

JEWISH FESTIVALS: ENDING: BEFORE HAVDALA

Jewish Festivals: Ending: Before Havdala: Baruch HaMavdil

Say baruch ha'mavdil bein kodesh l'chol (without saying God's name!) if:

- It is already “dark” (you can see three medium-size stars--tzeit ha'kochavim), and
- You want to end the Jewish festival (and Shabbat) before saying ma'ariv's amida or havdala.

NOTE Saying this formula allows you to do melacha, but you may not eat or drink until you have said or heard havdala.

NOTE Men must still say the amida and men and women must say or hear havdala later even if they said baruch ha'mavdil bein kodesh l'chol. For how late you may say havdala after a Jewish festival, see Jewish Festival Havdala at Night or Next Day.

Jewish Festivals: Ending: Before Havdala: Baruch HaMavdil and Birkat HaMazon

Saying Baruch ha'mavdil bein kodesh l'chol after dark at the end of a Jewish festival or of Rosh Hashana does not affect the additions you will then say in birkat ha'mazon.

SITUATION On a Jewish festival afternoon, you washed your hands, said ha'motzi, and started eating. It is now dark and the end of the Jewish festival.

WHAT TO DO You may say Baruch ha'mavdil bein kodesh l'chol and do melacha, and then

- Continue to eat your meal, or
- Say birkat ha'mazon INCLUDING ya'aleh v'yavo and ha'rachaman hu yanchileinu yom she'kulo tov.

Jewish Festivals: Ending: Before Havdala: Ata Chonantanu

As on Shabbat, if you forgot to say ata chonantanu after Jewish festivals, you do not need to repeat the amida. But, if you then ate food before saying havdala, you must repeat the amida including ata chonantanu.