 8TH DAY OF CHANUKAH	52
This is it! / Count this / Learn this / This brachah	
Extending Chanukah	
FRIDAY, 3 TEVES, EREV SHABBOS PARSHAS VAYIGASH	53
Law of Redemption: Another Day? / Law of Redemption: Season's End? / Erev Shabbos Practices	
SHABBOS PARSHAS VAYIGASH, 4 TEVES	55
Davening & Krias Hatorah	
SUNDAY, 5 TEVES	55
Today in History / Books, Books & More Books / Sefarim Sales / Redeem More Books	
MONDAY, 6 TEVES	56
WEDNESDAY, 8 TEVES	57
Today in History	
THURSDAY, 9 TEVES	57
Today in History	
THURSDAY NIGHT, EVE OF 10 TEVES	57
Night Un-fast / Starting the Fast	
FRIDAY, 10 TEVES, FAST OF ASARAH B'TEVES	58
Today in History / Who Fasts / Law of Redemption: From the First / Fasting / Shacharis / Minchah / Rebuking with Joy? / Erev Shabbos Prep	
FRIDAY NIGHT, SHABBOS PARSHAS VAYECHI, 11 TEVES	63
Maariv & Kiddush / Waiting between Milk & Meat	
SHABBOS, 11 TEVES	65
Farbrengen & Hachlatah / Not Enough!	
MOTZOEI SHABBOS, EVE OF 12 TEVES	66
Real Melava Malka	
SUNDAY, 12 TEVES	66
"OOPS! I MADE A MISTAKE..." - CHART	67

FOREWORD

We present a comprehensive guidance with laws and customs associated with Yud-Tes Kislev, the days of Chanukah, Hey Teves and Asarah B'Teves 5785. The details are derived from multiple sources, revised by Rabbi **M. M. Rotenberg**.

Due to a dearth of space only some references and halachic notes have been added. Primary sources include: Shulchan Aruch and commentaries, Sefer HaMinhagim Chabad, Luach Colel Chabad, Sichos and Igros Kodesh. Please see the footnotes in the Hebrew section for more halachic discussion of the topics mentioned.

The intention of this summary is to inform you of some of the relevant laws, not to replace each person's obligation to review the Halachos comprehensively.

Please note: Specific laws are mentioned only the first time that they become relevant, although they may apply to subsequent dates as well.

* * *

TIME TO PREPARE

In a *sichah* on the second day of Rosh Hashanah 5752, the Rebbe states:

"We need to focus on studying the laws that apply to this time of year, during which many changes are made to the standard prayers and there are numerous customs that apply. We should make certain to study these laws in the Code of Jewish Law.

"Recently, yearly calendars have begun to include many of the laws that apply to the relevant time of the year and that are necessary to know. This is particularly useful for those who, for whatever reason, do not have *sefarim* or do not know how to find what they are looking for in the *sefarim* that they own. Now, however, they can simply examine such calendars and easily find the relevant laws.

"It is therefore extremely appropriate for every single person to peruse the contents of these calendars, such as the Kollel Chabad calendar (available both in wall size and pocket size formats) in such a manner that the laws that apply to this time of year will become fixed in his memory. After all, it sometimes happens that a halachic question arises precisely at a point during which it is forbidden to interrupt and ask for someone's guidance—or when there is nobody around to ask. Furthermore [not having familiarized himself with the relevant laws beforehand], it can happen that one does not even realize that there is a problem to begin with."

This guide incorporates several reminders about laws that will only be applicable during the Era of Redemption, with the hope that Moshiach will come speedily, allowing us to implement these laws in practice.

The concept of studying these halachos is based on several *sichos*, some of which are quoted below:

TO REALIZE REDEMPTION

“Hashem **begs** the Jewish people,” the Rebbe passionately stated, “to occupy themselves with the study of the laws of the sacrificial orders ... which (as our Sages state) is considered as if we had actually offered the sacrifices. This study will bring about the actual offerings because it brings (to quote the Rambam) ‘King Moshiach [who] will build the Beis Hamikdash ... and restore the laws of the Torah ... so that the Jewish people will again offer the sacrifices ... in accordance with all the mitzvos that are stated in the Torah,’ speedily, in our time—literally! Then (to quote the festival liturgy) ‘We will offer before You there the offerings of our obligations ... in accordance with the commandments of Your will.’”¹

“We must experience greater longing and yearning for the Redemption,” the Rebbe demanded. “One of the ways this is accomplished is through studying more Torah on the subjects of the Redemption and the *Beis Hamikdash*. Studying these topics greatly hastens their actual realization, to the extent that we will go directly from studying these subjects to greet our righteous Moshiach. We will inform him, ‘We have just completed studying the laws associated with your coming!’ An additional motivation to study these laws is that we must expect Moshiach’s arrival each and every day. In that case, these laws (concerning the Redemption and the *Beis Hamikdash*) are matters that every Jew—men and women alike—must know in order to put them into practical use on a daily basis, such as many of the laws of the offerings.”²

* * *

General Note: The times listed below are for Crown Heights only. Since one can never achieve complete precision, and many factors may influence the accuracy of these times, it is recommended to begin earlier than the time listed and not wait until the last minute (e.g., for the start of Shabbos), or to wait extra time, when that is the appropriate precaution (e.g., at the close of Shabbos).

The Editors

11 Kislev 5785

1) *Likkutei Sichos* vol. 18, p. 341—Emphasis in original

2) from a *sichah* addressed to N’shei Ubnos Chabad, *Sefer Hasichos* 5750, vol. 2, p. 485

THURSDAY, 18 KISLEV

TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is the *yahrtzeit* of the *tzaddik* Rabbi Yosef Yitzchak of Avrutch—the great-grandfather of the Previous Rebbe.

EREV YUD-TES KISLEV

Today's entry in *Hayom Yom* is its last, and is followed by a festive greeting:

Gut Yom Tov! May you be inscribed and sealed for a good year in the study of Chassidus and in following the ways of Chassidus!

In numerous *sichos*, the Rebbe discusses extending this greeting in the Hebrew singular (*tikaseiv*, not *tikaseivu*) when greeting an individual.

Today, we complete the yearly cycle of the book of Tanya as part of the daily study of *Chitas*.

Tachanun is omitted during Mincha.

In the talk from the Shabbos of *Parshas Shemos* 5713: Everyone should complete the tractates they have taken upon themselves³; there is still time until tomorrow nightfall (*tzeis hakochovim*).

In *Igros Kodesh* (and similarly in numerous other sources), the Rebbe states: “I suggest that on the first night, the eve of Yud-Tes Kislev, you should conduct *farbrengens* in many different locations. Inform people in those events of the next day's grand *farbrengen*. Then, on the next evening, the eve of the twentieth of Kislev, gather in one location for a grand *farbrengen*.”

Lu'ach Colel Chabad notes: “In every city, *Anash* gathers with feasts and joy, thanking G-d for this big miracle. The day is also commemorated by the conclusion of the Talmud in every community of Chassidim and the division of its study for the following year. The intent is that every person resolves to study a tractate of the Talmud with the intent of finishing it by Yud-Tes Kislev of the following year. It is also the day when the annual cycle of the study of the *Tanya*, as ordained by the Previous Rebbe, is begun anew.”

There are many *sichos* that refer to this occasion of completing the entire *Sefer Hatanya*.

The *farbrengen* tonight in 770 begins at **9:00 pm**.

FRIDAY, 19 KISLEV

Chag Hageulah, Rosh Hashanah of Chassidus

Yud-Tes Kislev will coincide with Friday in only two calendrical setups. The first

³ This was the eve of 24th of Teves. Up until that year, it was the date of the distribution of the Shas in the yearly cycle (that now begins on the 19th of Kislev, as stated in the paragraph below).

is as occurs this year: a non-leap year that carries the *siman* (a mnemonic that is shorthand for the calendar's setup) of א"ש: Rosh Hashanah is on Thursday—**hey**, the fifth day; the months of Cheshvan and Kislev are both *shleimim* (full)—**shin**, with 30 days each; and Rosh Chodesh Nissan is on a Sunday—**aleph**, the first day. The other occurrence is a leap year that carries the *siman* of ג"ש (the same as above, with the exception of Rosh Chodesh Nissan, which occurs on a Tuesday—**gimmel**, the third day of the week). Accordingly, Yud-Tes Kislev coincided with Erev Shabbos in the years 5717, 5727, 5733, and 5744, 5754.

Today is the *yahrtzeit* of the Maggid of Mezritch. He passed away on Tuesday in the week of *Parshas Vayeishev* on 19 Kislev, 5533 (1772). He is buried in Anipoli.

Today is the anniversary of the Alter Rebbe's release from his first imprisonment. He was freed on Tuesday in the week of *Parshas Vayeishev* (the same *parshah* as this year)—toward the evening of 19 Kislev, 5559 (1798)—226 years ago.

Today is the anniversary of the rescue of the Alter Rebbe's son, Harav Moshe. He was saved on the eve of 19 Kislev, 5576.

Yud-Tes Kislev is a day of *farbrengen* and taking on positive resolutions to fix times for the public study of Torah and *Chassidus* and for strengthening observance of the ways of *Chassidus*—in a spirit of true brotherhood and friendship.

“It is obvious that today's study should begin with topics that are timely,” the Rebbe instructed on the eve of Yud-Tes Kislev 5749, “teachings that explain the concept of this day (the laws of the day, so-to-speak). Begin with the words of the Rebbe that are printed in the introduction to *Hayom Yom*.”

OPENING HAYOM YOM

The introduction to *Hayom Yom* reads as follows:

Yud-Tes Kislev is the festival on which “He redeemed our soul in peace,” and the light and vitality of our souls were granted to us. This day is the Rosh Hashanah for the teachings of *Chassidus*, which our holy forbears bequeathed to us, i.e., the teachings of the Baal Shem Tov.

“This day is the beginning of Your works,” the fulfillment of the Divine intention underlying the creation of man in this world—to elicit a revelation of the light of our holy Torah's innermost dimension.

On this day, that light is elicited in a comprehensive manner for the whole year. It is our duty on this day to awaken our hearts, the very core of our hearts, with an inward and elemental desire and will—that G-d illuminate our souls with the light of the innermost (mystical) dimension of His Torah.

“From out of the depths I called to You, G-d,” to elicit the depths and inwardness of His Torah and mitzvos from the inwardness and essence of the Infinite Light, so that it will illuminate the innermost reaches of our souls. Our entire being (i.e. our total existence, compromising its essence and extensions) will thereby be devoted

to Him alone, banishing from us any natural traits that are evil or despicable. Rather, all our actions and affairs (both in our *avodah*, i.e. davening and Torah and mitzvos, and in the worldly undertakings that are needed to maintain the body) will be sincerely motivated by the cause of Heaven, as G-d wishes.

May G-d the Merciful Father show us compassion and lead us along the good and righteous path and thus “the righteous shall behold His Countenance.”

PERSONAL FARBRENGENS

On *Shabbos Parshas Vayishlach* 5752, the Rebbe instructed that “in order to strongly emphasize that every person is also a *mashpia* (person of influence), it is appropriate for each person to host their own *farbrengen*. They should *farbreng* with themselves, with all ten powers of their soul. They should *farbreng* with their family. And they should *farbreng* with friends and acquaintances. As it is stated (regarding the Redemption), ‘*He will return the hearts of fathers to the sons and the hearts of sons to their fathers.*’... Ideally, each person should participate in three *farbrengens* (establishing a *chazakah*⁴). They should personally attend one *farbrengen* and have representatives attend two others, if all three are held simultaneously.”

In the morning: *Shema* can be recited until **9:32 am**.

Tanya Anew: We begin the new yearly cycle in the study of the daily Tanya portion of *Chitas*. This Yud-Tes Kislev, we utilize the cycle division designated for a non-leap year (*shanah peshutah*).

FRIDAY AFTERNOON

Shulchan Aruch states that although a person hears the entire Torah read in shul on Shabbos morning, he also needs to read it himself every week. We therefore recite *shnayim mikra ve'echad targum*, i.e., we read twice each verse and once the commentary of Onkelos. It is customary to do this Friday after *chatzos* (midday). The best way to fulfill this mitzvah is to ensure that the reading has been completed before starting the Shabbos morning meal, and preferably even before the start of Shacharis.

Mincha: We say *Hodu, Pasach Eliyahu, Yedid Nefesh, Korbanos*. After that, we recite the entire weekday Minchah prayer (and *Tachanun* is not said).

We are obligated to check our pockets on *erev Shabbos* before the onset of Shabbos. This is especially relevant for those who wore Shabbos and Yom Tov clothes during the day in honor of Yud-Tes Kislev.

Candle lighting at **4:13 pm**.

⁴) three recurrences—a practice that can create a halachically binding circumstance.

FRIDAY NIGHT, 20 KISLEV

Chag Hageulah, Rosh Hashanah of Chassidus

Kabbalas Shabbos: We begin with *Lechu Neranena*. In the final stanza of *Lecha Dodi*, the term *besimchah* is recited (and not *berinah*).

DAY OF FARBRENGEN

In numerous *sichos*, the Rebbe states that the main *farbrengens* and large-scale events should be held on the night following Yud-Tes Kislev, i.e., on the eve of Chof Kislev.

Regarding holding *farbrengens* on the night of Shabbos, see references in footnote.⁵

KIDDUSH IN SHUL

If you are making *Kiddush* tonight, whether in shul or at home, the order is as follows: *Sholom aleichem*,⁶ *Aishes chayil*, *Mizmor l'Dovid*, *Doh hi seudasa*, and continue on with *Kiddush*.

You must eat immediately after *Kiddush* at the location where it was recited, for *Kiddush* is only halachically binding in the place where a meal will be eaten (*makom seudah*). This entails eating at least a *kezayis*⁷ of a food sourced from one of the 5 *minei dagan*⁸ (*hamotzi* or *mezonos*⁹), or by drinking a full *revi'is*¹⁰ of wine in addition to what was drunk for *Kiddush*. *Mezonos* that will be consumed post-*Kiddush* must be covered while *Kiddush* is recited, just as is done for the challah when washing for *hamotzi*.

The one who makes *Kiddush* should be sure to drink at least a full *revi'is*, so there is no question whether they should include *al hagefen* as part of their after-brachah.

5) See *Sichas Shabbos Parshas Vayeishev*, 20 Kislev 5744; such has been done on a number of occasions in 770. Also see *Sefer Hasichos* 5705, p. 18, and *Roshei Devarim Shabbos Parshas Terumah* 5750. Take note of *Likkutei Sichos* vol. 25, p. 347, and *Sefer Hasichos* 5758, p. 226.

6) Some say *Sholom Aleichem* only when returning home from shul to eat the full meal there.

7) the volume that can be squeezed into a small matchbox.

8) These five grains are: wheat, barley, spelt, rye, or oats.

9) Although the mitzvah of holding a *seudah* (*hamotzi* meal) following *Kiddush* entails washing immediately without snacking in between so that the meal should be eaten with appetite, it is permissible to substitute with *mezonos* to fulfill the obligation of *makom seudah* in circumstances where you will wash for the meal later. This is permissible for these reasons: (1) While eating the *seudah* with appetite is the most ideal way to fulfill the mitzvah, we can rely on the *psak* of those who are more lenient since this is not an absolute requirement; (2) Even absent such a *heter*, it is accepted across the board that *mezonos* (pastries that are sweet and appetizing) do not ruin the appetite but enhance it; also (3) One who is planning on eating a meal at a later time can suffice with a smaller amount immediately post-*Kiddush*; and especially (4) According to the Maharil, in his commentary on the Alter Rebbe's *Shulchan Aruch*, one can possibly fulfill their obligation of *seudas Shabbos* even with *mezonos*.

10) approximately 3 oz. (views on this *shiur* span a minimum quantity of 2.6 to 3.4 oz.)

You are still required to wash for a Shabbos meal, but at that (later) time you do not need to make *Kiddush* again even if it is in a different location.

BRACHOS FOR OTHER FOOD & DRINK

If the meal is being eaten where *Kiddush* was made, the wine you drank for *Kiddush* will cover all subsequent *Shehakol* drinks physically present at the time or that you had in mind to drink.¹¹ This applies to the person who made *Kiddush*, and also to anyone who partook of the wine, even a small sip. Someone who was *yotze Kiddush*, but did not drink wine and did not wash for *hamotzi*, must make *Shehakol* on whatever they drink.

When saying the after-brachah of *al hagefen*, all *Shehakol* drinks are included. This applies whether the initial drink was covered by the *borei pri hagafen* or not (for example, if someone made *Kiddush* without intending to have any additional drinks, but then made a *brachah* on a drink when they became thirsty).

As stated earlier, an *al hagefen* is said only on a *reviis* (or greater quantity), so an individual who was *yotzeh Kiddush* with just a sip of wine will not recite *al hagefen*, but make a *borei nefashos* after all their subsequent drinks.

However, someone who is having *hamotzi* after *Kiddush* and desires to drink water before washing for challah must be careful to drink less than a *reviis* of water. If more than a *reviis* of water was drunk, a *brachah acharonah* of *borei nefashos* is required, and if you neglect to do so before washing, you must say it at any point during the meal, and even if you only remember to do so after *Birchas Hamazon*.

WOMEN & KIDDUSH

A woman should ideally make *Kiddush* on wine, if at all possible, or listen to someone else reciting *Kiddush* and fulfill their obligation that way. They should not recite the nighttime *kiddush* over challah, nor should they use an alternative beverage to wine if making *Kiddush* on their own.

If the above options are not available and if grape juice is also not a possible alternative, they should recite *Kiddush* over challah.

A woman who is at home while her husband is at shul (making or hearing *Kiddush* there), should preferably not wait for him to come home to make *Kiddush*, as being *motzi* her once he himself already fulfilled his obligation can be a halachic issue.¹² In circumstances where she is not capable of making *Kiddush* on her own, he is certainly allowed to do so for her, and the general practice is that he may do so even if it is merely difficult (practically) for her.

11) For in-depth coverage of this topic, see the One-Minute Halachah #731 at www.halacha2go.com.

12) since there is a halachic argument whether one may say *Kiddush* again to exempt others if they are capable of doing so on their own. See Hebrew footnotes for a complete discussion on why it is permissible in extenuating circumstances, with sources.

SHABBOS PARSHAS VAYEISHEV, 20 KISLEV

Chag Hageulah, Rosh Hashanah of Chassidus

The Book of Ezra records that at the start of the era of the Second *Beis Hamikdash*, “on the twentieth day of the ninth month”—Chof Kislev in the year 3414—upon the return to Eretz Yisrael of the Jews who were exiled to Babylon, that “all the people of Yehudah and Binyamin assembled.”¹³ At this grand assembly (*farbrenge*), *Ezra Hasofer* inspired the people to return to Hashem through genuine *teshuvah*.

Today is the anniversary of the first printing of the Tanya, which occurred on Tuesday, 20 Kislev, 5557 (1796) at the printing house in Slavita.

The Previous Rebbe revealed in a letter that in the year 5558, the Alter Rebbe instructed the Chassidim to apply themselves diligently to the study of Tanya, and that on the Shabbos that coincides with Chof Kislev, every community of Anash should study two chapters from the first part of Tanya and one chapter from its second part. The Previous Rebbe concludes that this was an enigma (*vayiheh l'peleh*) in the eyes of Chassidim.¹⁴

Shema can be recited until **9:33 am**.

Tefillos: *Av Harachamim* is not recited before Musaf, and *Tzidkascha* is not recited during Minchah.

MOTZOEI SHABBOS

Shabbos ends at **5:18 pm**.

Vihi no'am and *Ve'atah Kadosh* are recited as usual during Maariv.

The *melave malka* meal is consumed in conjunction with the Chassidic *farbrenge* celebrating the *Chag Hageulah*.

SUNDAY, 21 KISLEV

TODAY IN HISTORY

It is recorded that in the days of *Shimon Hatzaddik*, Chof-Alef Kislev is the day that Har Gerizim, a stronghold of the Samaritan tribe (who brought many troubles on the Jews of the Second Temple Era), was plowed over. To commemorate this day as one of minor celebration, eulogies were not given. The Rebbe talks about the significance of the differing accounts of the event and its lessons.¹⁵

13) *Ezra* 10:9. [In Hebrew: י,ט—perhaps an allusion to Yud-Tes Kislev.]

14) For elaboration, see *Likkutei Sichos* vol. 25, pg. 200 f. 72

15) In *Megillah Taanis* (In the Talmud [Yuma 69a], the date given is 25 Teves). See the *sichah* of *Shabbos Parshas Vayeishev*, 21 Kislev, 5745 (*Hisva'aduyos* p. 905 ff.)

NITTEL NACHT - TUESDAY NIGHT, EVE OF 24 KISLEV

The Rebbe notes that *Nittel Nacht* occurs often during or in proximity to the days of Chanukah.¹⁶

CUSTOMS FOR NITTEL

Be sure to complete daily study of *Chitas* and Rambam before sunset.

If you didn't manage to complete the learning before sunset, it should be done after midnight.

Regarding the deferment of marital relations on *Nittel*, see the footnote.¹⁷

WHAT IS NITTEL?

The name *nittel* alludes to an absence, a euphemism for birth. Some suggest it is related to the word *nitleh* and *taluy*, “the hanged one”, a reference to *oso ha'ish*, the individual who is the focus of worship in the *notzri* religion. The date officially marks the birth of that man. As such, the term *nittel* can be related to the Latin *natal*, “birth.”

It is an ancient Jewish practice (which thereby becomes a venerated part of Torah) and it is also the Chabad custom, to refrain from studying Torah on *Nittel Nacht*, from sunset until halachic midnight. The reason is “to avoid adding vitality to the forces of impurity.” Other reasons, offered by great Torah sages, are recorded in the books that explain the reasons for *minhagim*. The Rebbe mentions these in *Igros Kodesh* and *Likkutei Sichos*.¹⁸ In other sources, it is explained that the phrase “to avoid adding vitality to *kelipos*” is directed at “that man” who was deified by the non-Jews as well as those who presently follow his path. See the above *Igros Kodesh* to understand how it is possible for Torah study to produce negative results.

WHEN IS NITTEL?

The timing of *Nittel Nacht* does not follow the Jewish dates, but rather, the secular calendar. The date must be determined by the observance of the local non-Jewish population. The Jews of each country observe this custom on the eve of *yom eidam* (lit., the day of their calamity, used metonymically for “festival”) as it is celebrated by the non-Jews of their country. In the United States, this sets the date as December 25th. In a location with variances in the dates for the non-Jewish *yom eidam*, *Nittel Nacht* is observed on the date that the majority of the local non-Jews celebrate.¹⁹

16) *Sefer Hasichos, Shabbos Parshas Vayeishev* 5750

17) This topic is discussed in *Igros Kodesh*, vol. 12 p. 424. If it is *mikvah* night, it is better to wait until after *chatzos* (halachic midnight).

18) *Igros Kodesh* vol. 14, p. 351; *Likkutei Sichos* vol. 15, p. 554

19) See footnotes to *Sefer Hasichos* 5750, vol. 1, p. 192

The willful avoidance of Torah study is a surprising and unprecedented concept. It must not be extended beyond the strict duration set by Jewish custom just one night, until midnight.

THE REBBEIM & NITTEL

Regarding the conduct of the Rebbe Rashab on *Nittel Nacht* and the implied directive, see *Sichas Shabbos Parshas Vayeishev* 5750: “From this we derive a directive as well as an infusion of ability to utilize the duration of *Nittel*, not to waste our time, G-d forbid (simply in order to avoid adding vitality to *kelipos*), but rather for a practical benefit. It is especially appropriate to use this time for matters that lead to increased wisdom ... or to increase in acts of *tzedakah* and *chessed*, or to take care of the home, and the like.”²⁰

In his notes from the winter of 5695, recorded in Vienna, the Rebbe relates that the Rebbe Rashab would also refrain from studying *Chassidus* on *Nittel Nacht*, even in a cursory manner. When *Nittel* coincided with the eve of Shabbos, he would defer the delivering of his customary *maamar* to Shabbos morning instead.²¹

Despite the general ban on Torah learning, a mourner recites the usual Mishnayos. It is permissible to read stories of Chassidim.

CHANUKAH PREPARATIONS

WHAT TYPE OF FUEL?

Pure oil is better for lighting the menorah than candles. Kindle all the lights with one type of fuel. For example, do not light some oil cups and some beeswax candles in a single menorah. The mitzvah **cannot** be fulfilled with wickless candles, gas canisters or electric lights.²²

The menorah may not be lit with oil that is repulsive or causes a foul smell, or with oil that is spiritually repellent due to its having been acquired through theft.²³

20) Printed in *Sefer Hasichos*. See further in the original *sichah*.

21) For more on this topic, see *Heichal Menachem*, p. 268. However, refer to the *reshimah* of Chof Kislev 5693. Also take note of a short *sichah* delivered on *Leil Gimmel D'Chanukah* 5750.

Regarding the *mitzvah* of a *mikveh* night that coincides with *nittel*, see *Igros Kodesh*, vol. 12, p. 424.

22) In extenuating circumstances (such as in a hospital or on a flight) where it is not possible to kindle an open flame, an electric candelabra should be lit without a brachah. The candelabra should be one that is designated for Chanukah (not used year-round for general illumination, e.g., the reading lights above your airplane seat) and its sockets should be filled with incandescent bulbs that have metal filaments. Do not hold the electric menorah when switching it on, but place it on a surface in front of you.

23) Regarding stolen oil: It is a halachic principle that *mitzvah haba'ah ba'aveirah*, a mitzvah that is accomplished through violating a prohibition, is invalid and not considered a mitzvah at all. It is important to note that oil that is borrowed without permission is considered stolen.

Some authorities maintain that the materials used for the menorah must be the absolute property of its owner. (See extensive references and notes in the Hebrew version of this publication.) According to this view, borrowing such materials is not an option. In the case where someone mistakenly uses materials belonging

It is also best to use oil that has not been stored under a bed where people have slept or in a bathroom.

The best way to perform the mitzvah of kindling the Chanukah lights is with olive oil, because it produces a pure, clear and steady flame, it is easily drawn by the wick, and it was the fuel with which the miracle of Chanukah originally occurred.

All other types of oil are also fine to use in a Chanukah menorah, except on Shabbos Chanukah (there are conflicting opinions about the kinds of oil permitted on Shabbos). Nevertheless, it is a greater mitzvah to use oils that offer pure, clean lights.

Buyers beware! Fake olive oil is currently being sold in stores. The bogus oil is more yellow, less bitter and runnier than actual olive oil, and gives off an unpleasant smell when lit. When heated, olive oil will emit a strong olive smell, but will not bubble or foam when used for frying and does not smoke. It is easy to tell a fake by placing a sample in the fridge alongside a sample of genuine olive oil. The olive oil will become thicker and stickier than the fake. It is better not to rely on this experimental evidence, but to purchase oil that is verified as 100 olive oil by a reputable certification agency.

Other *hiddurim* (enhancements) relating to the olive oil include using a product that is: **extra virgin**, and not labeled “pomace,” which includes pulp; **food-grade**—although be aware that oil of this caliber may be marked “for lighting” so as not to be subjected to a food tax; and **liquid** (not congealed or frozen). This is because the purer and more virgin the product, the better it is for the mitzvah.²⁴

Candles: For those purchasing the small cardboard boxes of ubiquitous, colored-wax Chanukah candles, be aware that these candles are designed to burn exactly the minimum half-hour required by Halachah. Since many cheap *menoros* are fashioned with candle slots that are close together, these candles can burn out in even less than thirty minutes Night Two and on as the heat of nearby flames melt the wax at a faster rate. Imperfections in the production process can cause them to go out before the half hour is up even on the first night. As we will discuss further in the halachos of lighting, we are generally stringent to set the Chanukah lights to burn a full fifty minutes, so buy longer candles to fulfill the mitzvah in a manner

to another to light the menorah, and they become aware of the switch after the fact, they should rekindle the menorah using their own oil or candles without the blessings.

When acquiring materials for lighting from another, you need to physically lift the materials or draw them toward yourself to fully acquire them according to the halachic principle of *kinyan*. Alternatively, paying for the oil, even a token amount, also qualifies as a *kinyan*. Accordingly, if a sleepover guest wishes to fulfill the menorah obligation with the host's lighting, they must give at least a minimum sum of money to formally acquire a share of the materials. Some opinions further require that the oil being lit should be of sufficient quantity as to include a *prutah's* worth for each of the participants who are relying on that oil for the mitzvah.

24) In recent years, this concept has given rise to significant debate. Note, however, that the strong preference for the purest oil is explicitly recorded in *Kuntrus Seder Hadlakas Neir Chanukah* that was authored by Rabbi Yitzchak Sagi-Nahor, the son of the *Ra'avad*.

of *hiddur*. When purchasing for small children, or for *mitvzoim* purposes in cases where the menorah will definitely be lit after nightfall, you may be lenient with the minimal-sized candles (since it can be projected that at least one flame will remain lit for the obligatory half-hour). However, when the candles will be lit before dark, and especially on *erev Shabbos* when they **must** be kindled by *shki'ah* time, provide longer candles that will burn until at least a full half-hour after *shki'ah*.

It is the Chabad custom to use a beeswax candle for the *shamash*.

WHAT ABOUT THE WICKS?

The best way to perform the mitzvah is to obtain cotton, wool, or linen thread for wicks. Some have the *hiddur* of using only untreated wicks, so that the first light should be from the burning oil and not the wax that coats the wicks. Any other type of material is also fine. (Some coat their wicks in oil or singe them in preparation for lighting.) The thickness and placement of the wicks should be taken into consideration, so that the light continues to burn for the appropriate amount of time.

Wood wicks should not be used.

AND THE RECEPTACLE?

According to halachah, a wax candle is considered to be a wick in a wax container. Technically, there is no need to insert the candle into a holder—a menorah. Nevertheless, *Chazal* instructed that mitzvot be performed in a beautiful manner, in the spirit of *zeh Keili ve'anveihu* (“This is my G-d and I will glorify Him”), and this instruction extends to the Rabbinic mitzvah of Chanukah. It is therefore important to obtain a beautiful menorah, ideally made of metal. Those who can afford it should obtain a menorah made of precious metal such as silver, all for the greater splendor of the mitzvah.²⁵

If no receptacle is used, or if candles are held by shallow cups or spikes, care must be taken that they are not close enough for the individual flames to meld, or even look like they have become a single flame. The space that Halachah requires between candles in this setup is an *etzbah* (finger's breadth) between each light. However, in a standard menorah, with all the lights in a row, and especially those with metal or glass oil cups for individual lights, this is not a concern.²⁶

A menorah that has branches of uneven heights is still kosher,²⁷ though one that is aligned is more *mehudar* and should be used, as it is our practice on Chanukah to perform the mitzvah *mehadrin min hamehadrin*, in the most ideal way.

25) Some extend this *hiddur* and do not use glass cups in their menorah so that the lights are contained within the silver vessel itself.

26) see [#11797](http://www.asktherav.com)

27) see [#2107](http://www.asktherav.com), with illustration.

One may not use *ma'aser* money to buy a menorah, oil or wicks for the mitzvah of lighting on Chanukah.

In *Likkutei Sichos*, the Rebbe states, “There is basis for suggesting that *menoros* that are designed for use on Chanukah should be fashioned with straight, diagonal branches...why change the true design of the original menorah, whose branches were diagonal and not curved?”²⁸

WHO LIGHTS?

The Rambam writes: “The Chanukah lights are an extremely precious mitzvah. Be extra careful in observing this mitzvah, in order to publicize the miracle and to praise G-d and thank Him for the miracles that He performed for us.”

Men and women are equally obligated in the mitzvah of kindling the Chanukah lights. Even a pauper who survives on *tzedakah* is expected to sell their garment if needed to purchase oil for their menorah.

A household member may *yotze* (fulfill their obligation) through the menorah that is lit by the head of their household. This is in fact the custom for women and girls. When being *yotze* in this manner, listen to the blessing and respond *Amen*, but do not respond *Baruch hu uvaruch shemo*.

TRAVEL PLANS

While it seems logical that someone who does not have a home is not obligated to purchase or rent a home for the sake of observing this mitzvah,²⁹ nevertheless, it is equally obvious that due to the preciousness of the mitzvah, we should not cause it to be neglected deliberately. Therefore, **if you intend to travel, organize your schedule so that you will be able to light the menorah at its proper time in your own living quarters.** It is a far greater mitzvah to personally light the menorah rather than delegate it to an emissary.

In fact, some halachic authorities advise that someone who purchased air tickets and the like with an itinerary that prevents the kindling of the menorah should cancel the tickets—even if doing so inflicts considerable monetary loss. In actual practice, a Rav should be consulted for guidance.

A guest should light the menorah wherever they are staying. However, if that

28) vol. 21, p. 169, note 44

29) There is actually a halachic debate regarding the need to buy or rent a home for the sake of this mitzvah. Some have pointed to the words of Rambam: “There are positive commandments for which one is obligated to try to fulfill and actively pursue them ... these are referred to as *chovah*, because one is obligated to find a way to fulfill them, one way or another. Then there are mitzvos that are not obligatory and are comparable to *reshus*, optional instructions. Take, for example, the mitzvos of mezuzah and *ma'akeh* [fencing an open rooftop]. One is not obligated to live in a house that meets the requirements for a mezuzah just in order to put up a mezuzah. If he wishes, he may spend his entire life living in a tent or on a ship. Nor must he build a home just in order to erect a fence along its roof ... Then there are [non-biblical] mitzvos that are obligatory according to Rabbinical decree, such as kindling the Chanukah lights.” A similar deduction can be made from the words of Tosefos Sukkah 46a, s.v. *haro'eh sukkah*.

location will no longer be considered their living quarters during the halachic time for lighting—for example, if someone leaves one temporary location immediately after kindling the menorah and travels elsewhere for the night without intention to return—there is grave doubt as to whether they have fulfilled their obligation. The menorah must be lit at home, yet in the case of the person switching their residence, their original location is not their “home” within the timeframe that the menorah must be lit.

Someone who will return home from traveling late at night, even after midnight, then the best option by far is to personally light the menorah at home upon returning (provided that another member of the household will be awake and present to observe the lighting).

As mentioned above in the footnote regarding not using borrowed oil, a houseguest should contribute to the cost of the host’s lighting—thereby being *yotze* with the menorah lit in the location where they are currently sleeping.

SCHEDULING PARTIES

Those organizing Chanukah parties for friends or relatives should host these events at a location and hour that will allow the participants to light their own *menoros* at the correct time **in their own homes**. It is therefore best to avoid arranging parties in the early hours of the evening, from a half an hour before sunset until after nightfall; since the participants are not actually staying at the location in which the party is held, they cannot fulfill their obligation by lighting the menorah at that location. It is also forbidden to sit down to a meal during the half hour prior to kindling time.

THE DREIDEL

On the eve of Ches Teves 5747, the Rebbe stated, “As is known, the word *goshnah* (lit., to Goshen) in the phrase ‘He sent Yehudah ahead of him, to Yosef, to direct him to Goshen’³⁰ is comprised of the four letters that appear on the *dreidel*, which form the acronym of *neis gadol hayah sham* (A great miracle happened there). It has been observed that the Rebbeim also used dreidels in their homes. As is known, there are numerous allusions contained in the dreidel and all of its details, as described in the books that elucidate the reasons behind Jewish customs (and: ‘Jewish customs are Torah’).³¹”

30) Bereishis 46:28

31) This concept is also explained in *Sefer Hasichos* 5748 p. 260, fn. 32 and *Likkutei Sichos* vol. 12, notes on bottom of p. 33; *Igros Kodesh* vol. 9, p. 66.

MENORAH LIGHTING TIMES FOR CROWN HEIGHTS

The earliest possible time to light is *plag haminchah* (lit., half of Minchah) for public lightings (and for individuals in extenuating circumstances).

The best time to light is after *shki'ah* (sunset), between Minchah and Maariv, except Friday, when Chanukah candles are lit immediately prior to lighting Shabbos candles and *motzoei Shabbos*, when candles are lit after Havdalah.

It is permissible to light until *chatzos* (halachic midnight), if unable to light at the proper time, as long as the family has not gone to sleep. *B'dieved* (with no other recourse), candles may be lit anytime at night, if family members are awake.

Note: The times for *shki'ah* listed below are the times that appear in the calendars (sunset at sea level). For purposes of menorah lighting, add several minutes. In this context, several minutes should also be added to the times for *plag haminchah*.

WEDNESDAY, 24 KISLEV (DECEMBER 25), 1ST NIGHT

Plag Haminchah - 3:37 pm
Shki'ah - 4:35 pm
Chatzos - 11:56 pm

THURSDAY, 25 KISLEV (DECEMBER 26), 2ND NIGHT

Plag Haminchah - 3:37 pm
Shki'ah - 4:35 pm
Chatzos - 11:56 pm

FRIDAY, 26 KISLEV (DECEMBER 27), 3RD NIGHT

Plag Haminchah - 3:38 pm
Shabbos Candles - 4:10 pm
(18 minutes before shki'ah)

MOTZOEI SHABBOS, EVE OF 28 KISLEV (DECEMBER 28), 4TH NIGHT

Shabbos Ends - 5:22 pm
Chatzos - 11:57 pm

SUNDAY, 28 KISLEV (DECEMBER 29), 5TH NIGHT

Plag Haminchah - 3:39 pm
Shki'ah - 4:38 pm
Chatzos - 11:58 pm

MONDAY, 29 KISLEV (DECEMBER 30), 6TH NIGHT

Plag Haminchah - 3:40 pm
Shki'ah - 4:38 pm
Chatzos - 11:58 pm

TUESDAY, 30 KISLEV (DECEMBER 31), 7TH NIGHT

Plag Haminchah - 3:41 pm
Shki'ah - 4:39 pm
Chatzos - 11:59 pm

WEDNESDAY 1 TEVES (JANUARY 1), 8TH NIGHT

Plag Haminchah - 3:42 pm
Shki'ah - 4:40 pm
Chatzos - 11:59 pm

WEDNESDAY, 24 KISLEV, EREV CHANUKAH

TODAY IN HISTORY

“On the twenty-fourth of the ninth month Hashem’s words were delivered through the prophet Chagai.” This message foretold victory over the enemies of *Bnei Yisrael*, when Zerubavel (who was of the Davidic line) would succeed in continuing to build the second *Beis Hamikdash* that had started, but was then stayed, during the days of King Koresh. The significance of the date of this *nevuah* is that it was able to provide a spiritual antidote to a less positive outcome that resulted from the Chanukah victory years later on that date—the *Chashmonaim* ushered in a new era of Jewish sovereignty that was, unfortunately, not from the tribe of Yehudah. This day is significant too, says the Rebbe,³² to the concept of redemption as it applies to the third *Beis Hamikdash*, and the reestablishment of a king from *Dovid Hamelech* (Moshiach), which will be forever, speedily in our days.

For the Rebbe’s insight into the superiority of *erev Chanukah* over *erev Yom Tov*, see the *sichah* of *Motzoei Shabbos Vayeishev 5739*.

During Minchah, *Tachanun* is not recited.

LIGHTING IN SHUL

In order to further publicize the miracle, we light a menorah in shul and recite the appropriate blessings. Since this lighting is for publicity’s sake, at least a full *minyan* must be present while the candles burn—and preferably at the time that the blessings are recited.

Most shuls use candles and not olive oil for the public lighting. This is also the custom in 770.

If the shul will empty after the lighting, it is permissible to extinguish the flames, even if a half hour has not yet passed from the lighting, especially if leaving them lit unsupervised creates a fire hazard.

WHERE TO LIGHT

The shul’s menorah should be on the southern wall, its lamps stretching from east to west. It should be placed on a platform to make it visible (higher than ten *tefachim* from the floor, in contrast to the home menorah which should be lower).

In 770, it is customary for the one lighting the menorah to stand facing south.

WHEN TO LIGHT

It is best to prepare the menorah **before** the prayers, to avoid distracting those who are praying.

It is the Chabad custom to light the shul menorah towards the conclusion of

³² see *Sichas Shabbos Parshas Chayei Sarah*, 5712; *Sichas Shabbos Parshas Vayeishev 5736*

Minchah before reciting *Aleinu*. There is no need to wait until *shki'ah* (sunset); it can be kindled any time after *plag haminchah*. The *chazzan* recites three blessings on the first night, including *Shehechianu*.³³ On the remaining nights, two blessings are said.

If a minyan gathers only at night, the candles are lit at the conclusion of Maariv before *Aleinu*.

The lamps of the menorah should not be kindled until all the blessings are fully concluded.

HOW TO LIGHT

On the first night of Chanukah, the first right-hand lamp of the menorah is kindled. On each subsequent night, another light is added to the left side. The new lamp is lit first, followed by the others, from left to right.

Attending a menorah lighting in shul or at an outdoor public event does not dispense with each person's obligation to kindle a menorah at home. Even the *chazzan* who lit the shul menorah must light again upon returning home to his family, and he must repeat all the blessings. If there is no one else at the *chazzan's* home on the first night observing and fulfilling their obligation through his private menorah lighting,³⁴ he should only repeat the first two blessings—but not the blessing of *Shehechianu*.

If a public menorah lighting (including in shul) takes place after the one reciting the blessings already lit at home, he should still recite all the blessings again, including the blessing of *Shehechianu* on the first night.

LAW OF REDEMPTION: WHO WILL LIGHT?

At a general *yechidus* on the third night of Chanukah 5751, the Rebbe asked: "Who will light the grand Chanukah menorah in the third *Beis Hamikdash*? Surely we will light it there, as was done at the time of the miracle (as we recite in the *V'al hanissim* prayer): 'And they lit the menorah in Your Holy Courtyard.' The subject needs an in-depth analysis, but it is very probable that it will be *Aharon Hakohen* himself who will kindle the public menorah! Since he is already the one designated to light the seven-branched gold menorah daily, which is done immediately prior to the opportune time of public Chanukah lightings, the law of precedence will apply to him."

WEDNESDAY NIGHT, 1ST NIGHT OF CHANUKAH

PRE-LIGHTING ACTIVITY

It is forbidden to begin a *melachah* (time-consuming work) or a meal within a half

³³) A mourner should not light the shul menorah on the first night of Chanukah for this reason.

³⁴) This would apply even to a child who has reached the age of chinuch (who is not lighting and reciting the blessings himself).

hour of the proper kindling time. Snacking is permitted, if necessary, in an amount less than the meal-appropriate size of *hamotzi* or *mezonos* (up to the volume of *kebeitzah*, the amount that fits into two small matchboxes)—or on fruit and other non-*mezonos* foods, even in larger quantities. Nevertheless, those who are extra scrupulous avoid snacking as well.³⁵

If you begin a prohibited activity, you must stop. Some opinions maintain that studying Torah is only prohibited once the proper time of kindling has arrived. It is recommended to appoint someone—who is not busy eating or studying—to remind you to light the menorah.

Some authorities maintain that if it is arranged for a second person to remind you, you may even sit down to a meal.

Women and girls who will not be lighting their own menorah because they will be included in their husband or father's lighting may eat after the time for lighting the menorah has arrived.

Those who set off on *mitvza Chanukah* without lighting their own menorah first must be careful to consider the above requirements. They are permitted to eat non-*mezonos* foods, even if those foods are filling. If they find themselves in great need of nourishment, they can be lenient within half an hour prior to the time of lighting and even eat *mezonos* more than the volume of *kebeitzah*. (If it is truly urgent, even bread is permitted.) After the time of lighting has arrived, they may eat if it is truly necessary, as long as they have not reached their living quarters. In such cases, it is appropriate to arrange for someone to remind them of the need to light the menorah as soon as they return home. It is best to fully prepare a menorah at home in advance, before leaving, so that the lighting is not delayed more than necessary. The above leniencies aside, do your best to refrain from eating bread or *mezonos* more than the volume of *kebeitzah* before lighting the menorah wherever possible.

It is not Chabad custom to don Shabbos clothing when lighting the menorah, however, a *gartel* is worn.

WHEN TO LIGHT

LIGHTING ON TIME

The place and time for the menorah lighting in each household were originally established for maximum public exposure: at the entrance to the home in view of pedestrians, at an hour when the streets are full. Although it has become customary to light the menorah indoors and not in an entrance facing the street, it is nevertheless appropriate to light within the correct time frame.

According to Chabad custom, we light the menorah at home immediately

³⁵) See Hebrew entry for references.

after the true moment of *shki'ah*, between Minchah and Maariv, on each night of Chanukah, except for *erev Shabbos* (which requires an earlier lighting) and *motzoei Shabbos* (which requires a delayed lighting).

It is the Chabad custom to fill the menorah with sufficient fuel to burn for at least fifty minutes, so that it remains lit for half an hour after nightfall.

The Rebbe strongly emphasized the importance of lighting the menorah ourselves in its proper time, before *tzeis hakochavim*, and also with regard to inspiring others while doing *mitvza Chanukah*—encouraging and facilitating the lighting of a menorah on time by as many Jews as possible.³⁶

It is a good idea to verbalize, before lighting the menorah, that you only wish to utilize the amount of fuel necessary for the mitzvah (whether it is a half hour or 50 minutes). This way, lights still burning and oil left over after that time—and even the wicks—will not be considered a mitzvah item that would need special care and disposal.³⁷

LATEST POSSIBLE TIME

If you are unable to light the menorah before the time for Maariv arrives, you should first recite Maariv and only then light your menorah.

If you did not light the menorah before Maariv, you should do so within a half-hour after nightfall, which is still considered the time that there is pedestrian traffic outside, according to some opinions. If this time has elapsed, you must at least attempt to light the menorah before halachic midnight. If this is not an option, you may light the menorah during the night, any time before dawn, provided that other members of the household are awake to observe the lighting. If they are asleep, it is worth rousing at least two individuals—if not, one will do—so that you can recite the blessings. If they are asleep, and rousing them is not an option, you may light the menorah without the blessings.

However, someone who lives alone or has no household members with him where he is staying, should light **with** a blessing, even when it's late.

³⁶ Below is an excerpt from *Sichas Motzoei Shabbos Vayeishev, Ohr L'chof Kislev, 5739* (taken from a recording of the Rebbe's address). See the original *sichah* for the full message.

"The main thing is the action ... It is readily apparent that in order to light the Chanukah lights in their appropriate time, we must make all of the necessary preparations in advance, on *erev Chanukah*. Otherwise, we may end up dragging the lighting beyond sundown. How much more of an absolute necessity it is to consider, out of *ahavas Yisrael*, ways in which our fellow Jews might be enabled to light the Chanukah lights in the exact way that we do (*kemocha*)—in the same manner we conduct advance preparations.

"To achieve this, we must devote our time on *erev Chanukah* to the Chanukah campaign, with enormous effort and energy, and go all out for this goal. ... We cannot allow ourselves to rationalize that if we are unable to reach out to an individual in time to ensure that he lights before sundown on the first night of Chanukah, we can always do so in time for the second or third night. Or that even if we reach out for the first night, we are satisfied if he lights before *chatzos*, or while members of his household are still awake, and so on, based on the details specified in Halachah. Such an approach is entirely misplaced and misguided regarding any of the mitzvos, and certainly for the mitzvah of the Chanukah lights."

³⁷ see [#18187](http://www.asktherav.com)

EARLIEST POSSIBLE TIME

If you know in advance that you will be unable to light the menorah on time, it is possible to light it earlier—any time after *plag haminchah*. In that case, make certain that the menorah holds sufficient fuel to continue burning until a half hour after nightfall. However, there are varying opinions regarding reciting the blessings at this early hour. Some authorities prefer that you appoint a representative to light the menorah at the proper time on your behalf rather than light early. In the final analysis, it is far better to personally light the menorah and to recite the blessings—even if it can be done only later at night—than to appoint a representative or to light earlier in the day without the blessings.

Lighting on time takes priority over the practice of remaining near the candles for the first half hour after lighting. Therefore, light on time even if you cannot remain near the menorah, rather than delay the lighting to a more convenient time. Nevertheless, linger at least briefly after lighting, and preferably, arrange for someone else to remain near the lit menorah in your stead. This is also highly appropriate for another reason—to minimize the risk of a fire from leaving burning flames unattended.

WHERE TO LIGHT?

LIGHT AT HOME

The *Taz* states, “In the case of one who lives in town and happens to leave his home to eat in a friend’s home, it is obvious that he should not abandon (lighting the menorah at) his home by (instead) lighting the menorah in his friend’s home, at which he eats on a one-time basis. Rather, he should return to his own home to light the menorah there ... It makes no sense to light in the location where he spends an hour or two over a meal instead of at his own home. It is as if he happened to be standing in the street when the time for lighting arrived—it is clearly inappropriate for him to light in the street! Although it is true that we observe some people who eat at the home of others and then send someone to fetch their *menoros* for them so that they can light there (at their friend’s home) ... they are making an error and fail to understand what is expected from them.”³⁸

Someone who erred in lighting in another’s home where he is not sleeping over must light again when he returns home that night. (If this happened on the first night, he does not repeat *Shehechyanu* when he lights at home.)³⁹

38) This topic is elaborated in the Day-by-Day Halachic Guide (Hebrew) Chanukah 5776, quoting the views of *Bach*, *Magen Avraham* and *Admor Hazaken*, and we also reported on the practice of the Rebbe Rashab.

See at length [#1979](http://www.asktherav.com), that it is entirely incorrect and ineffective to light a menorah for the sake of fulfilling one’s personal obligation while situated in an airport or similar venue.

39) See [#25274](http://www.asktherav.com)

GUESTS, TRAVELERS, & STUDENTS

Someone who is sleeping over at another's home need not light on their own if a family member is lighting in their own home.

If they need to be *yotze* by their host's lighting, a guest may contribute a token amount to their host's lighting (and the host should add a bit of extra oil for them). However, if the sleepover guest is also partaking of the host's food, they are considered part of the household and they are automatically included in their lighting, and a contribution is not necessary.

Nevertheless, it is the common (and best) practice, for each male adult to light their own menorah, and a sleepover guest should do so in their host's home and include the blessings—since they are sleeping there it can be considered their home.

If a traveler is unable to arrange their travels to be able to light for themselves at home or in their sleepover location at the proper time, they may light immediately before leaving, as early as *plag haminchah*, as long as there are family members who will remain at home after *shki'ah*. Alternatively, they can light once they arrive at their new location, even past midnight, reciting the blessings if they are staying alone or some household members are awake. If they will be traveling throughout the night, they may light in their transport vehicle. (Since this is not legal on a plane, they should light an electric menorah without a brachah, as mentioned.) The obligation to light the menorah cannot be fulfilled in an airport or a rest stop.

Yeshivah *bachurim* should light the menorah at the entrance to their dorm rooms. Needless to say, they should observe all fire safety procedures.

Girls studying in seminaries away from home fulfill the mitzvah where they presently live (see below regarding women lighting in general). However, one girl may be appointed as a representative to light a menorah on behalf of them all. They can all chip in to purchase the oil, or use supplies that belong to the school. On each night, a different girl should light the menorah, if possible.

MENORAH PLACEMENT

It is the custom of the Chabad Rebbeim to position the menorah in a doorway to a room in the home, and not to place it on a windowsill facing the outside.

Light the menorah in the room in which meals are consumed on a regular basis, if there is a choice of multiple rooms or even homes. When visiting a friend, even for a meal, return home to light the menorah.

It is a mitzvah to place the menorah within a *tefach* (handbreadth, around three inches) of the left doorpost. If there is no mezuzah on the right doorpost, the menorah should be placed on the right—whether this is because the doorway does not require a mezuzah, or it does, but is nonetheless lacking one.

It is the Chabad custom to position the menorah within the actual space of the doorway, alongside the width of its doorpost, and to place it on a somewhat lower object such as chair, without concern for the direction of the branches—whether they stretch from east to west or north to south.

When placing the menorah, be sure to choose a location where a sudden breeze will not lash out the candles.

LAW OF REDEMPTION: WE'LL LIGHT WHERE?

In the Era of Moshiach, we will once again kindle our *menoros* outside, in view of all passersby.⁴⁰

HOW HIGH?

The lights of the menorah must be situated at least three *tefachim* (approximately ten inches) from the floor but no higher than ten *tefachim* (approximately thirty-one inches). It is not the Chabad custom to specifically position them between seven and ten *tefachim*, or, alternatively, close to three. If someone did light the menorah above ten *tefachim*, they have fulfilled their obligation, but at twenty *amos* (approximately thirty feet) or higher it must be relit.

A menorah that is exceedingly tall may rest level with the floor so that its lights will be at the appropriate height. Out of respect for a mitzvah-article, a flat tray may be placed as a barrier between the menorah and the ground. According to most *poskim*, it is sufficient for the menorah itself to be in the ten-*tefachim* range, even if its lamps are higher. To keep the lit menorah out of the reach of a child, a higher placement is certainly permissible. When there is a safety concern, there is room to be lenient and place the entire menorah above ten *tefachim*.⁴¹

When more than one menorah is placed in an identical location, a *heker* (distinguishing feature) is necessary, such as each individual lighting their own candelabra, placed in a way that allows the viewer to easily observe how many lights each menorah contains. It should not appear as one single menorah.

THE SHAMASH

The *shamash* should be placed so it is an outlier, not in line with the actual Chanukah lights. Our custom is that it should be higher than the other lights.

If a number of people are lighting *menoros* in different locations in a house, each menorah must have its own *shamash* light. This applies even if there is already a candle (for general illumination) on the table. There are numerous reasons, including mystical ones, for lighting a *shamash*. Likewise, there are sources that refer to a total of forty-four lights over the course of Chanukah, a number that includes using a *shamash* each day. Therefore, there is room to be *mehader* that

⁴⁰) see *Sichas Shabbos Parshas Mikeitz*, 5723

⁴¹) see details and sources on www.asktherav.com #6445; www.halacha2go.com #467

even if numerous people light at the identical location with a *heker*, each person should light a separate *shamash*.

WHO LIGHTS?

GATHER THE FAMILY

For the sake of lending the greatest possible publicity to the miracle, gather the entire household to attend the menorah lighting. It is worth lighting close to suppertime, when the family naturally gathers. If no one is home at the time for lighting, it is permitted to wait until the household members arrive. Ideally, everyone should be present, but the lighting may take place even if one or more members are missing.

CHILDREN LIGHTING

Children are trained to personally light their own *menoros*. They should begin from the earliest possible age. It is preferable for each child to light at the doorway to their own bedroom. Naturally, all safety measures should be in place for this event. See the excerpt from the Rebbe, below.

LIGHTING FOR CHINUCH

The Rebbe instructs, “In addition to explaining the significance of lighting the Chanukah menorah to children, it is advisable for children to have a menorah situated at the entrance to their rooms. The lighting should take place there as well. Children are impressed by the Chanukah lighting experience to a far greater degree when it is held at the entrances to their own rooms. The menorah’s message enters deeper into their souls and their *chinuch* (Jewish education) is thereby advanced. The *chinuch* (alt. meaning: inauguration) of their bedrooms is also advanced, for every child’s room should serve as a *mikdash me’at* (a miniature *Beis Hamikdash*). This experience reflects and alludes to the *chinuch* of the *Beis Hamikdash* (the reinauguration of the Second Temple by the Maccabees) that is commemorated with the festival of Chanukah.”⁴²

The Rebbe’s answer to questions whether girls are included in the above directive is that parents’ overriding principle in making educational decisions should be the effect any given experience will have on their particular child: will implementing the practice indeed advance her *chinuch*?⁴³

WOMEN LIGHTING

Women are equally obligated in this mitzvah. The custom in the homes of the Chabad Rebbeim is that unmarried girls or women do not light their own *menoros*, but fulfill their obligation through their fathers’ lighting. Married women fulfill

⁴²) *Sefer Hasichos* 5748, p. 162.

⁴³) *Hisva’aduyos* 5748, vol. 2, p. 91. For further elaboration, see *ibid.*, p. 133.

their obligation via their husbands.

A single woman who lives independently or one whose husband will not be lighting in their home must kindle the menorah personally or via a representative. When she lights, she makes the blessings. If she has minor children in the house who light their own menorah, she must still kindle her own.

The Rebbe states: “The (Friediker) Rebbe related that when his father, the Rebbe (Rashab), had to leave home before Chanukah, he instructed his wife, Rebbetzin Shterna Sarah, to personally light her own menorah, although she would listen to the blessings recited by one of the men.”⁴⁴

LIGHTING INSTRUCTIONS

If circumstances permit lighting of a menorah only on condition that its flames are extinguished almost immediately after lighting, do not recite the blessings. In such an instance, it is recommended to also light an electric menorah, without reciting the blessings.

If a draft extinguishes the menorah within half an hour of lighting, it must be rekindled without a brachah, in a place where it will not go out again. You must ensure that there is sufficient oil for it to remain lit for a half-hour—the time that it was lit before going out does not count toward the requisite time.

The menorah should be lit in the place where it will remain while burning, resting on a surface. However, if you picked it up while lighting, and then immediately put it down, you are still *yotze*. Even if it is held for the duration, you are *yotze*, provided that the candelabra is a menorah that is exclusively lit on Chanukah. It is brought in *Sefer Haminhagim* that the Friediker Rebbe’s menorah would be lifted a few inches toward the Rebbe so he could properly light it and then it would be put down in its place, and despite this, the Rebbe would light and say the brachos on his own. This is, in fact, a practical solution when lighting with those who are bed or chair-bound—they may light a Chanukah menorah and say the brachos wherever they are situated, and it can then be transferred a few inches to its location to burn on.⁴⁵

A BLESSING ON SEEING THE CANDLES

An individual who sees lit Chanukah candles and—for whatever reason—is not planning or unable to light that night at all, nor will they be *yotze* with another lighting, should recite the brachah *she’asah nissim*. If it is the first night seeing the lights, they should recite *Shehechianu* as well. This applies as long as candles are burning, even if it is more than a half hour after they were lit, and also for someone who merely sees the candles in shul. However, if someone in

⁴⁴) *Likkutei Sichos* vol. 30, p. 312

⁴⁵) See notes on www.asktherav.com #2013

their household did light the menorah while they were not present, there is an argument among *poskim* whether to recite the brachah—and in the case of a disputed brachah, we refrain from reciting it (*safek brachos lehakel*).

A person who is in a non-Jewish area with no menorah in sight should light candles with a brachah even if there is a designated person at home who will be lighting that night, for there is an obligation to actually view the lights of Chanukah.

FIRST NIGHT'S LIGHT

On the first night of Chanukah, one lamp is lit to the extreme right of the menorah.

LAW OF REDEMPTION: HILLEL & SHAMAI

In the current era, Halachah follows *Beis Hillel*, who holds that the fewest number of lights are lit on the first night of Chanukah and that the number of lights steadily **increases** on each subsequent night. The opinion of *Beis Shamai* is that the greatest number of lights is lit on the first night of Chanukah and that they steadily **diminish** on each subsequent night. As a result, eight lights are lit on the first night (instead of just one), seven on the second night, six on the third, and so on.

The Rebbe says: “This requires further illumination: In the era of the Redemption, Halachah will follow the opinion of *Beis Shamai*—when Moshiach first arrives, will the halachah immediately switch to the views of *Beis Shamai*? If so, then this year, we will need to light eight candles on the first night of Chanukah. Accordingly, our Chanukah preparations will have to reflect this.”⁴⁶

According to the Rebbe's explanation in the *sichah* of *Simchas Torah* 5752, in the initial stage of the Redemption, the law will follow the view of *Beis Shamai*, whereas in the advanced stage of Redemption, the law will follow both *Beis Hillel* as well as *Beis Shamai*. At that time, the physical world will be the recipient of the revelation of *Atzmus*, Hashem's Essence. He is able to tolerate impossibilities, and He considers opposing views of our Sages as equally valid Divine disclosures. The impossibility of following both views will then become possible, and that will become the practical law.⁴⁷

THE BLESSINGS

The *shamash* must be lit before reciting the blessings, so that it is available for

46) *Sichas Erev Chanukah* 5750. See, however, *Sichas Shabbos Parshas Vayishlach* 5752, that “at that time, we will experience the perfection of the concept of steadily increasing from one day to the next.”

47) Note that according to one version of our Sages' teaching, “All the festivals will be nullified in the future era, except for Chanukah and Purim,” as quoted in *Igeres HaTi'ul*, *Derush Ois Mem*, and in *Sefer Hachaim* (vol. 3, beginning of ch. 7)—also see *Likkutei Sichos* vol. 5, p. 172, fn. 4. See *Ateres Zahav* (676), that the term used in the blessing over the *menorah* – *lehadlik*, “to kindle,” refers to the kindling of the Chanukah lights in the Future Era. On the other hand, *Maggid Meisharim Parshas Vayakhel*, seems to imply that in the Future Era only the verbal recounting of the miracle will be observed. See *Ben Ish Chai* (vol. 2, *Derush Alef Leshabbos Shuvah*). It is also necessary to clarify the concept of lighting candles at night in the Future Era. According to *Shemos Rabbah* (ch. 18, 11), “In the future era, night will become day, as it is stated, ‘The light of the moon shall be as the light of the sun.’” Note the statement in *Sha'alos Uteshuvos Be'er Moshe* (vol. 8, 17).

kindling the lamps immediately upon concluding the blessings.

The *shamash* should be held in the right hand. Left-handed individuals should hold it in their left hand.

The three blessings are: (1) *lehadlik ner Chanukah* (2) *she'asah nissim la'avoseinu* and (3) *Shehechyanu*. The menorah is kindled only after reciting the blessings. The *shamash* must be held beside the wick until the majority of the tip is aflame. After the kindling is completed, *Haneiros Halalu* is recited.

Be careful not to interrupt (make a *hefsek*) between saying the brachah and lighting the candle (all the candles, on subsequent nights). Do not talk at all, even concerning matters related to lighting, unless it is impossible to proceed with the lighting without speaking. However, if you add oil to the cups or perform some other task necessary for lighting (such as fixing a wick, or replacing a cup that falls and shatters), you do not need to repeat the brachah.

If you did speak out, or if you started saying *Haneiros Hallalu* before lighting by mistake, see the chart at the end of the booklet. (On subsequent nights, if you interrupt once you have lit even one candle, you do not have to repeat any brachos, since you have already begun fulfilling the mitzvah once you kindled one light.)

If you failed to prepare the candle cups with sufficient oil to last the appropriate time, there are opinions that state that you are not *yotze* with lighting, even if you add more oil later to allow the candles to burn longer. Rather, you should put out the flame(s), pour in the correct amount of oil, and light again without the blessings.

Someone who recited the blessings previously (as the *chazzan* in shul, for example, or while doing *mitzvoim*) must repeat them when lighting his own menorah at home. He should not repeat the third blessing (*Shehechyanu*) on the first night unless others are currently fulfilling their obligation through him. (See other details above regarding who and when to light in shul).

If you forget to recite *Shehechyanu* on the first night, or make another mistake in reciting the brachos, see the chart at the end of the booklet.

Safety Alert!

The Torah insists that protecting lives should be taken even more seriously than religious observance: Children must not be permitted access to a lit menorah or to matches and the like without responsible adult supervision. Nor should a lit menorah be left unattended without adequate safety precautions.

POST-LIGHTING

It is customary to remain beside the menorah for the first half hour after its kindling. If you are not able to remain, you should still light on time rather than postpone it. Nevertheless, make an effort to at least linger briefly before abandoning a newly lit menorah. The best option when forced to leave is to

appoint someone else to continue watching the menorah until the end of the thirty minutes.

If a light has extinguished during the fifty minutes required according to Chabad custom, it should be relit without a blessing—but it is not halachic necessity. However, if it is immediately obvious upon lighting that the wick has not properly caught and the flame will likely extinguish shortly, it must be relit with sufficient oil to burn for the correct amount of time from this point on.

Once the menorah remains lit beyond this minimum time, it may be moved. Candles that remain lit may also be extinguished after fifty minutes, if necessary.⁴⁸

If safety considerations require moving a lit menorah, it may be relocated even within the first thirty minutes. In such a case, it is appropriate to keep it as close to its original location as is safely possible. Naturally, try to avoid such a scenario whenever possible by lighting it in a more secure location from the start.

It is forbidden to make use of the illumination provided by the Chanukah lights.⁴⁹ The flames may not be used even to light a *shamash*. Even after the allotted time has passed, do not make use of the light provided by the Chanukah lights.⁵⁰

The Rebbe Rashab would sit in proximity to the Chanukah lights and study Torah. Naturally, he avoided making use of the lights themselves. As mentioned in numerous *sichos*, the Rebbe sees in this a directive to increase in Torah study during Chanukah.

It is brought in various *sefarim* that we must be careful with the type of talk we engage in while in the vicinity of the illuminated menorah. Since the Chanukah lights embody great holiness, it is appropriate to refrain from speaking of mundane matters more than necessary.

DOING CHORES

It is customary for women to refrain from chores for fifty minutes after kindling. After fifty minutes, women may work as they wish—provided they do not perform activities in front of the menorah. According to custom, only sewing, knitting, laundering, ironing and the like must be avoided. Other activities, such as sweeping and cleaning the house or cooking and baking may be performed.⁵¹

DRAWING LIGHT IN

Take note of the following statement of the Rebbe: The deeper significance of women customarily refraining from chores while the candles remain lit is that

48) Some are stringent not to extinguish the candles at all.

49) According to a number of opinions, this includes the light of the *shamash*. Another candle or electric light must be present in the vicinity of the menorah in order to provide general illumination.

50) The severity of this precaution can be ameliorated if, at the time of lighting, the oil and wicks were designated for mitzvah-use only for the necessary amount of time, as mentioned above.

51) According to some authorities, men should avoid these tasks at this time as well.

women internalize the concept and message of the burning Chanukah lights to the degree that they shed any association with mundane chores.⁵²

MAARIV

During Maariv, *V'al hanissim* is inserted into the *Amidah*.

The gabbai should **not** interject between the blessing of *Hashkiveinu* and the start of the *Amidah* in order to announce “*V'al hanissim!*” for the benefit of the congregation.

If you forgot to recite *V'al hanissim* during the *Amidah*, see the chart at the end of the booklet.

MIVTZA CHANUKAH

Every effort should be expended to ensure that a Chanukah menorah is lit in each Jewish household, and that all men including very young children should personally light a menorah.

Menoros should be lit in the most public, central locations to further publicize the miracle of Chanukah. Such public events should be utilized to urge all participants to light their own *menoros* at home. It is best to clearly announce that no one fulfills their obligation with a public lighting—they must also light at home.

It is not appropriate to honor female dignitaries with lighting a menorah, nor, *l'havdil*, may a non-Jew participate in the lighting—even if only the *shamash* candle.⁵³

A working man who lights a public menorah at his office for the sake of publicizing the miracle should not recite the blessings unless it is positioned where at least ten Jews will view it at once.

A large aspect of *mitvzoim* is visiting offices and shops to lay tefillin, deliver Shabbos candles, learn a bit of Torah, or the like. When it comes to *mitvza Chanukah*, it is important to emphasize that the goal should be to distribute *menoros* that the business owners and their clients should **take home and light**, and not to only light them in the places of business.

When visiting people at home to encourage Chanukah observance, be aware that many modern households have their young children say the brachos, even if an adult actually lights the menorah—so a lit menorah in the household, or the assurance that they have done so, is not an indication that the mitzvah has been fulfilled. In such a case, the menorah would need to be lit again by an adult, so

⁵²) *Michtav Leil Chanukah*, published in *Likkutei Sichos* vol. 25, p. 512. See *Tur Barekes, Orach Chaim*, 670; *Sefer Hamitzvos (Tzemach Tzedek)*, *Mitzvas Neir Chanukah* beg. ch. 3 (*Derech Mitzvosecha* 74a).

⁵³) see [#32110](http://www.asktherav.com)

ask leading but non-invasive questions and ascertain if a child did indeed say the brachos on lighting, and if so, how old they are, and whether the adults present had the intention of being *yotze*. Then proceed as follows: (1) If there is an adult who was not *yotze* in the initial lighting, they should light again with *brachos* with the intention of being *motzi* everyone. (2) If they were all present at the initial lighting, and a child who has not reached the age of *chinuch*⁵⁴ recited the blessings, an adult repeats the brachos and rekindles the menorah. (3) If they were all present and an older child recited the brachos earlier, the adult lights the menorah again, but without the brachos.⁵⁵

CHANUKAH CUSTOMS

Rambam states that the days of Chanukah are days of joy. The Rema qualifies that “it is partially a mitzvah to increase in meals” during Chanukah. The prevailing custom is to add in festive meals during Chanukah. It is best to sing and recount Hashem’s praises for the miracles that He made for our ancestors during these meals, which will guarantee that the meals are considered *seudos mitzvah* according to all opinions. (Regarding Shabbos Chanukah and Rosh Chodesh Teves in this regard, see the entries for those dates below.)

In numerous *sichos*, the Rebbe discusses the requirement to rejoice on Chanukah. Despite the halachic dispute as to whether rejoicing is actually required or not, the Rebbe encourages an all-out observance of the custom—*mehadrin min hamehadrin*. Included in this, the Rebbe explains, is holding *farbrengens* with fellow Chassidim, family or friends, and reaching positive resolutions for the future.

It is customary to serve cheese and milk products during Chanukah.

We serve foods that are prepared with oil in order to recall the miracle of the oil. In *Sefer Hasichos* 5752,⁵⁶ the Rebbe explains this custom at length.

LATKES & DONUTS

The blessing for *latkes* made from grated potatoes is *Ha’adamah*. If the potatoes were completely crushed or potato flour was used, the blessing is *Shehakol*. If flour from the five grains was added for flavor, the blessing is *Mezonos*.

If someone eats a portion of latkes, and then wants more, they need not make a new brachah. This applies whether they had intention of eating a second portion or not. It makes no difference if they made the decision to indulge in more before or after finishing their first portion. This applies whether latkes remain from the

54) The age of *chinuch* is around six years, but can be somewhat younger for an intelligent child.

55) This is because there is a halachic argument whether a child who understands the point of the lighting can be *motzi* the adults, and *safek brachos lehakeh*. This principle would also apply to the brachah of *Shehecheyanu* recited by the older child on the first night—it is not repeated later that evening if an adult lights, nor is it said if they become aware that they must light for themselves on a subsequent night.

56) p. 196

batch they initially ate from, or even if the second batch was not yet fried when they made the brachah—as long as they were aware that more were theoretically available for consumption.

The blessing for doughnuts is *Mezonos* (with an after-blessing of *al hamichiyah*). This is true even if someone makes a meal out of doughnuts, eating enough of them to be full.

It is customary to recite a separate blessing (*Mezonos*) over doughnuts that are eaten as a snack, even when eating them during a proper meal with bread. This is true if they are eaten as a snack or as dessert at the end of the meal. However, if they are eaten for the purpose of satiation, in the place of regular food, they must be considered like any food that is integral to a meal and no independent blessing is recited over them—they are included in the blessing of *Hamotzi* recited at the start of the meal.

It should be noted that some stores sell cake doughnuts that are not deep-fried in oil—such doughnuts are *mezonos* if the majority liquid ingredient(s) is oil and/or fruit juice, unless one makes a meal of them, eating enough cake doughnuts to be full. If a doughnut dough is mixed mainly with water and not deep-fried, it is *hamotzi*.⁵⁷

A batch of dough intended for fried doughnuts are exempt from the requirement of separating *challah*.

Netilas yadayim (without a blessing) is required for doughnuts and latkes fried in **olive oil** that retain enough moisture on the surface to transfer liquid when touched.

Commercially fried doughnuts that are generally cooked in vegetable oil or the like, do not need hand-washing.⁵⁸ However, all doughnuts must be *bishul Yisroel* (cooked, even in a commercial setting, with the participation of a Shabbos-observant Jew).⁵⁹

V'AL HANISSIM

In *Birchas Hamazon*, the *V'al hanissim* prayer is inserted into the blessing of *Nodeh lecha*. If you forgot to recite *V'al hanissim* in *Birchas Hamazon*, see the chart at the end of the booklet.

⁵⁷) A doughnut made of dough mixed mainly with water that is deep-fried and then baked is *hamotzi* (similar to bagels). However, if it is placed in the oven just to reheat it, it remains *mezonos*.

If it contains mostly liquids other than water (inclusive of what was mixed in the dough and also what was absorbed while frying), it is like the cake doughnuts of similar composition (see above).

See notes on www.asktherav.com #1434.

⁵⁸) It can be assumed that olive oil is not used—see Hebrew footnotes for why we are lenient in all circumstances. Doughnuts that are iced or jam-laced may be an issue, however, since these confections are usually water-based.

⁵⁹) See www.asktherav.com #18021 for references.

GELT & MORE

For directives regarding *Chanukah gelt*, see the entries below for the fifth night of Chanukah. There, the directive to give *Chanukah gelt* on each night of Chanukah is discussed.

It is customary to give additional *tzedakah* during Chanukah.

We wish each other *ah freilichen Chanukah* (“Happy Chanukah!”) or *ah gutten Chanukah* (“Have a good Chanukah!”).

SHARE & FARBRENG

On Shabbos *Parshas Vayeishev*, 5752, the Rebbe stated, “Seeing that we have already accomplished all that was required and nevertheless the Redemption has not yet arrived, it is extremely appropriate to ‘publicize the miracle,’ meaning that we should publicize the miracles that Hashem performs for us, broadcasting this awareness to ourselves and to others in every location. We should do so with the understanding that publicizing Hashem’s miracles brings the true and complete Redemption. This effort should be stepped up during Chanukah—a festival whose entire purpose is to publicize Hashem’s miracles.

“In addition to all of our other activities, including *mitvza Chanukah*, we should hold *Chassidische farbrengens* on each day of Chanukah. Naturally, the name of these events may be rebranded to fit the location and the audience—‘When you visit a city, follow its local customs.’ At these *farbrengens*, we should discuss words of Torah, both *nigleh* and *pnimius* and make positive resolutions in all matters of Torah and mitzvos, so that there is a steady increase—in a manner reflecting the steadily increasing lights of the menorah. Above all, we must use these events to discuss and publicize miracles that occur nowadays—in the spirit of the Chanukah blessing, *bayamim haheim bizman hazeh*, ‘In those days [of yore as well as] in the current era.’”⁶⁰

THURSDAY, 25 KISLEV, 1ST DAY OF CHANUKAH

SHACHARIS

In the morning, it is customary to kindle the shul menorah without a blessing and to keep it alight for the duration of Shacharis. Use a *shamash* for this lighting.

In 5750, the Rebbe instructed, “To further increase the impact of the Chanukah lights, it is appropriate to keep the menorah that is lit in shul (where everyone gathers) burning around the clock, provided that there is no concern of children playing with fire.”

Do not skip *V'al hanissim*, even if you are hurrying to complete the *Amidah* in time to respond to *Kedushah* or *Modim* together with the congregation. If you forgot *V'al hanissim* in davening, see the chart at the end of the booklet.

60) *Sefer Hasichos*

RECITING HALLEL

The complete *Hallel* is recited **each** day of Chanukah.

Chazal instituted the recital of *Hallel* during Chanukah as a binding obligation. It is therefore recited even in a house of mourning, because the mourner himself must also recite this *hallel*.

An *avel* within his year of mourning leads the congregation throughout Chanukah, with the exception of *Hallel*, for which someone else must take over. The *avel* resumes his position as *chazzan* immediately after and he recites the *chatzi-Kaddish* that follows *Hallel*.⁶¹

Do not verbally interrupt the recitation of *Hallel* to speak of other matters, except for those matters for which it is permitted to interrupt the blessings of the *Shema*.

The best way to fulfill the mitzvah of reciting *Hallel* is to recite it together with the congregation, immediately after the *Amidah* of Shacharis. That way, *Hodu* and *Ana* can be recited in response to the *chazzan*.

In *Igros Kodesh*, the Rebbe mentions the case of someone who enters shul in order to begin Shacharis and discovers that the congregation already recited the *Amidah* and is poised to begin *Hallel*. The Rebbe states, “I never heard an explicit directive regarding reciting *Hallel* before one has recited Shacharis. The oral tradition among the *Chassidim* is, however, despite the fact that our Rebbeim would extend their *Shabbos* prayers over many hours—long after the congregation had concluded the service—they would nevertheless organize their time on Yom Tov so that they would conclude the *Amidah* with the congregation and then recite *Hallel* together with them.”

If you did not recite *Hallel* after the *Amidah*, you may recite it anytime during the day prior to *tzeis hakochavim* (nightfall).

If you omit any word from *Hallel*, a minority of halachic opinions require that you repeat it from the very beginning. Do so without another brachah. However, if you omit *Lo lanu* and/or *Ahavti* (having prayed as if it were Rosh Chodesh or the latter days of Pesach), you must repeat *Hallel* from the beginning according to the majority. If you already completed the half-*Hallel*, repeat the whole *Hallel*, including both the first and last brachos.⁶²

Following *Hallel*, *chatzi-Kaddish* is recited, followed by the Torah reading comprised of three *aliyos* from *Parshas Naso*, as described in the *Siddur*.

FASTING, WORK, GRAVESITES

It is forbidden to fast or to deliver a eulogy during Chanukah. The only exception

61) This is also the practice for an *avel* who is leading the davening for a *yahrtzeit* on every weekday of Chanukah (including Rosh Chodesh). However, on *Shabbos*, he remains the *chazzan* for *Hallel* as well. See www.asktherav.com #32094.

62) See details and sources at www.asktherav.com #25250

is a *ta'anis chalom* (a fast for a deeply unsettling dream).

Unlike Chol Hamoed, all forms of work may be performed during Chanukah.

The Ohel: It is permissible to visit the gravesite of a *tzaddik* during Chanukah, and the Rebbe personally did so. When reciting *Ma'aneh Lashon*, omit the *vidui* (confession). According to the letter of the law, it is similarly permitted to visit a parent's burial place; however, it is customary to refrain from such visits. It is important to avoid mourning and weeping.

LAW OF REDEMPTION: THE CHANUKAH MEGILLAH

The following statement is recorded in *Sha'alos Uteshuvos Tzafnas Pane'ach Hachadashos*⁶³: "...May we speedily merit the coming of our righteous Moshiach and the true Redemption! Then will be revealed to us the megillah that the elders of *Beis Shamai* and *Beis Hillel* inscribed regarding the events of Chanukah, which occurred in their own times. It is only because there were no prophets that they were unable to create an official megillah (to be read by all Jews. Although they personally recorded the events), it was not given over to be written (for public use), as explained on the first *daf* of Yoma 29. G-d willing, in the Future Era, soon, the prophets will be revealed to us and this megillah will be revealed to us!"⁶⁴

THURSDAY NIGHT, 26 KISLEV, 2ND NIGHT OF CHANUKAH

TODAY IN HISTORY

The Alter Rebbe returned from his incarceration in Petersburg to his home in Vitebsk on the second night of Chanukah, following his original liberation in 5559 (1798). He remained in Vitebsk for the remainder of Chanukah.

Today is the anniversary of the *bris* of the Rebbe Rashab, in the year 5621 (the Hebrew numerals of which spell כתר—*kisra*, "crown," a fact that the Tzemach Tzedek associated with the birth of the Rebbe Rashab).⁶⁵

SECOND NIGHT LIGHTS

Tonight, two lights are kindled. On each subsequent night, another will be added until all eight lights of the menorah are kindled on the eighth night.

Sefer Haminhagim Chabad records that "it is customary to use fresh wicks on each night of Chanukah. Other opinions differ, insisting that there is no need for fresh wicks and that used wicks are easier to light. So far, I have been unable to clarify the (Frieddiker) Rebbe's custom."

Nevertheless, in a *sichah* of *Shabbos Parshas Vayeishev* 5716, the Rebbe states that

63) vol. 1, 45

64) See *Halachos Gedolos Hilchos Soferim* 75; *Likkutei Sichos* vol. 15, p. 368, fn. 17; and *Sichas Shabbos Parshas Vayeishev* 5750 (in *Sefer Hasichos*).

65) For the association of this occasion with the second day of Chanukah, see *Sichas Shabbos Parshas Vayeira* 5730. Take note, however, of *Sichas Motzoei Shabbos Parshas Chayei Sarah* 5740, regarding 27 Marcheshvan.

the Frierdiker Rebbe reused his wicks and he derives a lesson from this.⁶⁶

The blessing of *Shehechianu* is only recited the first night of Chanukah; on the second night only the first two blessings are said. However, someone who has not yet kindled a menorah this Chanukah must recite *Shehechianu* whenever he first lights a menorah. (This scenario typically occurs when introducing a Jew to Chanukah on *mitzvoim*.)

When preparing the menorah on the second night of Chanukah, a new lamp is added to the left of the previous night's lamp. All preparatory measures begin from the left (cleaning the cups, rolling in the wicks, filling up oil). Then kindle the menorah starting with the newest lamp.

It is customary to be stringent and to avoid lighting one Chanukah lamp from another.

After concluding to kindle **all** the lamps, *Haneiros Halalu* is recited.

For more details on the location of the menorah, when and how to light and what to do prior and post-lighting, see the entry for the first night of Chanukah.

Not Enough? If you mistakenly lit one light tonight instead of two (or neglected to add a new light on any subsequent night of Chanukah), you should kindle the additional candle without a blessing at whatever time of the night you realize that you have erred. This is the correct thing to do, according to some opinions, even if the reason you did not light the correct number of candles is because you did not have sufficient supplies, and was only able to procure them later.

Too Many? If you made an error by kindling too many lights, you are still *yotze*. If possible, the candle(s) that are not needed should be moved away from the ones needed for that night.⁶⁷

FRIDAY, 26 KISLEV, 2ND DAY OF CHANUKAH

Erev Shabbos Parshas Miketz

Today's davening is the same as the first day of Chanukah. The order of Torah reading for each day of Chanukah is recorded in the *Siddur*.

EREV SHABBOS CUSTOMS

Today, we recite *shnayim mikra* of *Parshas Miketz*.

In today's reading of *shnayim mikra v'echad targum*,⁶⁸ the custom is to say all *Haftoros* relevant to Shabbos. In accordance with the custom of the Chabad Rebbeim, the *Haftarah* of *Miketz* is read after completing *shnayim mikra* on

66) See also *Kuntres Bakodesh Penimah*, p. 24.

67) See the Hebrew footnotes for details and sources concerning this.

68) The requirement to review the weekly parshah, primarily on *erev Shabbos*, by reciting the Torah text twice and the (Onkelos) translation in Aramaic once.

erev Shabbos, while the Torah portion from *shevi'i* until the conclusion is read once again (in the same manner of *shnayim mikra v'echad targum*) on Shabbos morning, but this time it is followed by the *Haftorah* of Shabbos Chanukah.

Minchah is recited earlier than usual, because it precedes the lighting of the menorah. If there is no early *minyan* available, you should first light the menorah and then join the regular *minyan* for Minchah. The shul menorah is lit after Minchah—anytime after *plag haminchah* (3:38 pm).

It is appropriate to complete all Shabbos preparations before lighting the menorah, so that the entire family can attend the lighting together. The menorah must be lit before the Shabbos candles and is therefore lit earlier than any other day of Chanukah. (Shabbos candle lighting time, eighteen minutes before *shki'ah*, is at 4:17 pm). Chanukah candles can be lit any time after *plag haminchah*, although it is best to light it as close as possible to Shabbos candle-lighting time.

THE SHABBOS MENORAH

Someone who is staying over as a guest for Shabbos should light a menorah at the host's place, for it is best to light at the location where they are staying overnight. This is not the case of a guest who is just coming for the meal—the host's home is not considered their home, and lighting the menorah there is akin to kindling it on the street.

An extra-large quantity of oil should be used today, so that the menorah continues to burn for at least fifty minutes after sunset. According to many opinions, someone who failed to use the appropriate amount of fuel, resulting in the lights being extinguished before the proper time, has not fulfilled his obligation.

If you realize after kindling the menorah that there is not sufficient oil, immediately extinguish the flame, add more fuel, and then rekindle the lamp without a blessing. If you realized the error only after personally accepting Shabbos—but it is still before *shki'ah*—ask someone who has not yet accepted Shabbos to add the fuel. Similarly, if the menorah goes out before the onset of Shabbos, either rekindle it yourself or ask someone else to do so if you already accepted Shabbos.

If a woman must light the menorah today yet forgot to light it before the Shabbos candles, she may not light it herself—since it is the accepted practice that by lighting the Shabbos candles she has accepted Shabbos. In such a case, she should find someone who has not yet lit Shabbos candles (or a male who does not light) to kindle her menorah before *shki'ah*.⁶⁹

⁶⁹) In such a case, she says the brachah of *she'asah nissim*, as is the practice for someone who encounters Chanukah lights and has not, and will not, light on their own, as mentioned earlier. The same applies to anyone who forgot, or underwent extenuating circumstances, and has no recourse to light once it is *shki'ah* and has no one else lighting at home on their behalf—they can say the brachah of *she'asah nissim* when encountering Chanukah lights kindled by another.

If someone has not yet lit, and it is after *shki'ah* but not yet nightfall, some opinions state that a non-Jew may

Unlike all other days of Chanukah, today it is not customary to linger beside the lit menorah for a half hour.

Before Shabbos, it is appropriate to place an object that is worth more than the flames of the menorah (such as a *challah for shabbos*) on the tray upon which the menorah stands. This makes it permissible to move the tray during Shabbos. (Some authorities are more stringent and do not allow the tray to be moved; this would require that the object be placed on the chair or table upon which the tray rests, as will be explained below).

We do not give *Chanukah gelt* on Shabbos; not even using a permissible (non-*muktzah*) object.⁷⁰ *Chanukah gelt* for Shabbos should be given Friday or Sunday.⁷¹

Check your pockets on *erev Shabbos* before the onset of Shabbos.

Candle lighting is at 4:17 pm.

FRIDAY NIGHT, 3RD NIGHT OF CHANUKAH

DAVENING & BENTCHING

Kabbalas Shabbos is recited as usual. *V'al hanissim* is added during Maariv. If you made a mistake, see the chart at the end of the booklet.

V'al hanissim is added to *Birchas Hamazon*, as well as *Retzei* and *Harachaman* for Shabbos. If you forgot the above, see the chart at the end of the booklet.

MENORAH CARE

Take care to avoid rushing past or opening a door directly opposite a lit menorah on Shabbos, so as to avoid extinguishing its flames.

On Shabbos, it is forbidden to directly move the menorah, even once its flames have gone out. The menorah tray and the chair or table on which the tray is placed, as items supporting a *muktzah* object, can also become *muktzah*—unless you take precautions. The tray and chair would not be able to be moved even if the menorah were subsequently removed from them.

However, if you placed a *challah*—or another object that is worth more than the flames of the menorah—on the tray before the onset of Shabbos, the tray (and what is underneath it) are no longer solely supporting a *muktzah* object, and once the flames have gone out, the tray—even if the menorah remains on top—may be

light for them. However, they should have only one candle lit, and they should not recite any blessings—not even *she'asah nissim*.

70) *Sichas Shabbos Parshas Vayeishev* 5750, *Sefer Hasichos* 5750, vol 1, p. 194

71) *Sichas Shabbos Parshas Vayeishev* 5748, *Sefer Hasichos* 5748, vol. 1, p. 163. See also address to Tzivos Hashem on 28 Kislev 5750, *Sefer Hasichos* 5750, vol. 1, p. 199, “Also on Friday before the onset of Shabbos.” See also *Yechidus* on 24 Kislev, 5748.

moved directly on Shabbos.⁷²

According to other opinions, the tray has been designated for the use of the menorah and it does not help to place another object on it before Shabbos. Rather, the valuable non-*muktzah* object must be placed on the chair (or table) on which the tray rests. Then you may then move the chair—with all that is placed on it—during Shabbos. Nevertheless, this solution works only if you need to move the chair in order to provide space to pass by, or in order to use the place in which the chair stands. The chair may not be moved in order to protect the menorah.

If you failed to neutralize the *muktzah* status of the menorah with another valuable object before Shabbos, you may still move the objects in an **indirect manner** once the menorah has gone out, such as using your body, foot, elbow, the back of a hand and the like. Similarly, if you need to use the place in which the menorah is located, you may ask a non-Jew to move it.

CHANUKAH MELACHOS

The dreidel should not be played on Shabbos. According to some authorities, a dreidel is possibly considered a *keli shemelachto l'issur* (object whose primary use is prohibited on Shabbos) and would therefore be *muktzah*.

Chanukah gifts should not be given during Shabbos unless they are articles that are necessary for Shabbos itself.

Doughnuts and other solid foods may be squeezed on Shabbos to remove the excess oil, if the oil is discarded. However, you may not squeeze or spoon out the jelly or other filling to avoid eating them, as this transgresses the *melachah* of *borer*—selecting the scraps from the (desired) edibles.

Do not warm doughnuts on Shabbos, not even by placing them on top of a pot that is on the stove.

Haneiros Halalu is not sung during Shabbos.⁷³

SHABBOS PARSHAS MIKETZ, 27 KISLEV, 3RD DAY OF CHANUKAH

Shabbos Mevorchim Teves

TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is the anniversary of the Alter Rebbe's release from his second incarceration, in the year 5561 (1800).

⁷² There is an opinion that the *heter* of placing a permissible object does not apply to the menorah during Chanukah. Without getting into myriad details, be aware of this stringency and if possible, utilize a non-Jew or indirect handling if needed, *l'chatchilah*.

⁷³ *Shabbos Chanukah* 5742. Nevertheless, it is customary to sing its final section independently—*Al nisecha val nif'osecha. lehodos ulehallel etc.* Indeed, the Rebbe encouraged that this part be sung on numerous such occasions.

Early Shabbos morning, the entire book of Tehillim⁷⁴ is read.

SHACHARIS

Add *V'al hanissim* in Shacharis. If you forgot, see the chart at the end of the booklet.

During Shacharis, the complete *Hallel* is followed by *Kaddish tiskabel*, *Shir shel Yom* (*Mizmor shir l'yom hashabbos*), *Hoshi'einu*, and *Kaddish Yasom*.

KRIAS HATORAH

Two *sifrei Torah* are used today.

Parshas Miketz is read from the first Torah, after which the second *sefer Torah* is placed on the *bimah* on the right side of the first. We may not remove the first *sefer Torah* until the second *sefer Torah* is placed on the *bimah*, so that the *bimah* should not be vacant from a mitzvah. *Chatzi-Kaddish* is recited, and *hagbah* (lifting the Torah) and *gelilah* (wrapping the Torah) are performed on the first Torah. The second Torah remains covered and rolled until the first is all wrapped. This is so that those involved with taking care of the first Torah can be unencumbered and present for the second reading; leaving the new scroll uncovered or unrolled whilst waiting for everyone to be available would be disrespectful to a *sefer Torah*.

Maftir is read from the second *sefer Torah*. It speaks about the offerings of the *nassi* to the tribe of Zevulun (*Bayom hashlishi*). The Second Torah is then raised and wrapped.

The *Haftorah* begins *Rani vesimchi* and describes the lights of the golden menorah as seen by Zechariah.

After the reading of the Torah, the blessing over the coming month of Teves is recited. This month, the *molad* will occur on Monday night, at 5:33 pm, and 16/18 of a minute.

Rosh Chodesh Teves will be on Tuesday and Wednesday.

Musaf & Minchah: *Av Harachamim* is not recited before Musaf, nor is *Tzidkasecha* recited during Minchah.

SHABBOS AFTERNOON

Today is a day to *farbreng*.

As mentioned earlier, we may not eat a meal before lighting the menorah once the time has arrived for doing so. If someone began eating earlier, when it was permissible (they washed hands for bread before sunset), they are not required to end the Shabbos meal in order to light the menorah (especially since the menorah

⁷⁴) How can I say *Hallel* with a brachah later if I already said it in Tehillim this morning? See the Hebrew footnotes for the reasons this is not a concern.

lighting is *mid'rabanan*). Nevertheless, it would be prudent to plan ahead to avoid delaying this mitzvah, especially when attending a *farbrengen* which often involves drinking alcoholic beverages. In Chassidic communities, they follow their standard practice of extending the *seudah shlishis* beyond the official conclusion of Shabbos, as is done usually. In fact, this exact scenario occurred at the Rebbe's *farbrengen*.⁷⁵

MOTZOEI SHABBOS, 28 KISLEV, 4TH NIGHT OF CHANUKAH

Shabbos ends at 5:22 pm.

MAARIV

Maariv should not be delayed more than usual tonight.

Recite *Ata chonantanu* and *V'al hanissim* in Maariv. *V'hi no'am* is recited as usual at the conclusion.

In shul, the menorah is lit before reciting *Aleinu*. It is followed by *Haneiros Halalu*, *Aleinu*, etc., and then *Havdalah* by the *chazzan*. It is necessary to verify that the one kindling the shul menorah did not forget to recite *Ata Chonantanu* in the *Amidah*. If he did, he must recite *Baruch hamavdil bein kodesh lechol* before kindling the menorah.

MENORAH LIGHTING

Needless to say, the menorah is lit only at the conclusion of Shabbos. Hurry home from shul in order to avoid delaying the menorah lighting more than absolutely necessary.

It seems that Chabad custom is to ensure that the *menorah's* lights remain burning for at least 50 minutes on *motzoei Shabbos* as well, even though they are lit after nightfall.

At home, first recite *Havdalah*, then light the menorah, and only then recite *Veyiten lecha*.

Someone who was a sleepover guest for Shabbos may light the menorah at their host's home and remain there for at least a half hour after lighting even though they plan to sleep elsewhere tonight. This location is considered their home until they actually take leave.

MEALS & GELT

Partake of a *melaveh malka* meal, as on every *motzoei Shabbos*, enhanced by extra celebration for Chanukah.

In *Birchas Hamazon*, *V'al Hanissim* is recited.

⁷⁵) *Shabbos Chanukah-Parshas Mikeitz* 5744

There are some people here who are careful to avoid dealing with money on *motzoei Shabbos*.⁷⁶ In a *yechidus kelalis* in 5748, the Rebbe explains that this concern should not apply to *Chanukah gelt* because it is associated with a mitzvah and is used as a tool to advance children's education. The Rebbe noted that it could be discussed on *motzoei Shabbos* that money be spent only the following morning.⁷⁷ The following year, the Rebbe took an alternative approach and concluded that it is appropriate to refrain from actually giving the *gelt* on *motzoei Shabbos*.⁷⁸

SUNDAY, 28 KISLEV, 4TH DAY OF CHANUKAH

TODAY IN HISTORY

On this date, King Yehoyakim burned the original *Megillas Eichah* that *Yirmiyahu Hanavi* had dictated to his disciple, the prophet Baruch, foretelling the destruction of the *Beis Hamikdash*.⁷⁹

Today's davening, and for the remaining days of Chanukah (except Rosh Chodesh), are the same as the first day of Chanukah. The order of Torah reading for each day of Chanukah is recorded in the *Siddur*.

For the customs of Chanukah related to meals, fried foods, *tzedakah* and other observances, see entry above for the first night of Chanukah. For an overview on *Chanukah gelt*, and when to distribute it, see the entry below for the fifth night.

SUNDAY NIGHT, 5TH NIGHT OF CHANUKAH

It is customary among Chassidim to celebrate the fifth night of Chanukah, because one account of the Alter Rebbe's liberation from his second incarceration in 5561 (1800) sets the fifth night of Chanukah as the date of his release. The Rebbe suggests that various stages in his liberation occurred on the third and the fifth night of Chanukah.

CHANUKAH GELT

WHEN TO GIVE

The Rebbe Rashab would distribute *Chanukah gelt* on the fourth or fifth night of Chanukah. In 5748, the Rebbe instructed that *Chanukah gelt* be given on each

⁷⁶ see *Sichas Ohr L'yud Gimmel Nissan* 5743 (and numerous other *sichos*).

⁷⁷ 24 Kislev, 5748

⁷⁸ *Sichah* on the eve of 23 Kislev, 5749

⁷⁹ *Shulchan Aruch Orach Chayim* 580. The commentaries point out that there are various versions as to the precise date of this event.

night of Chanukah with the exception of Shabbos, and that additional *gelt* be given on the fourth and fifth nights.

HOW TO GIVE

In a number of *sichos*, the Rebbe encourages making the greatest fuss out of *Chanukah gelt*. It should be given with great fanfare and excitement, in generous amounts, and in increasing amounts. The distribution of *Chanukah gelt* should be designed to make the children happy and excited to receive it.

Although the entire Chanukah is a time of rejoicing and celebration, the children's delight at receiving *Chanukah gelt* should bring about extra *simchah*, to the point that children who have not yet received *Chanukah gelt* should be deeply impressed simply by hearing about the experiences of their friends who already received the *gelt* (or who were at least promised it).

WHO SHOULD GIVE

The Rebbe notes that it is customary for children to receive *gelt* from as many people as possible—in addition to a child's father, the other members of their family should give *Chanukah gelt* as well. Explain to the children that they are receiving *Chanukah gelt* so that they will further increase their Torah study and to enable them to give more *tzedakah*. “After all,” the Rebbe concludes, “What else is a Jewish child expected to do with money?”

WHAT TO GIVE

The Rebbe often mentions giving coins or bills as *Chanukah gelt*.⁸⁰ However, there is a superiority in giving coins rather than bills from a halachic perspective, as the Rebbe explained during a Tzivos Hashem rally.⁸¹

GIVE & GET

Every child should try to personally light the Chanukah lights, and in the optimum way—adding a light each night, climaxing with a full set of eight lights on the final night. Each child should also observe the custom of **giving** *Chanukah gelt*—to a friend, brother, sister, or relative. In addition, each child should increase in Torah learning during the days of Chanukah—studying the laws, history, etc., of Chanukah, and also in general Torah study.⁸²

“*Chanukah gelt* is primarily for children, as we have mentioned on many occasions. At the same time, the (Friediker) Rebbe told us that it was widely known that as early as the times of the Tzemach Tzedek, Chassidim were well aware that it is customary to give *Chanukah gelt* to grown children and that this is done even

80) For example, see the second *sichah* of *Yom Daled D'chanukah* 5750 – addressed to Tzivos Hashem.

81) see *Sichas Neir Ches d'Chanukah* 5748

82) *Likkutei Sichos* vol. 20, p. 451

after their marriages. The details of this practice were (purposefully) recorded and published.⁸³

“The (Friediker) Rebbe **personally** gave his daughters *Chanukah gelt*, and continued even after their marriages.”⁸⁴

COLLECT & CONNECT

“Each of us must personally fulfill this *minhag* with the proper fanfare,” the Rebbe directs,⁸⁵ “stepping up (our Chanukah observance) by adding and expanding the distribution of *Chanukah gelt*, copiously. This leads to joy for children, (and additionally) connects us even more closely with our Rebbeim through fulfilling this *minhag* (in which they engaged and directed others), thus granting us extra power to imbue our day-to-day lives with their Torah, their directives, and their *minhagim*.”

Teacher Appreciation: It has become customary in many communities for school children to deliver *Chanukah gelt* and other gifts to the teachers who teach them Torah.⁸⁶

MONDAY, 29 KISLEV. 5TH DAY OF CHANUKAH

Erev Rosh Chodesh

TODAY IN HISTORY

Erev Rosh Chodesh is observed by many as *Yom Kippur Katan*, a day of fasting and *selichos*. Today, however, we are not permitted to fast or even recite *Tachanun* due to the joyous festival of Chanukah. In *Likkutei Sichos*, the Rebbe explains the association of this day to *teshuvah ila'ah*, the higher form of *teshuvah* that is beyond repentance for sins.⁸⁷

MONDAY NIGHT, EVE OF 30 KISLEV, 6TH NIGHT OF CHANUKAH

First day of Rosh Chodesh Teves

Ya'aleh veyavo and *V'al hanissim* are inserted into the night *Amidah*. If you forgot to say *ya'aleh veyavo* **tonight**, see the chart at the end of the booklet.

In *Birchas Hamazon*, both *V'al hanissim* and *ya'aleh veyavo* are included.

83) *Roshei Devarim Sichas Zos Chanukah* 5749 (*achar tefilas Minchah*)

84) *Likkutei Sichos* vol. 20, p. 451, fn. 36. See also *Sichas Motzoei Shabbos Vayeishev* 5738 that the Friediker Rebbe would also give *Chanukah gelt* to his sons-in-law. See also *Sichas Shabbos Parshas Mikeitz* 5723; *Likkutei Sichos* vol. 25, p. 418, fn. 25—regarding the emphasis of personally giving the *Chanukah gelt*. See also *Sichas Motzoei Shabbos Parshas Vayeishev* 5738, where the Rebbe also mentions the custom of giving to sons-in-law.

85) *Sefer Hasichos* 5752, p. 153

86) Regarding the use of *maaser* money as *Chanukah gelt* for Torah teachers, see www.asktherav.com #1981.

87) vol. 15, p. 545

TUESDAY, 30 KISLEV, 6TH DAY OF CHANUKAH

Rosh Chodesh Teves

SHACHARIS

Add *ya'aleh veyavo* and *V'al hanissim* in Shacharis. If you forgot to recite *ya'aleh veyavo*, see the chart at the end of the booklet.

The **complete** Hallel is followed by *V'avraham zaken*, *Kaddish tiskabel*, *Shir shel Yom* (*Shlishi bashabbos*), *Hoshi'einu*, *Barchi nafshi*, and *Kaddish Yasom*.

KRIAS HATORAH

Two *sifrei Torah* are read during Shacharis. The first is used for the Rosh Chodesh reading and requires three *aliyos*. (*Kohen* until *revi'is hahin*, *Levi* until *veniska*, and *Yisrael—Uv'roshei chadsheichem* until *venisko*.) The second Torah is then placed on the *bimah* beside the first.

After *hagbah* on the first Torah, one *aliyah* is read from the second Torah, from *Parshas Naso* (*Bayom hashishi* etc., but no further).

The Torah reading is followed by *chatzi-Kaddish*; *hagbah* and *gelilah*; *Ashrei* and *Uva letziyon*—the *chazzan* does not conclude *Uva letziyon* aloud. That is followed by *Yehalelu* and the return of the Torah to the *aron*. The *tefillin* are then removed, *Rabbeinu Tam tefillin* are donned and then removed before continuing with Musaf.

Musaf: The *chazzan* should recite a chapter of *Tehillim* before beginning *chatzi-Kaddish* for Musaf. *V'al hanissim* is added to Musaf for Rosh Chodesh.

Today's portion of Chumash in Chitas study ends with the verse, “*And they told him all of Yosef's words... and the spirit of their father Yaakov was revived*”⁸⁸ as per Chabad custom.⁸⁹

LAW OF REDEMPTION: EVERY ROSH CHODESH

We offer the following *musaf* in the *Beis Hamikdash* in honor of Rosh Chodesh: two bulls, one ram, seven lambs as burnt-offerings, and one goat for a sin-offering. These are in addition to the regularly scheduled *Korban Tamid*.

We will all ascend to the *Beis Hamikdash* in Yerushalayim—not just three times a year, for Pesach, Shavuot and Sukkos, but also for each Shabbos and for each Rosh Chodesh (as it says in Navi⁹⁰).

ROSH CHODESH OBSERVANCES

On Rosh Chodesh, it is customary not to cut hair, as per the *tzavaah* of Rabbi

88) 45:27

89) see entry for *Shabbos Parshas Vayigash*

90) Yeshayah 10:23

Yehudah Hachasid. (Note that the *tzavaah* mentions not cutting nails too. This requires further elaboration.⁹¹)

ROSH CHODESH STUDY

“It is an ancient custom, on each Rosh Chodesh, to study one verse of the chapter of Tehillim that corresponds with the current years of a person’s life. The verse should be studied with the commentary of Rashi, and additional commentaries may be added as well. If the current chapter contains less than twelve verses, or in a leap year, when there are more than twelve months, verses that have been studied on a previous Rosh Chodesh should be studied a second time. Similarly, if the current chapter contains many verses, then two or three verses should be studied at once on each Rosh Chodesh of the year.”

IN THE AFTERNOON

In Minchah, both *ya’aleh veyavo* and *V’al hanissim* are included.

WEDNESDAY, 1 TEVES, 7TH DAY OF CHANUKAH

Rosh Chodesh Teves

Shacharis, *krias hatorah* and Musaf are identical to yesterday, with the exception of the reading in the second Torah. There, the portion of *Bayom hashvi’i* is read.

LAW OF REDEMPTION: WOOD ENDOWMENT

Specific families merited to donate wood annually for use on the altar, as described in *Ta’anis* 4:5. On the first of Teves, the family of Parosh donated wood. They actually had an earlier date in the year as well, on the fifth of Menachem-Av.⁹²

HAPPY NEW YEAR?

In a *yechidus* with Mr. Peter Kalms, the Rebbe spoke about a Jew’s approach to the secular new year (January 1st):

“I give you a *brachah* that you may continue to give your energy, *tzedakah*, help of all kinds to *Yiddishkeit*...Rabbi Levi Yitzchak of Berdichev was always searching for an occasion to give a *brachah*. Once he did so on the new year of the gentiles. People said to him, ‘How can you, a Rabbi, do this at the special time for the gentiles?’ He said, ‘To make a *brachah*, all occasions are okay’ and now it was also, a day or two ago, the New Year of the gentiles.⁹³

Late afternoon meal? If you wash for bread later in the day and your meal extends past nightfall, say the Rosh Chodesh additions in *Birchas Hamazon*, even

91) See the notes (in Hebrew) on www.asktherav.com #3099.

92) See *Tosefos Yom Tov* to the Mishnah, and *Likkutei Sichos* vol. 4, p. 1105, fn. 9. However, note Rashi’s comment in *Eiruvin* 41a, s.v., *mib’nei sanav*, which implies that the donation was arranged through lottery.

93) From *Guidance from the Rebbe*

if it goes into the evening, and even if you light the menorah in the interim. This applies only if you ate a *kezayis*⁹⁴ of bread before *shki'ah* to obligate you with regard to mentioning the holiday,⁹⁵ and you have not interrupted the meal to say *Krias Shema*⁹⁶ or daven all of Maariv.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT, 8TH NIGHT OF CHANUKAH

Zos Chanukah

TACTICAL ADVANTAGE

”There is a distinction between all the other days of Chanukah and the last day of Chanukah, *Zos Chanukah*,” the Rebbe says on the evening of *Zos Chanukah* in 5742.⁹⁷ “On the first days of Chanukah, we conduct the war on the *yetzer hara* in a limited way: on the first night we light one flame of a mitzvah-candle and Torah-light. On the second night, we increase it to two, and so it goes every night—there always remain yet unkindled (potential) lights in the menorah. However, when we come to the last night of Chanukah, called *Zos Chanukah*, we go into full attack mode, a major battle against the *yetzer*. Suddenly, every candle available in the menorah is lit (all eight), and its illumination expands in the most brilliant and widespread fashion. In a person’s own Divine service, this means that a Jew can ‘light up’ all their soul-powers and capabilities to make the world brighter, and even brighter, with their mitzvos (candles) and Torah learning (light).”

In *Sichos Kodesh*, the Rebbe urges each person to utilize the remaining hours of the eve of *Zos Chanukah* for *mitvza Chanukah*. See more details below in entries for the day of *Zos Chanukah*.

OIL DISPOSAL

Oil and wicks that remain in the menorah after the conclusion of Chanukah should be burned, since they had been designated for a mitzvah. The exception to this rule is if the person lighting the menorah indicated that only the specific supplies of oil and wick necessary for the required fifty-minute burning times are sanctified for the mitzvah, as suggested above.

Oil that remains in its container and has not been poured into the menorah may be used in any manner—it has not acquired sanctity at all.

When throwing out a disposable menorah or cups that were used over Chanukah, do so in a respectful manner—place them in a clean-trash receptacle, or if using a

94) This is the volume of bread that would squeeze into a small matchbox.

95) In general, one’s obligations depend on the circumstances at the start of the meal. In this case, the meal began during Rosh Chodesh, and therefore, the obligation to mention Rosh Chodesh during *Birchas Hamazon* does not expire even if it has already ended.

96) See [#24793](http://www.asktherav.com)

97) *Likkutei Sichos*, vol. 20, p.498

garbage can that contains smelly trash, wrap them well so they are protected from dirt and debris.

THURSDAY, 2 TEVES, 8TH DAY OF CHANUKAH

Zos Chanukah

For today's Torah reading, the *Kohen's aliyah* is from *Bayom hashemini* until *melei'ah ketores*. *Levi* is from *Par echad* until *ben pedatzhur*. *Yisrael* is from *Bayom hatshi'i* until *kein asa es hamenorah*.

THIS IS IT!

In *Sichos Kodesh*, the Rebbe instructs each person to use this special day, when all eight flames of the menorah shine forth, to bring *mitvza Chanukah* to its climax. The Rebbe urges whoever has not yet observed the custom of giving *Chanukah gelt* to grab the opportunity now, in the final hours and minutes of Chanukah. Failing that, they should make it up on the night following Chanukah, or in the coming days—the sooner the better. Even those who have already given *gelt* should use the final day of Chanukah to give even more, because there is reason to question whether they have indeed given enough. This is especially so in light of the great *Chassidische nachas* that they receive from their sons and daughters and the *nachas* that they will receive in the future through increasing their Jewish education from this point onwards.

COUNT THIS

The Rebbe also instructed that on this final day of Chanukah, we should take stock of our entire Chanukah in a manner that will continue to positively influence our service throughout the year, in actuality. Resolve to advance in all matters of Torah and mitzvos. The ideal way to launch this process is with a *farbrengen*.

LEARN THIS

The Rebbe once instructed that the Alter Rebbe's *maamar* that explains the greatness of Zos Chanukah be studied today.⁹⁸ The main point, the Rebbe explained, is to live with this *maamar*.

THIS BRACHAH

On Zos Chanukah 5713, the Rebbe said, "It is stated in the books of the *Chassidim* of Poland (and although it most likely appears somewhere in *Chabad Chassidus*, I have not yet located such a teaching) that the eighth day of Chanukah—*Zos Chanukah*—is a day of special blessing for resolving fertility issues."⁹⁹

On Yud-Tes Kislev 5734, the Rebbe said: "The (Frieddiker) Rebbe explained in *Sichos Yud-Tes Kislev* 5704, that the concepts of *erev Rosh Hashanah*, the days of *Selichos*,

98) see *Likkutei Torah Derushim Lishemini Atzeres*

99) For further explanation, see the original *sichah*.

the month of Elul, and so on, are also present in relation to the Rosh Hashanah of *Chassidus*, Yud-Tes Kislev. It is also understood that after the *kesivah* (inscribing) that occurs on Yud-Tes Kislev, there follows the concept of *chasimah* (sealing), similar to the *chasimah* of Yom Kippur that comes as a result of the *kesivah* of Rosh Hashanah.

“The Rebbe explains further that this *chasimah* that follows *Yud-Tes Kislev* occurs during Chanukah, which is why the Alter Rebbe returned home after his liberation during Chanukah.

”He also mentions that this teaching runs parallel to a teaching recorded in *Poilishe sefarim* (works of other Chassidic streams) that Chanukah marks the *gmar chasimah* (final sealing) of the judgments (of Tishrei). The Rebbe explained that he quotes the works of *Poilishe sefarim* because, in this case, the teaching concurs with the teachings of *Chabad Chassidus*.¹⁰⁰

See also *Igros Kodesh*: “It was a common teaching in Poland that ... the *gmar chasimah* occurs in the month of Kislev, during Chanukah.”¹⁰¹

EXTENDING CHANUKAH

In a *yoman* of *Zos Chanukah*,¹⁰² it is recorded that after Minchah, the Rebbe indicated that the candles still burning in the 770 should not be extinguished.

A meal that began on the last day of Chanukah and extends until nightfall, or even several hours into the night, should have *V'al Hanisim* recited during *Birchas Hamazon* with certain stipulations, as mentioned above, with regard to Rosh Chodesh.

FRIDAY, 3 TEVES, EREV SHABBOS PARSHAS VAYIGASH

Chanukah's influence continues today, despite the lack of an official *Isru Chag*.¹⁰³

100) This portion of *Sichas Yud-Tes Kislev* 5734 can be heard in the digital recording of the *farbrenge*, although it does not appear in the printed version of that address.

101) vol. 14, p. 112. See also *Likkutei Torah Derushim Lishemini Atzeres* (p. 88b), explained in *Bayom Hashemini* 5746 (in particular, see fn. 33), to the effect that the eighth day of Chanukah is like *Shemini Atzeres* (the eighth day of Sukkos). See also *Sichas Zos Chanukah* 5738.

102) from 2 Teves, 5725. In the *sichah* after Minchah of *Zos Chanukah-3 Teves*, 5749, the Rebbe mentioned how the eight candles that were lit in shul (the previous night) illuminate the night following Chanukah as well.

103) In *Sichas Shabbos Parshas Mikeitz* 5733, the Rebbe discusses a paradox: On one hand, Halachah does not call for an *Isru-Chag* extension of Chanukah, whereas from a spiritual perspective, *Chazal* state that the Chanukah lights “are never nullified.” Indeed, their entire purpose, as explained in *Chassidus*, is to extend and draw their light across the entire coming year.

See also *Sichas Motzoei Zos Chanukah* 5735, regarding the powerful nostalgia for Chanukah that is experienced upon its conclusion. There is no *Isru Chag*, and it is not customary to extend a meal into the night, beyond the conclusion of Chanukah (unlike Purim, where it is customary to extend the meal into the subsequent night hours). Nevertheless, we can still study Chanukah topics, and further increase in “a mitzvah is a lamp and Torah is light.” (See there at length.)

Also: “Although *Chazal* did not establish an *Isru Chag* (which is a subject for analysis and *pilpul*), the closer in time we are to [the conclusion of] Chanukah, the more discernible is its influence. This is especially true of the

LAW OF REDEMPTION: ANOTHER DAY?

Some authorities, such as *Minchas Chinuch*,¹⁰⁴ are of the opinion that in the Era of Redemption, when the Jewish people will return to establishing their calendar according to human sightings of new moons, Chanukah will then be observed by distant Jewish communities as a nine-day festival, due to unavailability of real-time updates of the calendar decisions made by the *Beis Din* in Eretz Yisrael.

In *Sichas Zos Chanukah* 5738, the Rebbe states that even a suggested approach found within Torah sources remains an integral part of the Torah. Since there is some debate over a future nine-day Chanukah, we should continue to apply the themes of *Zos Chanukah* on the following day. The Rebbe even compares the day after *Zos Chanukah* to Simchas Torah that follows the eight days of Sukkos established due to the inability of ancient Diaspora communities to obtain real-time updates from the *Beis Din* in Eretz Yisrael.¹⁰⁵

Nevertheless, the Rebbe clarifies in *Sichas Simchas Torah* 5749, that in the Era of Redemption, uncertainties regarding the true calendar dates will simply not exist. The *Beis Din* of the future will be able to instantly communicate their decisions to every location, regardless of geographic distance. It is only those festivals that in ancient times were allotted an extra day in the Diaspora due to the delay in long-distance communications, and that have been observed as two-day festivals by millennia of Jews, that may possibly continue to be observed as two-day festivals even in the era of Redemption.

LAW OF REDEMPTION: SEASON'S END?

Once Chanukah has ended, *Bikkurim* (First Fruit) may no longer be brought to the *Beis Hamikdash*. Fruits that ripen after Chanukah are considered as belonging to the following year, insofar as the laws of *Bikkurim* are concerned, and they must be kept until after Shavuos. This is because the Torah specifies that *Bikkurim* must be “that which you bring from your land,” meaning that *Bikkurim* may be brought only as long as the same species are still found growing across the Land of Israel—“when they are still available for the beast of the field.” After Chanukah, however, fruit is no longer found growing in the fields and orchards.

This raises the question of the *Bikkurim* season in the Future Era,¹⁰⁶ when fruit will indeed be found growing in the field even after Chanukah. For “trees will bring forth fruit every day,”¹⁰⁷ and “the plowman will encounter the reaper” due to the instant and constant growth of produce.¹⁰⁸

There is also room to debate the obligation of *Bikkurim* regarding fruit that grows miraculously.

first day following Chanukah.” (*Sichas Zos Chanukah* 5749.)

104) Mitzvah 301:6

105) See also *Sichas Purim* 5719 regarding the theory of a nine-day Chanukah.

106) see Yechezkel 44:30, and a similar theme in 20:40

107) *Shabbos* 30b

108) *Amos* 9:14. See *Toras Kohanim, Bechukosai* 26:4. See *Sefer Hasichos* 5741, vol. 2 (p. 743, fn. 70 and p. 809, fn. 131)

EREV SHABBOS PRACTICES

Today we recite *shnayim mikra v'echad targum* for *Parshas Vayigash*.

Shabbos Candles: Candle lighting is at 4:23 pm.

SHABBOS PARSHAS VAYIGASH, 4 TEVES

DAVENING & KRIAS HATORAH

The Rebbe states that “according to Jewish custom (which becomes part of the Torah), the third Torah portion ends with the verse ‘*And they told him all of Yosef’s words ... and the spirit of their father Yaakov was revived*’.¹⁰⁹ (According to alternative custom, this is the end of the fourth portion.)¹¹⁰” The significance of this is explained in that *sichah* at length, and this is indeed the practice in 770.

According to Ashkenazi custom, the *chazzan* does not announce an approaching fast during the preceding Shabbos. May the approaching fast be transformed into a Yom Tov!

Shabbos ends at 5:28 pm.

SUNDAY, 5 TEVES

Didan Notzach

TODAY IN HISTORY

“Behold, it came to pass in the twelfth year, in the tenth [month], on the fifth [day] of the month of our exile, that the fugitive from Yerushalayim came to me, saying, ‘The city was struck!’¹¹¹ Rashbi considered this day on which the news of the tragedy arrived as if it were the day of the event itself.¹¹²”

*Shalshless Hayachas*¹¹³ states: “In the year 5747 ... on the fifth of Teves, we experienced a *didan natzach* (complete victory) that was revealed for all the nations to see through a federal court ruling regarding (ownership of) the books and manuscripts of our Rebbeim that are housed in the Lubavitch library.”

Today’s entry in *Luach Colel Chabad* reads: “The date of *Didan Natzach*. In 5747 (1987), the Federal Court vindicated the claim lodged by *Agudas Chassidei Chabad* with regard to the Previous Rebbe’s library. The Rebbe declared the date to be an auspicious day for all generations to come. The Rebbe also called on us to add to and expand the library of *Agudas Chassidei Chabad-Lubavitch*.”

109) 45:27

110) *Likkutei Sichos*, vol. 30, p. 224

111) Yechezkel 33:21

112) *Rosh Hashanah* 18a. See *Turei Aven* there. The Rebbe explains all this in footnotes to *Likkutei Sichos* vol. 15, p. 555.

113) included in the introduction to *Hayom Yom*

BOOKS, BOOKS & MORE BOOKS

“During these days,” the Rebbe stated, “We must add greater vigor to our Torah study. For the true victory of the books is the increased Torah study that results—especially public Torah classes, in the spirit of the Mishnah’s statement regarding ten who sit and occupy themselves with Torah.

“Our study must lead to action: In *nigleh*, we must study the laws that are necessary for practical application (these are found in Rambam and similar works). In the inner dimension of Torah, we must study *Chassidus* that allows us to observe the *mitzvos* with complete love and awe of Hashem.

“The individual home of each and every Jew must also house the fundamental books of *Yiddishkeit* (in addition to a *Chitas*), and especially books that record the practical laws relevant to daily life, so that everyone can determine what they must do.”

In the year 5749, the Rebbe marked the fifth of Teves by distributing an additional dollar to all who approached him as his participation in their acquiring new *sefarim* or in the repair of their worn *sefarim*.

SEFARIM SALES

The Rebbe repeatedly encouraged booksellers to offer special discounts on all sacred literature to make it feasible for everyone to buy *sefarim*.

REDEEM MORE BOOKS

On *Shabbos Parshas Vayigash* 5752,¹¹⁴ in connection with the fifth of Teves, the Rebbe said: “There still remain books and manuscripts of my father-in-law, the (Friediker) Rebbe and his father, the Rebbe (Rashab) in captivity in that country (Russia) and have still not yet returned to their rightful place, despite their government ordering that they release them (“There is a non-Jew who tampers with this; there is a Jew who also meddles—woe to them! However, since it is Shabbos, we will [refrain from elaborating] and speak of only good and favorable matters.)

”What can each of us as individuals actually do to quicken the redemption and return of these books and manuscripts? The response is simple: everyone—men, women and children take action paralleling this, by bringing to their home and personal library newly printed holy books (and writings) of Torah words in addition to those already in his possession as part of (the campaign for) a houseful of *sefarim*.¹¹⁵

MONDAY, 6 TEVES

Tekufas Teves: the winter season in the Jewish calendar (marked by the vernal equinox) begins today at **10:30 am**.¹¹⁶

114) see *Sefer Hasichos* 5752, vol. 1, p. 226 f& *Sichos Kodosh* 5752, p. 407

115) See further in the *sichah* for additional directives on the matter.

116) The *tefukos*-seasons are mentioned in the introduction to the calendar in *Hayom Yom* and in *Luach Colel*

Kiddush Levanah is recited starting tonight, following Maariv. *Kiddush Levanah* should be recited while dressed in fine, respectable clothing. According to Kabbalah, it should not be recited until seven days have passed from the *molad* (birth of the new moon).¹¹⁷

WEDNESDAY, 8 TEVES

TODAY IN HISTORY

On the eighth of Teves, the Torah was first translated into Greek by order of King Ptolmey. This caused “three days of darkness to descend upon the world.”¹¹⁸ That day was “as difficult for the Jews as the day on which the Golden Calf was made.”¹¹⁹ The Rebbe explains this concept in *Likkutei Sichos* and *Sefer Hasichos* 5752.¹²⁰

On this day in 5573 (1812), the Alter Rebbe reached the village of Pienna after fleeing Liadi to escape Napoleon’s advance into Russia. (The Alter Rebbe passed away in Pienna soon after on Chof-Daled Teves.)

Today is the *yahrtzeit* of Rebbetzin Chaya Mushka, the wife of the Tzemach Tzedek. She passed away in the year 5621 (1860) and is buried in the town of Lubavitch.

THURSDAY, 9 TEVES

TODAY IN HISTORY

Chazal state that the 9th of Teves is one of the dates on which calamities befell our ancestors and it is appropriate to spend the day fasting. They also note, however, that there is no record of what these calamities were.¹²¹ It has since been explained that *Ezra Hasofer* passed away on this date. The commentators to *Megillas Ta’anis* describe additional events. The Rebbe’s explanation appears in *Sefer Hasichos* 5749.¹²²

THURSDAY NIGHT, EVE OF 10 TEVES

A day of Rejoicing-to-be

The Rebbe often mentions that the preparations for Yud Shevat begin thirty days in advance, from the 10th of Teves.

Chabad. For detailed laws, See *Beis Yosef, Orach Chayim*, 455 (end); *Rema, ibid.*, par. 1; (*Shulchan Aruch Admur HaZaken, ibid.*, par. 15-16, and in 206:14); *Yoreh De’ah*, 116:5; and many other places. See *Likkutei Sichos* vol. 16, p. 98, fn. 33; vol. 21, p. 233, fn. 33; vol. 16, p. 577.

117) See *Sefer Hasichos* 5752 vol. 1, p. 68. Regarding the precise calculation of these seven days, see references that appear in the Rebbe Rashab’s notes to *Siddur Torah Ohr*, and references that appear in the Rebbe’s notes to *Sha’ar Hakollel*. Also see *Sichas Vav Adar Rishon* 5746.

118) *Megillas Ta’anis*, quoted in *Shulchan Aruch*

119) *Maseches Sofrim*

120) *Likkutei Sichos*, beginning of vol. 24; *Sefer Hasichos* 5752, *Parshas Mikeitz*

121) *Megillas Ta’anis*, quoted in *Shulchan Aruch*

122) *Vayigash*, 9 Teves

NIGHT UN-FAST

On the eve of the 10th of Teves 5752, the Rebbe explains that although the 10th of Teves begins at night (as is the case with all Jewish dates), the actual fast only begins at dawn. The lack of fasting on the eve of the 10th of Teves symbolizes the power that is granted at that time to reverse the negative events that the fast day commemorates. It is an auspicious time for *teshuvah* that will bring the Redemption and a night of opportunity to forever nullify the fast before it begins. The Rebbe pointed out that the night stretches for a number of hours, which offers ample time for *teshuvah*.

STARTING THE FAST

As is the case with any fast that begins in the morning, we are permitted to eat throughout the night until dawn, provided that we had not gone to sleep in between. Dozing off temporarily is not considered “going to sleep” in this regard. You may also eat or drink if you stipulate before going to sleep that you intend to awaken before dawn. Someone who regularly rises from their sleep to drink at night, may do so tonight even without a stipulation.

Nevertheless, from within a (halachic) half hour of dawn (*alos hashachar*) it is forbidden to eat a meal or wash for bread. It is permitted only to snack on fruits or vegetables, drink as much non-alcoholic beverages as you wish, or eat a quantity of *mezonos* the size of *kebeitzah* (the volume that would fit in two small matchboxes) but not more.

FRIDAY, 10 TEVES, FAST OF ASARAH B'TEVES

A day of Rejoicing-to-be.

TODAY IN HISTORY

The fast commemorates the date on which the king of Babylon laid siege to Yerushalayim.

The Rebbe says¹²³. “In one aspect at least, the fast of *Asarah B'Teves* even nowadays is more severe than other fasts: If it coincides with *erev Shabbos*, the fast must be completed all the way until nightfall (*tzeis hakochavim*). This is true even for those who prayed Maariv for Shabbos early, while it was still daytime. This ruling is upheld even according to those authorities that prohibit fasting on the other fast days that coincide with *erev Shabbos*, once Maariv has been recited.”

Furthermore: “The *halachah* states that ‘regarding all of these four fasts, if they coincide with Shabbos they must be postponed.’ Nevertheless, *Asarah B'Teves* carries a stringency not found in the other three fasts, and that is because nowadays, it is the only one that is able to coincide with *erev Shabbos* (as it does

123) *Sichas Asarah B'Teves 5749*, in *Sefer Hasichos* p. 136.

this year). When it does, we must continue fasting until nightfall even if we recited Maariv for Shabbos while it was still daytime.”¹²⁴

WHO FASTS

All men (from the age of thirteen years) and women (from the age of twelve years) should refrain from eating and drinking from daybreak until nightfall. Those who wish to wake up early and eat before daybreak should have in mind to do so before retiring the night before. Pregnant or nursing women who have difficulty fasting, or people feeling ill, are exempt.

A bride and groom during *Sheva Brachos* are not exempt from fasting, nor a father whose son is circumcised that day. (At the ceremony, the wine is given to a young child to drink and the *seudah* is held when the fast is over.) Someone who is exempt from fasting for health reasons, should eat only what is required and not indulge for pleasure.

Those who are exempt from fasting should only eat their meals privately, out of sight of the public eye.

Dawn, the start of the fast, is at **5:52 am**.

LAW OF REDEMPTION: FROM THE FIRST

All of the fast days (except Yom Kippur) will be canceled in the era of Moshiach. In fact, they will become “*yomim tovim* and days of feasting and gladness.” This is further discussed in *Likkutei Sichos*, and the Rebbe draws particular relevance to the Fast of the 10th of Teves.¹²⁵

The Rebbe explains that the events marked by the Fast of Teves were the start and eventual cause of the calamities commemorated by the remaining fasts. Therefore, when the Fast of Teves is transformed into a Yom Tov, all other fast days are consequently transformed along with it into “*yomim tovim* and days of feasting and gladness.”¹²⁶

Tzedakah: It is customary to increase *tzedakah* on fast days. According to custom, a person should estimate the average cost of their daily meals and donate that amount to *tzedakah* on the eve of the fast.

FASTING

We do not rinse our mouths on a fast day.

Someone who accidentally eats today is nevertheless obligated to complete the fast. In such a case, there is no obligation of compensation, meaning that there is no requirement to fast on a subsequent day. Nevertheless, they may choose to do so as an atonement for breaking a fast.

124) *Likkutei Sichos* vol. 25, p. 267, fn. 5

125) *Likkutei Sichos* vol. 15, p. 412. For the concept of holding a festive meal in the era of Redemption, see *Magen Avraham, Tisha B'Av*, 552:11 and *Sichas Beis d'Rosh Hashanah 5752*.

126) *Likkutei Sichos* vol. 25, p. 449

If you only ate a small amount of food accidentally (less than the size of *koseves*, a large date, eaten within the time frame of *bichdei achilas pras*, or about four minutes), or drank a small quantity of liquid (less than a *revi'is*, approximately 3 ounces), it is still considered fasting and the *Aneinu* prayer in the *Amidah* may be recited. If, however, these limits were exceeded, the *Aneinu* text should be amended to read: *Aneinu beyom tzom hata'anis zeh* (“Answer us on this fast day”), rather than *ta'aniseinu* (“our fasting”).

A person who is not fasting, whether due to an exemption or because they ate by mistake, should not get an *aliyah* to the Torah. If he is called up, and is concerned that refusing may cause a *chilul Hashem*, he may accept.¹²⁷

SHACHARIS

In Shacharis (and later, at Minchah), the *chazzan* adds *Aneinu* in the *Amidah*, between the blessings of *go'el Yisrael* and *Refa'einu*.¹²⁸ If he omitted *Aneinu*, see the chart at the end of the booklet.

This is the order for Shacharis: *Tachanun*, *Selichos* (starting with *Ki im Hashem* and omitting *Ashamnu*, *Hirsha'anu*,¹²⁹ beginning with the words “*moshiach tzidkecha*”¹³⁰), then *Avinu Malkeinu* for fast days, *Va'anachnu lo neida* followed by *chatzi-Kaddish*. *Kel erech apayim* is not said. This is followed by the reading of the Torah. The *aliyos* are read from the section of *Vayechal Moshe*.

When a *chassan* is present for the prayers, or if a *bris* will be held, or the like, the custom practiced in 770¹³¹ is for the congregation to proceed with *Selichos* but to omit *Vidui*, *Tachanun*, and *Avinu Malkeinu* from the prayers.¹³²

MINCHAH

Davening commences earlier on a fast day, so that it does not run into *bein hashmoshos* (between sunset and nightfall), finishing before *shki'ah* at **4:48 pm**.

¹²⁷) See [#29087](http://www.asktherav.com)

¹²⁸) If there are less than a minyan of fasters, see the Hebrew footnote regarding if and how the *chazzan* should recite *Aneinu*.

¹²⁹) since this section is also considered *Vidui*, which was already recited as part of davening—this is the practice during the days of *Selichos* as well, as gleaned from the Rebbe's conduct.

¹³⁰) Note the change in the liturgy that is found in *Siddur Tehillas Hashem* (and other places) for *Aneinu* here, to be recited as follows: *Aneinu karov l'kor'av aneinu, aneinu kashah lich'os aneinu, aneinu rach lirtzos aneiu, aneinu rachum vechanun, aneinu*.

See the Hebrew footnotes for the alternative readings, as well as sources and supporting evidence concerning the veracity of this wording.

¹³¹) Over the years, the Rebbe issued varying directives to various individuals regarding this matter, which makes the topic too lengthy to analyze here. The current practice is as we have described.

¹³²) There is no interference with the order of the *Selichos* itself; the congregation begins with *Selach lanu*, and also recites the *vidui* part of *Selichos* (*Ashamnu*) without skipping anything. It is only the *Tachanun*, etc., that are recited as part of Shacharis that are skipped on such an occasion—and this concession is sufficient recognition of the *chassan's* presence, or of the *bris* that will take place.

Be especially conscious of this today, as it is *erev Shabbos*.

During Minchah, each individual recites *Aneinu* in *Shema Koleinu*. If you forgot to recite it, see the chart at the end of the booklet.

The *chazzan*, when repeating the *Amidah* out loud, recites the *Aneinu* prayer before beginning the paragraph of *Refa'einu*.

The *chazzan* recites *Birchas Kohanim* in his repetition of the *Amidah* (as he usually does during Shacharis).

This is the order for Minchah: *Hodu, Pasach Eliyahu* (as it is Friday), *Korbanos, then Ashrei* followed by *chatzi-Kaddish*. The reading of the Torah (*Vayechal*) and the *Haftorah* of *Dirshu Hashem* follow. Next, *Yehalelu* followed by *chatzi-Kaddish* and the *Amidah* with the addition of *Aneinu; Kaddish tiskabel. Aleinu* followed by *Kaddish Yasom* and then *Al tira* and *Ach tzadikim*. If an *avel* is present, he recites *Mishnayos* followed by *Kaddish D'rabbanan*.

This year, neither *Tachanun* nor *Avinu Malkeinu* for fast days are recited during Minchah.

After Minchah, it is customary to listen to *divrei kivushin*—a speech urging self-improvement and further advancement in the service of Hashem. This is done today, despite it being *erev Shabbos*.¹³³

REBUKING WITH JOY?

In 5744, the Rebbe says: “We have repeatedly discussed the *minhag Yisrael* of delivering *divrei kevushin* (an address that motivates its audience to self-improve) following the Minchah service on fast days ... to inspire people to *teshuvah*. However, when the fast of *Asarah B'Teves* coincides with *erev Shabbos*, there is room to debate whether this custom should be implemented:

“Firstly, on the afternoon of *erev Shabbos*, people are extremely preoccupied with their Shabbos preparations. According to Torah, we should **run** to ensure that all of the Shabbos preparations are completed in time ... Seemingly, there is simply no time to stop and listen to *divrei kevushin*. Secondly, we are not permitted to experience sadness on Shabbos. It is obvious that we cannot **enter** Shabbos in a morose frame of mind either. And even before the entry of Shabbos, we are to engage in our Shabbos preparations joyfully.

“Now, as far as the actual fast is concerned, we have an **obligation** to fast—as recorded in the *Shulchan Aruch*. This must be observed all the way until the end of the day, despite the fact that *Asarah B'Teves* coincides with *erev Shabbos*. By contrast, the delivery of *divrei kevushin* is merely a *minhag* (custom). There is room to question whether this practice remains relevant when the fast coincides with *erev Shabbos*.

“It is also worth noting that it is extremely rare for one the four fasts to coincide with

133) see *Sichas Asarah B'Teves* 5744

erev Shabbos... which could lead us to conclude that the *minhag* is suspended by the rarity of these circumstances, in accordance with the principle that the force of a *minhag* does not apply to an uncommon case.

“That said, there is a simple solution to maintaining the *minhag* even when *Asarah B'Teves* coincides with *erev Shabbos*, as we will explain. The main theme of a fast day is that it is *yom ratzon laHashem*, a day of special Divine favor ... Naturally, an occasion of Divine favor is a happy experience. Furthermore, the point of fasting is to engage in “one of the methods of *teshuvah*”, and the *perfection* of *teshuvah* is *teshuvah ila’ah*, “higher *teshuvah*,” which is conducted specifically with great joy. Accordingly, an address that focuses on the theme of the fast day, *divrei kevushin*, can be devoted to joyful matters, to the idea that it is a time of special Divine favor, to *teshuvah ila’ah* that must be performed with tremendous happiness, and similar concepts. In this way, the address will not contradict our obligation to avoid sadness on Shabbos.

“Furthermore, even the concept of affliction associated with abstaining from food and drink, along with the part of *divrei kevushin* that calls for *mussar*, rebuke for inappropriate matters—both of which are not happy experiences—are reframed as **preparations** for the complete joy of Shabbos. This can be understood in light of the teaching in *Igeres Hakodesh*,¹³⁴ that as a preparation and preface to *teshuvah ila’ah*, we must first experience *teshuvah tata’ah*, the lower (ordinary) form of *teshuvah*. The regular *teshuvah* completes and amplifies the joy of *teshuvah ila’ah*... Consequently, even literal *divrei kevushin*, meaning words of *mussar* and the like, remain relevant today—as a preparation for Shabbos, for they allow us to arrive at the superior experience of *teshuvah ila’ah* on Shabbos itself.”¹³⁵

Law of Redemption: Minchah with Moshiach

“Today may be the day Moshiach arrives,” the Rebbe said on a fast day.¹³⁶ “In that case we won’t be saying the fast-day liturgy in Minchah, but adding happy remarks, for in the middle of the brachah of *Shema Koleinu* we are permitted to add any personal *tefillos*.”

During that same *sichah*, the Rebbe added, “When Moshiach comes today, Minchah will be prayed without a Torah reading!”¹³⁷

Traveling: Someone who traveled to a different time zone during the fast continues to fast until nightfall (*tzeis hakochovim*) in the place that they are at that time.

EREV SHABBOS PREP

Those who are scrupulous to avoid showering or bathing on a fast day should not follow this stringency today; they should wash themselves in honor of Shabbos.

134) ch. 10

135) *Sichas Asarah B'Teves* 5744

136) 18 Tammuz (17 Tammuz *Nidcheh*), 5751

137) And not Shacharis? Perhaps the Rebbe spoke thus because it was Minchah time. Would we still read the Torah at Shacharis if we are no longer fasting? See Hebrew footnotes for a comprehensive discussion on these topics.

Nor should one be stringent to avoid cutting hair or nails, or laundering clothes.

If it is necessary to taste the food that is being readied for Shabbos for the sake of accurate preparation, one may rely on those authorities that permit tasting a small quantity and then spitting it out.

Someone who feels the need may be lenient and brush their teeth just before Shabbos in honor of Shabbos. Be careful with the angle of your head, so as not to swallow even a small amount of water if gargling.

Today we recite *shnayim mikra v'echad targum* for *Parshas Vayechi*.

Check your pockets on *erev Shabbos* before the onset of Shabbos. This is especially important for those who wore the same Shabbos-Yom Tov clothing earlier this week in honor of the fifth of Teves.

Early Shabbos: Those who accept Shabbos early, before its official starting time, must be careful to avoid lighting Shabbos candles before *plag haminchah* (in Brooklyn, **3:48 pm**). Regardless of when they accept Shabbos, they must continue fasting until nightfall (*tzeis hakochavim*, which is **5:19 pm**). At that point, they must recite *Shema* (since the obligation of the nighttime *Shema* has begun), and only then recite *Kiddush* and eat.

Candle lighting is at **4:30 pm**.

The fast ends at **5:19 pm**.¹³⁸

FRIDAY NIGHT, SHABBOS PARSHAS VAYECHI, 11 TEVES

The fast must be continued until nightfall (*tzeis hakochavim*).

MAARIV & KIDDUSH

We make a point of reciting *Kabbalas Shabbos* and Maariv as soon as the appropriate time arrives, without delaying it further. There should be sufficient time to conclude and recite *Kiddush* before the seventh hour (in Brooklyn, this is 5:56–6:56 pm).

Remember to avoid tasting anything before *Kiddush*.

Leil Tevilah: For fast-related leniencies and best practices for a woman who is visiting the *mikvah* tonight, see the footnote.¹³⁹

¹³⁸ There are various methods of calculating the time of nightfall (called *tzeis hakochavim*, when three stars are observable). Following the Alter Rebbe's opinion to account for "smaller stars" we generally wait some minutes after this time to say the nighttime *Shema*. But for the purpose of the fast, you may daven earlier, and then repeat the *Shema* sometime later.

¹³⁹ A woman preparing for mikvah may brush her teeth during the fast on Friday if necessary, however it is better to brush after her last meal on Thursday night and then to rinse well again on Friday night after nightfall. She may drink once night has fallen, or even eat a small amount, so that she can be in the optimal frame of mind when immersing—but since it is Shabbos, she must make or hear *Kiddush* and drink either an additional *revi'is* of wine or grape juice, or eat *mezonos* or *hamotzi*. However, it is best not to eat a full meal

Those for whom, for whatever reason, it is impossible to wait until after Maariv to break their fast may recite *Kiddush* immediately after nightfall (*tzeis hakochavim*). In such a case, they may not eat more than the amount of a *kebeitzah* of *mezonos* before praying Maariv. Alternatively, they may arrange for someone to remind them later of their obligation to recite *kri'as shema* and daven Maariv.

Those who do not wish to drink wine tonight should either compel themselves to drink it nonetheless for the sake of *Kiddush*, or listen to someone else reciting *Kiddush* and fulfill their obligation that way, rather than reciting the nighttime *Kiddush* over *challah* or using an alternative beverage to wine.

If the above options are not possible—for example, if a woman cannot wait for her husband's return from *shul* to break her fast but cannot drink the wine herself—and if grape juice is also not a possible alternative, reciting *Kiddush* over bread is preferable, rather than employing an alternative beverage to wine or grape juice.

As mentioned in the entry for Shabbos, Chof Kislev, you must eat immediately after *Kiddush* at the location where it was recited, for *Kiddush* is only halachically binding *b'makom seudah*. This entails eating at least a *kezayis* of *hamotzi* or *mezonos*,¹⁴⁰ or by drinking a full *revi'is* of wine in addition to what was drunk for *Kiddush*. (*B'dieved*, you are *yotze* even if you drank just one *revi'is* of wine for *Kiddush*.)

Someone who desires to drink water immediately following *Kiddush*, before washing for *challah* (or eating *mezonos*), must be careful to drink less than a *revi'is* of water. (See more on this topic in the entry for Friday night, Chof Kislev.)

WAITING BETWEEN MILK & MEAT

It is our custom to wait one hour between milk and meat. This spans the time from finishing the actual *milchigs* to beginning eating *fleishigs*. Additionally, milk and meat cannot be consumed in the same meal, regardless of how much time passes between one and the other. Therefore, someone who would like to drink a milky coffee before beginning their Shabbos meal must make a *brachah acharonah* on the coffee and any other food that was eaten with it before washing for the Shabbos *seudah*. They may, however, wash immediately after, as long as an hour will elapse before they consume any meat dishes. Table covers, utensils and accompaniments associated with the meat meal should only be spread once the milky components have been removed.

before the *tevilah*, if possible. Chicken and meat should be avoided before coming back home after immersing, unless the meal prior to *tevilah* is in the company of others and refraining from eating would bring her undue attention. After eating, she must wash out her mouth thoroughly to avoid any food particles remaining and becoming a *chatzitzah*. See (in Hebrew) at www.asktherav.com #32267

140) See footnote for Chof Kislev regarding the dispensation to delay the meal and eat *mezonos* now instead.

If you drank a *reviis* of wine and ate a *kezayis* of *mezonos* before washing, the *Me'ein Shalosh* brachah must be recited with the wording that includes both: *al hamichyah v'al hakalkalah* and *v'al hagefen v'al pri hagefen*. If you drank less than a *reviis* of wine, but ate more than a *kezayis* of *mezonos*, only *al hamichyah* is said—and vice versa.

For someone who drank more than a *kezayis* (approximately 0.6 to 1 ounce) but less than a *reviis* of wine, there is no halachic consensus whether the *al hagefen* brachah must be said—and because the rule is that we are lenient when it comes to making brachos (lest we say Hashem's name in vain), *Me'ein Shalosh* is not recited. However, if a *kezayis* of *mezonos* was also consumed, *al hagefen* should be added as well, even though only a *kezayis* of wine was consumed.

If the volume needed for an after-brachah on both cake and wine were consumed, but mistakenly only *al hamichyah* was said, it is questionable whether *Me'ein Shalosh* should be repeated. In this case, drink another *reviis* of wine or grape juice and make an *al hagefen*. Alternatively, you can ask another diner to have you in mind in their *brachah acharonah*.

In the brachah of *Me'ein Shalosh*, add for Shabbos: *retzei vehachalitzenu b'yom hashabbos hazeh*. If you forgot, see the chart at the end of the booklet.

If you forgot the after-blessing, it should be made during the Shabbos meal. If *Birchas Hamazon* was already said, *al hamichyah* is no longer required, but *borei nefashos*, if necessary, should still be recited.

If eating *mezonos* before the Shabbos meal, take care not to be *kove'ah seudah* (eat such a large amount that it equals a satisfying bread-meal) otherwise you may be required to recite *Birchas Hamazon*.¹⁴¹ A quantity of baked *mezonos* equalling four *beitzim*¹⁴² that satiates you (even if the fullness is a result of that volume of baked goods **plus** other foods combined), obligates *Birchas Hamazon* according to the biblical requirement.

SHABBOS, 11 TEVES

Shabbos Chazak

During today's Torah reading, it is customary to rise for the reading of the final verse in the book of Bereishis, after which the entire congregation (men, women, and children) shouts loudly and joyfully—*Chazak, chazak, venischazeik!* This call symbolizes the strength of the Jewish people in all matters of Torah—with the additional strength of a *chazakah*.

The one who is called to the Torah for the seventh *aliyah* should join the rest of the congregation in proclaiming *Chazak*. This is not considered an interruption in

141) See *Seder Birchas Hanehenin*, Chapter 2

142) the volume of four average-sized eggs

the reading, because it is considered part of the final verse's reading process.

FARBRENGEN & HACHLATAH

It is customary for the *gabbaim* to organize a special *farbrengen* on this Shabbos, beyond the ordinary Shabbos *farbrengen*. They should use this opportunity to discuss and encourage strengthening of all aspects of Torah and mitzvos.

On this Shabbos, it is customary to increase in *divrei Torah* and to rejoice at having completed an entire *sefer*, and to make resolutions to increase in Torah study and to keep the mitzvos in the best possible way.

NOT ENOUGH!

In *Sichas Shabbos Parshas Vayechi* 5750, the Rebbe cautioned: "Strong encouragement is particularly necessary in this shul (770). It is necessary to clarify that the participants in the present *farbrengen* have not fulfilled their obligation of holding a special *farbrengen*. I am therefore forced to emphasize and encourage, because I do not want them to depend on me, claiming that due to the present *farbrengen* there will not be a special *farbrengen* held by the *gabbaim* in honor of *Shabbos Chazak*."

MOTZOEI SHABBOS, EVE OF 12 TEVES

Shabbos ends at 5:34 pm.

Following Maariv, anyone who has not recited *Kiddush Levanah* this month should do so tonight while wearing fine clothes (or while still dressed in his Shabbos clothes).

REAL MELAVA MALKA

"...Starting with the festive meal of *motzoei Shabbos* ... 'The meal of Dovid, King Moshiach' ... Certainly, then the *melave malka* should be truly magnificent! Moreover, and this is the most crucial point, we should hold the meal with Dovid King Moshiach at our head!"¹⁴³

SUNDAY, 12 TEVES

During these weeks (from when we begin reading the book of *Shemos*), the order of fasting, praying, and extra stringencies known as *shovavim* begins. To view this practice in the light of Chabad Chassidus, see *Sefer Hasichos* 5749 and other sources.¹⁴⁴

143) *Sichas Shabbos Parshas Vayechi* 5752

144) *Sefer Hasichos* 5749, fn. to p. 185. Also see *Igros Kodesh* vol. 18, p. 259, and *Lesheima Ozen* p. 130.

“Oops! I made a mistake...”

What did I do?	When did I remember?	Now I should...
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Request for Rain • Winter Season

forgotten ותן טל ומטר ¹	before saying Hashem’s name at the end of המברך השנים	interrupt and go back to ותן טל ומטר לברכה
	before starting תקע בשופר	say ותן טל ומטר לברכה before starting ² תקע בשופר
	before saying Hashem’s name at the end of שמע קולנו	say ותן טל ומטר לברכה before כי אתה שומע תפילה ³
	before starting רצה	ותן טל ומטר לברכה before starting ⁴ רצה
	before the conclusion ⁵ of the second יהיו לרצון ⁶	interrupt and go back ⁷ to ברך עלינו ⁸
	after the second יהיו לרצון ⁹	start the <i>Amidah</i> ¹⁰ again ¹¹

Chanukah Candle Lighting

להדליק נר של שבת or של יום טוב	within <i>k’dai dibbur</i> ^{10*}	say להדליק נר חנוכה immediately
	after <i>k’dai dibbur</i> ^{10*}	make the berachah again
forgot to say the brachos before lighting	before lighting all the candles	say the berachah now
	after lighting all the candles	say only שעשה נסים (also on the first night); do not say the first berachah
(on the first night) forgot שהחיינו	while the candles are lit	make the berachah immediately
	after the candles went out	make the berachah at candle lighting on the second (or a subsequent) night

Notes

1. Even if you said ותן טל (omitting the word ומטר).

If you are unsure if you recited the correct version, you must assume that the incorrect version was said out of habit. However, after thirty days have elapsed—this year, beginning with Maariv on the eve of 3 Teves (Jan. 4)—it can be assumed that ותן טל ומטר was indeed recited.

2. If you went back by mistake to the beginning of the Brachah, you are *Yotze*.

3. If you made a mistake and went back to ברך עלינו, stop and return to where you were holding. Say שמע קולנו חו ותן טל ומטר.

4. If you went back to the beginning of *Shma Kolenu* or *Bareich Aleinu*, you are *Yotze*.

5. Even if you already said Hashem’s Name, you should stop and go back to *Bareich Aleinu*.

6. If you started נצור אלקי נצור and the Chazzan Reached *Kedusha* you should answer and you can then go back to *Bareich Aleinu*.

7. If you remembered after reciting Hashem’s name at the end of the brachah of המברך את עמו ישראל or המחזיר שכינתו, הטוב שמך or בשלום וברוך, say למדני חקיקך and go back to ברוך עלינו.

8. If you went back to שמע קולנו and mentioned it there, you are *yotze*. If you went back to ברוך עלינו and forgot ותן טל ומטר again, say it in וחיו.

9. And you have also made the decision not to lengthen the *tefillah* with extra requests and supplications.

10. You must first wait *k’dai hiluch daled amos* (the time it takes to walk six feet) before restarting the *Amidah*.

10*. the (short) amount of time that it would take to say the words: *Shalom alecha Mori V’Rabbi*.

11. On *motzoei Shabbos*: repeat אתה חוננתנו. On Rosh Chodesh: repeat ועלה ויבא. On Chanukah and Purim: ועל ועל ועל need **not** be repeated.

If you remembered after the time has come to daven the next

What did I do?	When did I remember?	Now I should...
said שהחיינו on the second (or a subsequent) night	after saying Hashem's name in the berachah	light the first candle immediately, then say למדני חקין
	after completing the berachah	continue with the lighting; do not repeat the brachos
made a verbal interruption after saying the brachos	before lighting all the candles	repeat all the brachos (including שהחיינו on the first night)
	after lighting all the candles	repeat ששעה נסים (also שהחיינו on the first night); do not repeat the first berachah
made a verbal interruption after lighting at least one candle	-	do not repeat anything
recited הנרות הללו before lighting even the first candle	-	do not repeat anything
used halachically invalid lights	-	re-light properly & repeat all the brachos (including שהחיינו on the first night)

Chanukah Amidah • Maariv, Shacharis, Musaf & Minchah

forgot ועל הנסים	before saying Hashem's name at the end of the berachah	say ועל הנסים & continue as usual
	after saying Hashem's name at the end of the berachah	do not say it now or start over ¹²
said בימי מרדכי ואסתר	before saying Hashem's name at the end of the berachah	say בימי מתתיהו & continue as usual
	after saying Hashem's name at the end of the berachah	do not say it now or start over
after ועל הנסים ועל הכל (as in bentching)	before saying ואכלת ושבעת	interrupt & start ועל now כולם יתברך
	after saying ואכלת ושבעת	interrupt & start רצה

Shabbos Chanukah Amidah

said entire weekday <i>amidah</i> ¹³	-	Mentioned Shabbos: do nothing; I am יוצא
		Didn't mention Shabbos or unsure: daven ¹⁰ again ¹⁴
		Remembered after Musaf: do nothing

Notes

tefillah, you must repeat the *Amidah* twice—first for that *tefillah*, then again to make up for the previous one. However, if you made the error on any Friday afternoon or *erev Pesach*, you **do not** make it up by reciting the Shabbos or Yom Tov *Amidah* an additional time. Before repeating the *Amidah*, you may be *Mafsik*.

12. According to some opinions, you should say the following

יהיו לרצון

הרחמן הוא יעשה לנו נסים, כמו שעשה לאבותינו בימים ההם בזמן הזה. בימי מתתיהו...

13. If unsure which *Amidah* you said, it's a *safek* if you're supposed to daven again. Thus, it's best to listen to the

What did I do?	When did I remember?	Now I should...
said weekday <i>amidah</i>	אתה חונן ¹⁵ "אתה" after saying	By Maariv: continue "קדשת"
		By Shacharis: if aware today is Shabbos, say ישמח משה immediately; if unaware, finish the berachah first, then go to ישמח משה
		By Minchah: continue "אחד"
	in middle of a berachah ¹⁶	finish that berachah then go to the Shabbos berachah ¹⁷
	after starting רצה	stop and go to the Shabbos berachah
	after the המחזיר שכינתו לציון but before beginning מודים	say יעלה ויבוא before מודים ¹⁸
	before the conclusion ¹⁹ of the second יהיו לרצון ²⁰	stop and go to the Shabbos berachah ²¹
	after the second יהיו לרצון ⁹	start ¹⁰ <i>amidah</i> again ¹⁴
(for Shacharis but) after davening musaf	do not daven Shacharis again	

Notes

Chazzan and have in mind to be *yotze*.

14. If you remembered after the time has come to daven the next *tefillah*, you must repeat the *Amidah* twice—first for that *tefillah*, then again to make up for the previous one. However, if you already said mussaf, you can't make up for shacharis. If you made the error by Minchah of Shabbos, you must repeat the Maariv *Amidah* twice—first for that *tefillah*, then again as a נדבה. Additionally, one can only make up during the time of the next *tefillah* - see asktherav.com #25750.

15. Also if you didn't finish the word חונן (you only said חו or חונ), don't complete the Brachah. If unsure if you completed the word, finish the Brachah.

16. Even if you remembered within *k'dei dibbur*. This applies to whichever Brachah you remember in.

17. If you didn't finish the Brachah and went straight to the Shabbos Brachah and only realized after saying מקדש השבת, you are *yotze*.

18. Say: ביום השבת הזה, זכרנו וכו'.

19. Even if he already said Hashem's Name you should stop and go back to the Shabbos Brachah.

20. If you started אלקי נצור and the Chazzan Reached *Kedusha* you should answer and you can then go back to the Shabbos Brachah.

What did I do?	When did I remember?	Now I should...
Rosh Chodesh Amidah • Maariv, Shacharis & Minchah		
forgot ²² to say יעלה ויבוא	before saying Hashem's name at the end of המחזיר	interrupt & start יעלה ויבוא
	after המחזיר שכיתנו לציון but before מודים	say יעלה ויבוא now & then continue with מודים
		In Maariv: continue without saying it
	before the conclusion ²³ of the second יהיו לרצון ²⁴	start ²⁵ from רצה ²⁶ now
		In Maariv: continue without saying it
	after the second יהיו לרצון ²⁴	start ¹⁰ the <i>Amidah</i> again ²⁷
In Maariv: continue without saying it		
(for Shacharis but) after davening Musaf	do not say the Shacharis <i>Amidah</i> again	
said יעלה ובנה ירושלים after ויבוא (as in bentching)	before saying Hashem's name at the end of the berachah	interrupt & start ותחזינה
	after saying Hashem's name at the end of the berachah	conclude the berachah with the ending: המחזיר שכיתנו לציון
	after concluding בונה ברחמי	return to רצה ²⁶

Musaf Amidah

said אתה יצרת	before saying Hashem's name at the end of the middle berachah	return to ראשי חדשים & continue as usual
	after saying Hashem's name at the end of the middle berachah	say למדני חקין then start ראשי חדשים
	after concluding the middle berachah	do not repeat anything ²⁸

Notes

21. If you remembered after reciting Hashem's name at the end of the *berachah* of הטוב שמך or הטוב בשלום, say המברך את עמו ישראל בשלום, say למדני חקין and go back to the Shabbos *Brachah*.

22. Or if you are unsure what you said.

23. Even if you already said Hashem's Name, you should stop and go back to רצה.

24. If you started אלקי נצור and the Chazzan Reached *Kedusha* you should answer and you can go back to רצה.

25. If you mistakenly said *ya'aleh veyavo* and then concluded the *brachah* of *Vesechazenah*, you are *yotze*.

26. If you remembered after reciting Hashem's name at the end of the *berachah* of הטוב שמך or הטוב בשלום, say למדני חקין, say המברך את עמו ישראל בשלום, say למדני חקין and go back to רצה.

27. There is no need to repeat הנסים. If you have already removed your *tefillin* (during Shacharis) you should preferably don them again.

If you remembered after the time has arrived for the next *tefillah*, say the *Amidah*, and then repeat it to make up for the earlier one (even on *motzoei* Rosh Chodesh). However, if you forgot during Shachris and already davened Musaf, you cannot make it up anymore. Additionally, one can only make up during the time of the next *tefillah* - see asktherav.com #25750.

28. If you concluded in the correct way with ראשי חדשים. It is still best to listen to the *chazzan's* repetition with the intent to be *yotze* through him.

If you concluded with ראשי חדשים and ראשי חדשים השבת וישראל וראשי חדשים:

What did I do?	When did I remember?	Now I should...
recited the Yom Tov Musaf	before saying Hashem's name at the end of the middle berachah	return to ראשי חדשים & continue as usual
	after saying Hashem's name at the end of the middle berachah	say למדני חקיך then start ראשי חדשים
	after concluding the middle berachah	return to ראשי חדשים & continue as usual
	before the conclusion ²⁹ of the second יהיו לרצון ³⁰	interrupt and go back to ראשי חדשים ³¹
	after the second יהיו לרצון ³⁰	repeat ¹⁰ the <i>Amidah</i> ³²
recited the weekday brachos ³³	before saying Hashem's name at the end of חונן הדעת	return to ראשי חדשים & continue as usual
	after concluding the middle berachah as long as you did not finish ³⁴ the second יהיו לרצון ³⁵	If it is not yet time to daven Minchah: return to ראשי חדשים. If it is late enough to daven Minchah: complete the <i>Amidah</i> ³⁶
	after the second יהיו לרצון ³⁵	repeat ¹⁰ the <i>Amidah</i> ³⁷
completed the <i>berachah</i> with מקדש השבת וישראל וראשי חדשים	within <i>k'dei dibbur</i> ^{10*}	continue with מקדש ישראל וראשי חדשים
	after <i>k'dei dibbur</i> ^{10*} , as long as you did not finish ²⁹ the second יהיו לרצון ³⁰	return to ראשי חדשים ³¹
	after the second יהיו לרצון ³⁰	repeat ⁹ the <i>Amidah</i> ³²
completed the berachah with מקדש ישראל והזמנים	within <i>k'dei dibbur</i> ^{10*}	continue with מקדש ישראל וראשי חדשים
	after <i>k'dei dibbur</i> ^{10*} , as long as you did not finish ²⁹ the second יהיו לרצון ³⁰	return to ראשי חדשים ³¹
	after the second יהיו לרצון ³⁰	repeat ⁹ the <i>Amidah</i> ³²

Notes

within *k'dei dibbur*, say the correct version immediately. If *k'dei dibbur* has passed, go back to ראשי חדשים.

29. Even if he already said Hashem's Name you should stop and go back to ראשי חדשים.

30. If you started אלקי נצור and the Chazzan reached *Kedusha* you should answer and you can then go back to ראשי חדשים.

31. If you remembered after reciting Hashem's name at the end of the brachah of the הטוב שמך, say למדני חקיך, the הטוב שמך and go back to ראשי חדשים.

32. There is no need to repeat ועל הנסים.

33. If unsure which *Amidah* you said, it's a *safek* if you're

supposed to daven again. Thus, it's best to listen to the Chazzan and have in mind to be *yotze*.

34. Even if you already said Hashem's Name.

35. If you started אלקי נצור and the Chazzan Reached *Kedusha* you should answer and you can then go back to ראשי חדשים (If it's not already possible to daven Minchah).

36. This *tefillah* will then be considered Minchah; go back and daven Musaf. (You may daven Musaf at any time throughout the day.)

37. If it is already possible to daven Minchah, it will be considered as such.

What did I do?	When did I remember?	Now I should...
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Krias Hatorah • Rosh Chodesh

read the first three aliyos of Rosh Chodesh (until ובראשי וחדשיכם) in the first sefer Torah	after the concluding brachos on the third aliyah were recited	Read the fourth aliyah for Rosh Chodesh in the second sefer Torah. The Chanukah portion is not read.
started to read the fourth aliyah of Rosh Chodesh in the first sefer Torah.	after the preliminary brachos on the fourth aliyah were recited & throughout the reading	Only one Torah was taken from the aron: Do not read the portion of Chanukah
		Two Torahs were taken from the aron: Finish the fourth aliyah in the portion of Rosh Chodesh & do a fifth aliyah on Chanukah from the second Torah, followed by <i>kaddish</i> ³⁸
started to read ³⁹ the Chanukah portion first	after the Kohen started ⁴⁰ the preliminary brachos	Finish the entire portion of Chanukah in one aliyah & then read three aliyos for Rosh Chodesh
read only one aliyah of Chanukah first	after the Kohen's concluding brachos	Read the portion of Rosh Chodesh in three aliyos & do not finish the portion on Chanukah.
started to read the second aliyah for Chanukah	after the Levi started ⁴⁰ the preliminary brachos	Read the third aliyah for Chanukah & the portion of Rosh Chodesh for the fourth.

Birchas Hamazon • Chanukah

forgot ועל הנסים	before saying Hashem's name at the end of the berachah	say ועל הנסים now
	after saying Hashem's name at the end of the berachah	not repeat anything ⁴¹
said בימי מרדכי ואסתר	before saying Hashem's name at the end of the berachah	start the berachah again
	after saying Hashem's name at the end of the berachah	do not repeat anything ⁴¹

Notes

38. If *Kaddish* was recited after *Revi'i*, do not say it again.

39. If the Kohen did not start the blessings but only opened the *sefer Torah* to the Chanukah reading, a second *sefer Torah* is removed and the section for Rosh Chodesh is read as normal.

40. Even if you only said ה' ברוך אתה ה'.

41. When you get up to הרחמן הוא יכנונו say: הרחמן הוא יעשה לנו נסים כמו שעשה לאבותינו בימים ההם בזמן הזה. ...בימי מתתיהו...

What did I do?	When did I remember?	Now I should...
after ועל כולם said ועל הנסים ועל יתברך (as in davening)	before saying Hashem's name at the end of the berachah	start ועל הכל now
	after saying Hashem's name at the end of the berachah	say למדני חקיקך, then start the berachah again ⁴²
	after concluding הטוב שמך ולך נאה להודות	start the berachah again
Birchas Hamazon • Shabbos Chanukah		
forgot רצה ²²	before saying Hashem's name at the end of בונה ברחמינו ירושלים	go back to רצה
	after saying Hashem's name at the end of בונה ברחמינו ירושלים	conclude the berachah & then say the berachah of שנתן שבתות ⁴³
		After shki'ah: conclude the berachah & don't say the berachah of שנתן שבתות ⁴⁴
after saying ברוך at the beginning of the berachah הטוב והמטיב	repeat bentsching ⁴⁵	
	By seudah shlishis: don't repeat bentsching ⁴⁴	
Birchas Hamazon • Rosh Chodesh		
said רצה	before saying Hashem's name at the end of בונה ברחמינו ירושלים	interrupt & go back to רחם
	after saying Hashem's name at the end of בונה ברחמינו ירושלים	do not repeat anything
forgot יעלה ויבוא	before saying Hashem's name at the end of בונה ברחמינו ירושלים	say יעלה ויבוא now
	after saying Hashem's name at the end of בונה ברחמינו ירושלים	conclude the berachah & then say the berachah of שנתן ראשי חדשים ⁴⁶
		After shki'ah: conclude the berachah & don't say the berachah of שנתן ראשי חדשים ⁴⁴
after saying ברוך in the berachah הטוב והמטיב	do not repeat bentsching ⁴⁴	

Notes

42. If you concluded ועל הארץ ועל המזון you are yotze.

43. as stated in the siddur (for Shabbos):

ברוך אתה ה' אלוקינו מלך העולם שנתן שבתות למנוחה לעמו ישראל באהבה לאות ולבירית ברוך אתה ה' מקדש השבת

44. If you did not realize that you are not meant to repeat bentsching and you started saying it again, stop wherever you are currently holding—even in middle of a brachah.

45. There is no need to repeat ועל הנסים ועל.

What did I do?	When did I remember?	Now I should...
mentioned another Yom Tov by mistake	before saying Hashem's name at the end of בונה ברחמינו ירושלים	return to רחם
	after saying Hashem's name at the end of בונה ברחמינו ירושלים	conclude the berachah & then say the berachah of שנתן ראשי חדשים ⁴⁶
		After shki'ah: conclude the berachah & don't say the berachah of שנתן ראשי חדשים ⁴⁴
	after saying ברוך in the berachah of הטוב והמטיב	do not repeat bentsching ⁴⁴
said יעלה after ותחזינה עינינו ויבא (as in davening)	before saying Hashem's name at the end of the berachah	start ובנה ירושלים now & continue as usual
	after saying Hashem's name at the end of the berachah	say למדני חקין then start ובנה ירושלים ⁴⁷
	after concluding המחזיר שכינתו לציון	return to רחם

Me'ein Shalosh • Shabbos Chanukah or Rosh Chodesh

forgot to say הרצה והחליצנו or וזכרנו לטובה	before saying Hashem's name at the end of the berachah	return to וזכרנו ורצה & conclude as usual
	after saying Hashem's name at the end of the berachah	do nothing; I am <i>yotzeh</i> ⁴⁸

Me'ein Shalosh & Borei Nefashos

forgot to say על or על המחיה after the dairy meal הגפן ⁴⁹	in middle of the meat meal	say it now
	after bentsching for the meat meal	do nothing; I am <i>yotzeh</i>
forgot to say בורא נפשות after the dairy meal	in middle of the meat meal	say it now
	after bentsching for the meat meal	

Notes

46. as stated in the siddur (for Rosh Chodesh):

ברוך אתה ה' אלוהינו מלך העולם שנתן ראשי חדשים לעמו ישראל לזכרון **without** the conclusion.

47. If you concluded the brachah with בונה ברחמינו ירושלים, you

are *yotze*.

48. Even when saying *Al Hamichya* on *mezonos*; except if the *mezonos* is eaten as the Shabbos meal (instead of bread), in which case you repeat *Al Hamichya*.

What did I do?	When did I remember?	Now I should...
drank a <i>revi'is</i> of wine and ate a <i>kezayis</i> of Mezonos and said only על המחי' ועל הכלכלה ועל הגפן etc.	in the middle of the berachah	return to ועל המחי' ועל הכלכלה ועל הגפן etc.
	after concluding על הארץ ועל המחי' ועל פרי הגפן	do nothing; I am <i>yotzeh</i> .
	after concluding על הארץ ועל המחי'	make a בורא פרי הגפן and drink another <i>revi'is</i> of wine ⁵⁰ & then say על הגפן, or ask someone else who drank wine to have you in mind ⁵¹ .
made a בורא נפשות on wine or Mezonos	-	bentch again from the beginning

Asarah B'Teves • Shacharis & Minchah

Chazzan forgot עננו	before saying Hashem's name at the end of the berachah of רפאנו	interrupt & say עננו, then start רפאנו from the beginning
	after saying Hashem's name at the end of the berachah of רפאנו	say שמע קולנו in עננו (like in the silent <i>Amidah</i> of Minchah) & conclude with: העונה לעמו: ישראל בעת צרה ושומע תפלה ⁵²
	after saying Hashem's name for שומע תפלה	recite it as an independent bracha after שלום
	after concluding the Chazzan's repetition	not say it now nor repeat the <i>Amidah</i>
I forgot עננו	after saying Hashem's name for שומע תפלה	say it after אלקי נצור (before the second יהיו לרצון) but without the concluding berachah
	after the conclusion of the second יהיו לרצון ⁵³	not say it now nor repeat the <i>Amidah</i>
I did not continue כי אתה בכל עת צרה וצוקה after שומע	after saying Hashem's name	say שומע תפלה now, & I'm <i>yotzeh</i>
I concluded with ברוך אתה ה' העונה לעמו ישראל	within <i>k'dei dibbur</i> ^{10*}	say שומע תפלה
	after <i>k'dei dibbur</i> ^{10*}	say שמע קולנו again
I said as a separate ברכה גואל ישראל (like a chazzan) after עננו	-	not repeat it again in שמע קולנו

Notes

49. If you said only על המחי' and not הגפן, see further on the chart.

50. Or grape juice.

51. If you're out of wine (or can't drink more), eat another

kezayis of mezonos & bentch on both (though you may not do so normally). If that is also not possible, eat fruit of the Seven Kinds and say העץ, which covers wine and grape juice.

52. If you concluded with שומע תפילה, you are *yotzeh*.

53. Don't say עננו in either one.

What did I do?	When did I remember?	Now I should...
forgot to daven minchah	-	daven maariv twice, first for maariv then again to make up for minchah ⁵³
Krias Hatorah of Minchah		
recited <i>Kaddish</i> post-reading or post- <i>Haftorah</i>	-	skip the <i>Kaddish</i> before the <i>Amidah</i>
returned the Torah to the <i>aron</i> before saying the <i>Haftorah</i>	-	say the <i>Haftorah</i> now (with the Torah remaining inside)

ב"ה


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