JEWISH FESTIVALS: ENDING: HAVDALA

JEWISH FESTIVALS: ENDING: HAVDALA: WHEN TO SAY

Jewish Festival Havdala at Night or Next Day

Say <u>Jewish festival havdala</u> at night. If this is impossible, say it the next day but only until sunset on the day after the Jewish festival.

NOTE This is different from *havdala* after *Shabbat*!

JEWISH FESTIVALS: ENDING: HAVDALA: WHO MUST SAY/HEAR

Men and Women Must Say/Hear Havdala

The following must each hear or say havdala for themselves:

- Men and boys 13 years old and up, and
- Women and girls 12 years old and up.
- NOTE As on *Shabbat*, any male Jew above 13 years old and any female Jew above 12 years old may say *Jewish festival havdala* for himself/herself and for anyone else.
- NOTE A husband's or father's hearing *havdala* at *synagogue* does not cover his family's obligation to hear *havdala*. He may say *havdala* for his wife and children even if he fulfilled his personal *havdala* requirement at the *synagogue*. (Men who say *havdala* for their families normally intend not to be covered by the *synagogue's havdala*).

JEWISH FESTIVALS: ENDING: HAVDALA: WHAT TO USE

Jewish Festivals: Ending: Havdala: No Candle or Spices

For <u>Jewish festival havdala</u>, use only wine (or a substitute, <u>chamar medina</u>, beverage); NO candle or spices (unless the Jewish festival also coincided with Shabbat).

Jewish Festivals: Ending: Havdala: Beverage

Wine or grape juice is the preferred beverage for *havdala*, but you may use any common beverage (*chamar medina*) that is drunk for social reasons.

Jewish Festivals: Ending: Havdala: Filling the Cup

You must pour at least 4 fl. oz. (119 ml--a *revi'it*) of wine or other beverage into the *havdala* cup--this is *halacha*. However, to symbolize that we are blessed (*siman bracha*) with wealth, overfill the cup (non-binding custom).

NOTE Do not drink the overflow, to show that we are so rich that we do not need the spilled beverage. NOTE Do not overfill a cup containing *shmita* wine!

Jewish Festivals: Ending: Havdala: How Much To Drink

To fulfill the commandment of *havdala* (or *kiddush*), the person making *kiddush* must drink at least 2 fl. oz. (59 ml) within 30 seconds from the *kiddush* cup. However, drinking at least 4 fl. oz. (119 ml--a *revi'it*) from the *havdala* cup within 30 seconds allows you to say *bracha achrona*.

Jewish Festivals: Ending: Havdala: Who Drinks the Beverage

For men: No one should drink the *havdala* beverage except the person saying *havdala*. This is a non-binding custom, not a *halacha*.

For women: This custom does NOT apply to women. Women who say havdala for themselves may give

their *havdala* beverage to someone else to drink.

JEWISH FESTIVALS: ENDING: HAVDALA: STANDING OR SITTING

Havdala Standing or Sitting

Sitting or standing while drinking *havdala* (or *kiddush*) beverage is a non-binding custom, not a *halacha*.

© Copyright 2025 Richard B. Aiken | www.practicalhalacha.com