WHEN TO PRAY

WHEN TO PRAY: TRAVELER'S QUESTIONS

When To Pray: Traveler's Questions: Crossing from Day-Night or Night-Day

Always say the prayer service based on the day and time where you are at the moment you are ready to pray.

Flying West

SITUATION

You fly west and take off before sunrise.

WHAT TO DO

If the sun will rise while you are flying, you may say *shacharit* from the time of *alot ha'shachar* on the ground below where you are when you begin to pray.

SITUATION

You fly west, taking off during the daytime.

WHAT TO DO

Say *mincha* whenever the sun has gone at least 30 minutes past the local midday where you are at that time.

SITUATION

You fly west into the night.

WHAT TO DO

Say *ma'ariv*. once it is night on the ground below you.

NOTE On a long west-bound flight, you might not have to say any prayer services, since you might still be covered by whatever prayer service you said before you took off.

Flying East

SITUATION

You cross the international dateline passing through the night and are now back in the day you already experienced.

WHAT TO DO

You ignore the fact that you said the prayer service on that day and say it again.

SITUATION

You fly from Australia on Tuesday, departing during the daytime. You will fly into the night of Monday and continue on back into Tuesday.

WHAT TO DO

You disregard the fact that you already said *ma'ariv* for Monday and you say *ma'ariv* again. If your flight continues until sunrise, you will also say *shacharit* for Tuesday again.

SITUATION

You fly from Australia on Tuesday morning and cross the IDL during the daytime of Tuesday and are now back into Monday.

WHAT TO DO

You do not say any prayer service until your flight crosses into night, whether that happens in flight or after you have landed. You will need to say *mincha* at some time during the day.

SITUATION

You fly east but you do not cross the international dateline.

WHAT TO DO

If you cross into the night, you will say *ma'ariv* as you normally would do. If you took off at night and cross into daytime, you will say *shacharit*.

NOTE When flying east from night into day, there is a very brief time period when you may say *shema* of the morning, since you may not say *shema* until *alot ha'shachar* and must say *shema* by the end of the third hour of the local day. When flying east, instead of having about 4 hours during which to say *shema*, you might only have two or so hours.

NOTE Regarding saying the *shir shel yom* (psalm for the day of the week), follow the local day.

WHEN TO PRAY: MORNING PRAYERS/SHACHARIT

WHEN TO PRAY: MORNING PRAYERS/SHACHARIT (WEEKDAY): ORDER OF PRAYERS

INTRODUCTION TO MORNING PRAYERS/SHACHARIT (WEEKDAY): ORDER OF PRAYERS

Introduction to Morning Prayers/Shacharit (Weekday): Order of Prayers

Here is a typical order of waking/morning prayers for weekdays (many people say these blessings at the *synagogue* instead of at home):

- **Wake**
  Wake and wash hands (*Three-Times Method).*
- **Bathroom**
  Take care of any toilet needs, wash your hands (*One-Time Method)*.
  Say blessings *al netilat yadayim* and *asher yatzar* (until *l'fgarim meitim).*
- ***Torah* Blessings**

Say *Torah* blessings (from *la'asok bi'divrei Torah* until *talmud Torah ki'negged kulam*).

- ***Talit Katan***
  Put on *talit katan* (for men).
  Say blessing if not married or if not putting on *talit gadol* later.

  NOTE You may put on the *talit katan* before washing your hands

- ***Birchot HaShachar***

Say *birchot ha'shachar* (from *natan la'sechvi…*until *ven brit*) before, or at, *synagogue*.

- ***Talit/Tefilin***

Put on:

- *Talit* (for married men or other men with that custom).

- *Tefilin* (for men).

- ***L'olam Yihei Adam/Korbanot***

Say:

- *L'olam yihei adam*,
- Short *shema*,
- Paragraph ending *mekadeish et shimcha ba'rabim*,
- Readings on sacrifices/*korbanot*,
- 13 rules.

- ***Psukei D'Zimra***

Say:

- Psalm 30/*Mizmor Shir Chanukat habayit.*
- *Baruch she'amar* through *yishtabach* (includes *ashrei*).

- ***Bar'chu/Shema/Amida***

Say *bar'chu* through end of *amida* (including *shema*, with two blessings before and one after), *tachanun* (when appropriate) and *ashrei* through to *alenu*.

- ***Psalms/Alenu***

Say *alenu* and psalm for the day.

Terms To Know

- *Neitz, HaNeitz*—Sunrise
- *Alot HaShachar*—72 minutes before sunrise
- *MiSheyakir*-- 36 minutes before sunrise in New York in winter and 40 minutes in summer. Nearer to the equator, the maximum time is shorter.

NOTE Even though *mi'sheyakir* means when there is enough light to identify your friend, it also means when you can differentiate between blue and white threads in the *tzitzit*, since the *mitzva* of *tzitzit* is only during the daytime.

When Things Happen
Before *Alot HaShachar* (72 minutes before sunrise)
You can put on *tzitzit/talit* and *tefilin* without blessings.

Alot HaShachar
You can say:

- *Birchot ha'shachar*.
- *Shema* and *amida*, *b'di'avad*.

Mi'sheyakir (36-40 minutes before sunrise)
You can say:

- Blessings over *tefilin* and *tzitzit/talit*.
- *Shema* and *amida* as necessary.

K'Vatikin

You can say *shema l'chatchila*--and begin saying the *amida* exactly at sunrise.

By Third *Halachic* Hour of the Day
You have until the third *halachic* hour of the day to say:

- The blessing *mekadeish et shimcha ba'rabim* if you want to include the word *Adonai*.
- Morning *shema*.

By Fourth *Halachic* Hour of the Day
You have until the fourth *halachic* hour of the day to say any of the prayers from *barchu* until the end of the *amida*.

***Halachic* Mid-Day**
You have until *halachic* mid-day, *b'di'avad*, to say the *shacharit amida*.

WHEN TO PRAY: SHACHARIT: WHAT TIME TO BEGIN

Introduction: Shacharit: When To Begin

B'di'avad, you can say *shema* and *amida* as early as 72 minutes before sunrise (*alot ha'shachar*). You can put on *tefilin* and *tzitzit/talit* even earlier, although you may not say the blessings over them until "*mi'sheyakir*"—which is later than you can say *shema* and *amida*! (See above.)

Shacharit: Earliest Time for Blessings over Tefilin and Tzitzit

Earliest time to say blessings over *tefilin* and *tzitzit/talit* is *mi'sheyakir* (in New York, 36-40 minutes before sunrise).

Very Early Shacharit: How To Begin

If you must say *shacharit* very early:

1. Say *birchot ha'shachar*;
2. When you reach the end of *yishtabach*, if it is:
    - 36 minutes (or less) before sunrise:
        - Pause after the blessing (ending *El chay ha'olamim*),
        - Put on your *talit* and *tefilin*, and
        - Say the appropriate blessings.
    - More than 36 minutes before sunrise:
        - Put on your *talit* and *tefilin* WITHOUT saying the blessings. Later, after it is less than 36 minutes before sunrise:
            - Hold your *tzitzit* and say the *tzitzit* blessing,
            - Move your *tefilin* slightly,
            - Say the *tefilin* blessings (if you are in a place in the prayer service where you are permitted to interrupt).

WHEN TO PRAY: SHACHARIT: WHAT TIME TO FINISH

When To Pray: Shacharit: What Time To Finish

You must say the *shema* no later than the end of the third halachic hour of the day in the morning.
If you did not say it in time:

1. If it is before the fourth halachic hour of the day, say the entire *shacharit* service, as long as you will complete the *amida* before the end of the fourth halachic hour.
2. If it is after the fourth halachic hour of the day but before the end of the sixth halachic hour of the day, say *birchot* ha'shachar (and you may also say korbanot) and then skip all of *shacharit* up to the *amida*, which you should say as soon as possible.

WHEN TO PRAY: SHACHARIT: BLESSINGS OF DAYBREAK (BIRCHOT HASHACHAR)

When To Say Blessings of Daybreak (Birchot HaShachar)

Both men and women may say *birchot ha'shachar* all day, until sunset (beginning from *alot ha'shachar*—72 minutes before sunrise).

Where To Say Blessings of Daybreak (Birchot HaShachar)

You may say *birchot ha'shachar* at home, in the *synagogue*, or along the way.

NOTE You should say *birchot ha'shachar* for yourself and not have the prayer leader fulfill your requirement.

WHEN TO PRAY: SHACHARIT: L'OLAM YIHEI ADAM

When To Say Mekadeish et Shimcha BaRabim

You may only include God's name in *Baruch ata Adonai, mekadeish et shimcha ba'rabim* if:

- You have not yet said the full morning *shema*, and
- It is still before the third *halachic hour* of the day.

NOTE If you already said the morning *shema*, whether on time or not, you may still return to fill in the morning blessings. When you get to *l'olam yihei adam,* don't include God's name in the concluding blessing. Rather, say, "*Baruch ata, mekadeish et shimcha ba'rabim.*"

When To Say Baruch She'Amar

After the fourth *halachic* hour, unless in extreme circumstances, neither men nor women may say any of the prayers from *baruch she'amar* through the line before the *amida*.

Shacharit: Might Return To Sleep and Miss Latest Time To Say Shema

SITUATION You wake up after daybreak, but you might go back to sleep and thereby miss the time for saying *mekadeish et shimcha ba'rabim* and *shema* (both of which must be said by the third *halachic* hour of the day).

WHAT TO DO You should say at least the:

- Blessing on washing your hands,
- Blessings on studying *Torah*, including *Elohai neshama* and all other related sayings, and
- Complete *shema*--with the condition that:
    - If you sleep past the latest time for *shema* (*sof zman kriat shema*), this *shema* fulfills your obligation; but
    - If you do not go back to sleep, this *shema* does not fulfill your obligation.

Then, whether you go back to sleep or not, having made the condition allows you to say the full blessing of *mekadeish et shimcha ba'rabim*, including God's name, if you get to *l'olam yihei adam*... before the third hour of the day.

NOTE If you said the *shema* when you woke up but did not made the condition, you would not be able to say the concluding blessing *mekadeish et shimcha ba'rabim* with God's name when repeating the *shema* (but you may say it without using God's name: see When To Say Mekadeish et Shimcha BaRabim).

NOTE If you go back to sleep, don't repeat the blessings on washing hands and studying *Torah* when you wake up.

WHEN TO PRAY: SHACHARIT: SHEMA

SHACHARIT: SHEMA: WHEN TO SAY SHEMA

Earliest Time for Shema (and Amida)

Earliest time to say *shema* and *amida* is 72 minutes before sunrise, *b'di'avad*, since the guideline is *halachic* "day."

NOTE *L'chatchila*, you should say *shema* anytime from 3 minutes before sunrise until the end of the third *halachic* hour of the day.

Latest time To Say Shema

Shema may be said anytime during the day. But to fulfill the *halachic* requirement of saying *shema* in the morning, *shema* must be said by the end of the first quarter of the daylight hours, known as the "third hour" of the day. To derive this time, divide the time from sunrise to sunset by 4 and add that to the time for sunrise.

Late Shema: L'Olam Yehei Adam by Third Hour

SITUATION

You will not have time to say the morning *shema* by the end of the third hour of the day, but you will say l'olam yehei adam by then.

WHAT TO DO

Instead of saying the first line of *shema*, say:

- El melech ne'eman.
- Entire *shema*. Then
- Paragraph that ends in mekadeish et shimcha b'rabim.

Saying Shema after Proper Time

Even if you have not said the morning *shema* by the latest proper time (no later than the end of the first quarter of the daylight hours), say it as soon as you can.

SHACHARIT: SHEMA: WHEN TO SAY SHEMA BLESSINGS

When To Say Shema Blessings

Neither men nor women may say the blessings that precede and follow the *shema* after the fourth *halachic* hour of the day. In extreme circumstances (if compelled or forced), men (but not women) may still say the *shema* blessings until *halachic* midday.

Shacharit: Shema: El Melech Ne'eman

SITUATION

You are not with a *minyan*. You begin saying the *shema* and you realize you had forgotten to say El melech ne'eman before beginning the *shema*.

WHAT TO DO

Finish the *shema*; do not go back to say El melech ne'eman (and your saying the *shema* is still valid).

WHEN TO PRAY: SHACHARIT: SHEMONEH ESREI/AMIDA

When To Say Morning Amida

Say the morning *amida* by the first third of the day (by the 4th hour), but you may still say it until *halachic midday*, *b'di'avad*, except if you delay intentionally.

SITUATION

You are running out of time to say the morning *amida*. You have said the *shema* without saying yishtabach or anything following yishtabach (except for the *shema*).

WHAT TO DO

Just say the *amida*.

SITUATION

You wake up too late to say the *amida* before *halachic* noon:

WHAT TO DO

- Wait until a half-hour after *halachic* noon and then say *mincha*, and then
- Repeat the *mincha amida* as *tashlumin*.

NOTE Men who intentionally delayed saying *shacharit* past the fourth *halachic* hour of the day may not say that *amida* at all and may not say the *mincha amida* as *tashlumin*.
See *Minyan*: Keeping Pace: *Shacharit Minyan*.

WHEN TO PRAY: MINCHA

Timing of Mincha

Mincha may be said from ½ hour after *halachic midday* until sunset.

Mincha Gedola

Mincha gedola is the earliest time that you may say *mincha:* from 1/2 *halachic hour* after *halachic midday* until 2 ½ *halachic hours* before sunset.

Mincha Ketana

Mincha ketana is the preferred time period for saying *mincha*: from 2 1/2 *halachic hours* before sunset until sunset.

WHEN TO PRAY: MA'ARIV

When To Say Ma'ariv

Ma'ariv may be said from sunset (or even from *plag ha'mincha* if *mincha* was said early enough).

NOTE If you say *ma'ariv* before dark, you must repeat the three paragraphs of the *shema* once it is actually *halachic* night.

REASON *Shema* must be said after dark.

When To Say Mincha To Allow Early Ma'ariv

To be permitted to say *ma'ariv* early, before sunset, say *mincha* no later than 1 ¼ *halachic hours* before sunset.

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