

משניות מסכת ברכות

פרק א - משנה ב

General Background Concepts & Information:

- *Birchas Krias Shema* - the *brochos* before and after *Krias Shema* (יוצר אור...גאל ישראל)

Short introduction: This Mishna will discuss **from** what time and **until** what time, is the mitzvah to say *Shema* each morning

מַאימְתִי קוֹרִין אֶת שְׁמַע בְּשַׁחֲרִית

From what time does the *mitzva* to say *Krias Shema* in the morning, **begin**?

The Tanna Kamma says:

מְשִׁיכִיר בֵּין תְּכֵלֶת לְלָבָן

When there is enough sunlight to be able to see the difference between blue wool and white wool.

רַבִּי אֱלִיעֶזֶר אוֹמֵר

בֵּין תְּכֵלֶת לְכֶרֶתִי

However Rebbe Eliezer says when there is enough sunlight to be able to see the difference between blue wool and green wool.

(For this you need a little more sunlight, so its a little bit later than the Tanna Kamma' opinion)

And **until what time** is mitzvah of *Krias Shema* in the morning?

(וְגוֹמְרָה) עַד הַנֶּץ הַחֲמָה

The Tanna Kamma says until sunrise.

רַבִּי יְהוֹשֻׁעַ אוֹמֵר

עַד שְׁלֹשׁ שָׁעוֹת

However, Rebbe Yehoshua says:

Until the end of the 3rd hour (after sunrise)

Why until the end of the 3rd hour (and not the 2nd hour, or the 4th hour)?

שָׁכַן דֶּרֶךְ בְּנֵי מְלָכִים לְעִמּוּד בְּשֹׁלֶשׁ שָׁעוֹת

Because the children of kings wake up during the 3rd hour. (see note below)

Now, what if someone missed his chance to say *Shema* by the proper time?

הַקּוֹרָא מִכָּאן וְאֵילָךְ
לֹא הִפְסִיד

If someone says *Krias Shema* after the *zman krias shema* already passed,
He does NOT lose out on saying *Shema* with the *Brochos* (*Birchas Krias Shema*)

כְּאֶדָם הַקּוֹרָא בְּתוֹרָה

He will be rewarded, just like one who reads *pesukim* from the Torah

(Meaning: Although he does NOT lose out on saying the *Brichos Krias Shema*, he DOES lose out on getting the full reward of someone who said Shema in the proper time)

Additional Notes & Explanations:

- Blue wool (*Ticheles* of *Tzisis*) is connected to the mitzvah of *Krias Shema* (Yerushalmi Brochos 1:2)
- What is the reason of the Tanna Kamma (who holds that the time to say Shema starts when you can see the difference between White wool and Blue wool)? The Tanna Kamma holds that this is the starting time, when people wake up in the morning (ובקומך)
- What is the reason of the Rebbe Eliezer (who holds that the time to say Shema starts when you can see the difference between Blue wool and Green wool)? Rebbe Eliezer holds that this is the starting time, when people wake up in the morning (ובקומך)
- What is the reason of the Tanna Kamma (who holds you have only until sunrise)? The Tanna Kamma holds that when the Torah says: to say *Krias Shema*: *uvekomecha*: “when you wake up”; it means at a time when people most people are waking up. And since MOST people wake up BEFORE sunrise therefore that is considered the end of the “waking up” period of time (Tos. R’ Akiva Eiger).
- What is the reason of Rebbe Yehoshua (who holds you have until the end of 3rd hour)? Rebbe Yehoshua holds that when the Torah says: to say *Krias Shema*: *uvekomecha*: “when you wake up”; it means at a time when people are waking up. And since princes wake up in the 3rd hour, therefore it is considered a time when people “wake up”. (Plus, all Jewish children are Princes, see Mishnayos Shabbos 14:4)
- Please note: The length of the 3rd hour is not always 60 minutes. It depends on the length of time between sunrise & sunset, divided by 12