

DAY-TO-DAY HALACHIC GUIDE

17 TAMMUZ 5781

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MOTZEI SHABBOS, 17 TAMMUZ

Melave Malka: Seudah of Dovid Melech HaMoshiach.

“A Melave Malka,” the Rebbe says,¹ “conveys the idea of honoring Shabbos. Just as one escorts Shabbos in to honor the holy day, we escort Shabbos out. Motzoei Shabbos of the seventeenth of Tammuz is no exception, and we should actually be even more careful with this mitzvah than usual. A *melave malka* is known as the *seudah* of Dovid Melech Hamoshiach. Its connection to Moshiach is all the more emphasized at this time, when we pray that all fast days should be transformed into *Yomim Tovim* and a reason to rejoice.”

For a fast such as this one that begins in the morning, you may eat until dawn (*alos hashachar*) if you did not go to sleep for the night (Temporarily dozing off does not constitute going to sleep). If you did sleep properly before the fast, you can only eat if you stipulated before going to sleep that you would eat or drink when you awake. Someone who usually rises to drink during the night can drink without making a stipulation.

Even if you have satisfied the requirements of eating before the fast, do not begin a proper meal within a halachic half-hour of dawn (*alos hashachar*). You may snack on fruit, vegetables and non-alcoholic beverages, and eat up to the halachic equivalent of a *kebeitza* of *mezonos*.

SUNDAY, 17 TAMMUZ

This day is a communal fast day during which eating and drinking is forbidden, as it is the day that the walls of Yerushalayim were breached.

There were five events that occurred throughout history on this day: 1. The *luchos* were broken 2. The *Korban Tamid* ceased in the *Beis Hamikdash* 3. During the time of the second *Beis Hamikdash*, the walls of Yerushalayim were breached (4) The wicked Apostomus burned the Torah (5) A graven image was put in the *heichal*.

Pregnant women, or nursing women who have difficulty fasting, or people feeling ill, are exempt. Consult a Rav if necessary.

A *Chosson* and *Kallah* during their *sheva yemei mishteh*, the week following their wedding, fast as well.

A *bris* which takes place on the seventeenth of Tammuz, the father, the *mohel* and *Sandek* still fast. A minor child is given the wine to drink and the *seudah* takes place that night.

Someone who is exempt from fasting should refrain from eating delicacies and should suffice with only as much food as is necessary.

The fast begins from dawn (*alos hashachar*), at **3:38am**.²

Someone who travels to a different time zone during the fast continues to fast until nightfall (*tzeis hakochavim*) of the place that he is in at that time.

\$Law of Redemption: All fasts are going to be nullified when Moshiach comes. Moreso, they are destined to be *Yomim Tovim* and days of rejoicing.

It is a *minhag Yisrael* to increase *tzedakah* on fast days. We estimate the value of what we would have eaten that day and give it to a poor person on the eve of the fast.

We do not rinse our mouths on a fast day.

¹ From a *sichah* of Shabbos Parshas Balak 5751, 17 Tammuz:

² There are various methods of calculating sunrise. This time is according to the opinion that *alos hashachar* is when the angle of the rising sun is the position of 1.16 degrees from the horizon.

Someone who mistakenly breaks their fast must still complete it. They are not required to compensate by fasting on a different day (unless they choose to do so as an atonement for breaking the fast). If someone eats less than a *koseves* (the size of a large date) within the timeframe of *k'dei achilas pras*,³ or drinks less than a *reviis*, they are still considered to be fasting and pray *Aneinu* as normal. If they consumed more than that, he should replace the words “עננו ביום צום התענית זה” with “עננו ביום צום תענית”.

There are those who are as stringent with bathing and doing laundry on *Shiva Asar B'Tammuz* just like during the Nine Days, when these activities are limited.

Shacharis: Only the *chazzan* says *Aneinu* and only during the repetition of the Amidah. In both Shacharis in Mincha, *Aneinu* is said between the blessings of *go'al Yisrael* and *Refa'einu*. If a *chazzan* mistakenly omits *Aneinu*, see footnote.⁴

Selichos are said during davening. The order for Shacharis is as follows: *Chazaras Hashatz* followed by *Tachanun* and *Nefilas Apayim*; *Selichos* (starting with “אֵל תָּתַנוּ”). One omits “אֲשֶׁר תִּשְׁמַח”); the long *Avinu Malkeinu* and then “אָנֹה לְאָנוּ וְאָנוּ”; half *Kaddish*. Then the *Sefer Torah* is brought out and three *aliyos* are read from the section “יְיָהָל מָשָׁה”.

The *minhag* in 770 is that when there is a Chosson, a *bris* was held, or the like, the congregation (besides the Chosson and the *ba'al habris*) says *Selichos*, but omit *Tachanun*, *Nefilas Apayim* and *Avinu Malkeinu*. When this is done, start with “סָלַח לְנוּ” and continue without omitting anything, *vidoy* - “אֲשֶׁר” is said.

The same Torah reading is repeated for Mincha with the addition of *Maftir*: “דָרְשֵׁו ה' בְּהַמְצָאוֹ”.

“This is not well publicized and has applied by very few,” the Rebbe says in 5748,⁵ “But on the seventeenth of Tammuz, there are those who study the chapters regarding fasts from the Neviim, similar to the custom of saying a chapter of *Tehillim* specific to each day (*Shir shel*

³ The halachic span of time that is based on the norm for someone consuming a half-loaf of bread.

⁴ If the *chazzan* omits *Aneinu* and has not yet pronounced Hashem's name at the conclusion of *Refa'einu*, he should return to recite *Aneinu*. If he already pronounced Hashem's name, he should recite *Aneinu* in the blessing of *Shema Koleinu* as each individual does when praying Mincha silently. In that case, he should conclude the blessing with the words “הַעוֹנוּ בְּעֵת צָרָה וְשִׁמְעָן תְּפִילָה”. If he already passed *Shema Koleinu*, he should recite *Aneinu* as a passage for itself after the blessing of *Sim shalom*.

⁵ *Sefer Hasichos* pg. 247, fn. 63

Yom) and similar; these texts is the ‘*parshah*’ of today. Now, the Torah is eternal, so even when Moshiach comes, we will include these parts of Neviim discussing fast days. The fact that this is the “**Torah of (Eternal) Truth**” and the “**Torah of Light**”, the good in every aspect shines through (even within these negative passages about fast days). This is explained elsewhere⁶ concerning the words “Yaakov and Eisav who are spoken about in the *Parshah*. This means that we can access the good that is in these fasts as they will be transformed into days of rejoicing and *Yomim Tovim* (literally, ‘**good days**’) in the future. So on the contrary (learning about the fast days from the Neviim is not a focus on negativity, but) through learning about the temporary descent, this magnifies the happiness and *Yom Tov* aspect.

It is preferable to daven Mincha earlier so that it does not run into twilight (*bein hashmoshos*), finishing before *shkiah*. In addition to the fact that it is appropriate to daven Mincha before *shkiah* every day, on a fast day specifically this is the correct thing to do. In the event that someone does daven late, he may still conduct *Krias HaTorah* and *Maftir* even once it has reached *bein hashmoshos*.

During the Amidah, *Aneinu* is recited by all (fasting) congregants during the blessing of *Shema Koleinu*. If it is mistakenly omitted, see footnote.⁷

During *Chazaras Hashatz*, the *chazzan* recites *Aneinu* between the blessings of *go'al Yisrael* and *Refa'einu*. The *chazzan's* priestly blessing (i.e., “אֱלֹקֵינוּ וְאֱלֹקֵינוּ אֲבֹתֵינוּ”) is recited before *Sim shalom*.

The order for Mincha is as follows: 1. *Vayedaber* (Karbanos for Mincha) 2. *Ashrei* 3. half *Kaddish* 4. “יְיָהָל מָשָׁה” and *Krias HaTorah*, then *Maftir* and its blessings 5. “יְהִלְלוּ”, *Amidah* (including *Anienu*) and *Chazaras Hashatz* 6. *Tachanun*, the long *Avinu Malkeinu*, *Kaddish* and “תְּהִקְבָּלָה”, then *Aleinu* and Mourner's *Kaddish*

Divrei Kevushin, an address that motivates its audience toward self-improvement, are said after Mincha.

The fast ends, after *Maariv* at **9:04pm**.⁸

⁶ in Likutei Sichos vol.20 pp. 341ff, vol.30 pg.144 part 6, and others

⁷ If you forgot to recite *Aneinu* in the Amidah of Mincha, but remembered it before stepping back at the end of the Amidah, recite it after *Elokai Netzor*. If they had already stepped back, they should not recite it at all.

⁸ according to *zman kochavim beinonim* of the Alter Rebbe