JEWISH FESTIVALS: MINCHA BEFORE

JEWISH FESTIVALS: WHAT TIME IS MINCHA

Jewish Festivals: Earliest Mincha

The earliest permissible time to say *mincha* before a *Jewish festival* is one-half hour after *halachic midday*, as with all *mincha* prayers including before *Shabbat*.

NOTE You may begin the second day of any <u>Jewish festival</u> as early as <u>plag ha'mincha</u>. You should ideally say <u>mincha</u> before <u>plag</u> and then say <u>ma'ariv</u> after <u>plag</u>; but if you are praying with a <u>minyan</u>, you may say <u>mincha</u> anytime after <u>plag</u> and then say <u>ma'ariv</u> immediately afterward, just as on <u>Shabbat</u>.

NOTE However, there is nothing gained by saying *mincha* early before a *Jewish festival*:

- We don't want to start <u>Rosh Hashana</u> (Yom HaDin) early and no one wants to start <u>Yom Kippur</u> early.
- You may not start either seder until after dark on Passover.
- You could eat in a <u>sukka</u> before dark on either of the first two days of <u>Sukkat</u>, but you would not fulfill the requirement of eating in a <u>sukka</u> since it was not dark.
- Likewise, the first day of *Shavuot* does not begin until after dark.
- Since you may not say the blessing on eating in a *sukka* on *Shmini Atzeret* (which you would have to do if you eat before dark), there is nothing gained by saying *mincha* and *ma'ariv* early on that day, either.

So, as a practical matter, the only days on which saying *mincha* and *ma'ariv* early would allow beginning the holiday early are the second day of *Shavuot*, the second day of *Rosh Hashana*, and the last days of *Passover*.

JEWISH FESTIVALS: MINCHA AND CANDLE LIGHTING

Saying Mincha after Lighting Jewish Festival Candles

A woman who has already lit <u>Jewish festival</u> candles may not say <u>mincha</u> for the afternoon before a <u>Jewish festival</u>, even if she lit (after <u>plag ha'mincha</u>) long before sunset time, unless she intended not to begin the <u>Jewish festival</u> when she was lighting the candles (and intending to begin later should only be done in urgent situations, not routinely.)