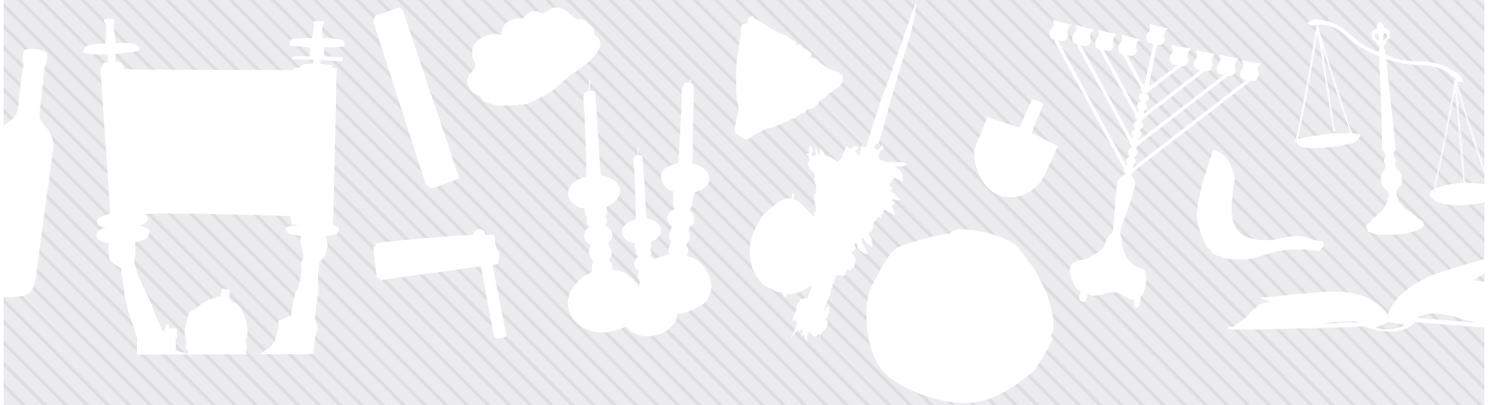


HALACHOS HATZRICHOS

PACKET #20



ORDER OF BRACHOS

If we are about to eat a bunch of different foods, we need to figure out which foods to make a *bracha* on first!

Before we start, we make sure that we don't have any fruits from the Shivas Haminim. There are special halachos with the Shivas Haminim, which often change the order. We will IY"H learn their special halachos later.

The first thing we do is to figure out if we have foods that are more than one *bracha*. If we do, we start going through each *bracha* in order: *Mezonos*, *Hagafen*, *Ha'eitz* and *Ha'adamah* (these two *brachos* can go together for the order of *brachos*), and then *Shehakol*.

Then after we know which *bracha* comes first, we look at the foods that have the same *bracha*. One *bracha* at a time, we figure out which food we should choose to make the *bracha* on. We try to make the *bracha* on the most important food of each *bracha*:

1) **Whole** — We look to see if we have a food that is WHOLE, not cut up or broken. That is considered the most important food, and we make a *bracha* on that food.

What if we don't have anything that is whole, or we have more than one whole food to choose between? Then we go on to the next question:

2) **Choviv** — Which of these foods with the same *bracha* is most important to US? Which do we like more in general, or want to eat more now? We choose this food to say a *bracha* on.

For the order of *brachos*, we put *Ha'eitz* and *Ha'adamah* together, even though *Ha'eitz* is more specific. Depending on which foods are whole or more important to us, we might make *Ha'adamah* before *Ha'eitz*, or *Ha'eitz* before *Ha'adamah*.

But if none of the food is more *Choviv* to us, we say *Ha'eitz* before *Ha'adamah*.

See Birchos Hanehenin Perek Yud



THE ORDER OF BRACHOS

Before we eat or drink any foods, we need to say a *bracha* to Hashem. When we have many foods in front of us, ready for us to eat, which *brachos* do we say first?

We first check to see if we have foods with more than one *bracha*. Following the order of *brachos*, we start with *Mezonos*, then *Hagafen*, then *Ha'eitz* and *Ha'adamah*, then *Shehakol*. For each of these *brachos*, we choose the most important food to make the *bracha* on. A food that is whole, not cut up or broken, is the most important. If that isn't enough to know which food to make the *bracha* on, we then decide which food is most important to US — the food we like more usually or want to eat more now.

There is only one food that can change the whole ORDER of *brachos*: Olives.

If we don't have a preference of which food we want more, olives can sometimes rise up in the order of *brachos*! We can say *Ha'eitz* on an olive even before saying *Mezonos*, if our *Mezonos* is not made of wheat.

One example of when we would use this *halacha* is if we have a plate of olives and a bowl of oatmeal or some spelt cookies in front of us. If we don't really care which one we eat first, then we can make the *bracha* of *Ha'eitz* on the olives before making *Mezonos* on our oatmeal!

We learn this *halacha* from the *posuk* which speaks about the *Shiva Minim*: “*Eretz Chita, Se'orah, Gefen, Te'eina Verimon; Eretz Zayis Shemen Udevash.*” The foods that are the closest to the word “*Eretz*” in the *posuk* are considered more important. Since “*Zayis*” (olive) is right next to the second “*Eretz*” in the *posuk*, it is more important than the word “*Se'orah*” (barley, or any grain except for wheat) since it is not right next to the word “*Eretz.*” So if we only have *Mezonos* from *Se'orah*, we can still say the *bracha* on the *Zayis* first.

See Seder Birchos Hanehenin Perek Yud, Halacha Yud-Beis



THE ORDER OF BRACHOS

There are many *halachos* about how to say *brachos* properly, and which ones to say. There is also a *Mitzvah Min Hamuvchar*, a way to do the *mitzvah* in the BEST way, by also saying the *brachos* in the right order.

When we ONLY have fruits of the *Shiva Minim* in front of us, then we only have one *bracha* to say, *Ha'eitz*. But which of the fruits should we pick to make the *bracha* on?

If we usually like one of the fruits best, or we are in the mood to eat a certain one now, that fruit is the most important to us. We can choose to make the *bracha* on that fruit first.

Another way to decide which fruit to make the *bracha* on is to look at the *posuk* in the Torah about the *Shiva Minim* to see which fruit is the most important. In the *posuk*, “*Eretz Chita Se'orah Gefen Te'einah Verimon, Eretz Zayis Shemen Udevash,*” we speak about the seven special crops of Eretz Yisroel. The order that they are said in the *posuk* shows us which ones are most important! The most important fruits come right after saying the word “*Eretz,*” the land of Eretz Yisroel, either the first “*Eretz*” or the second “*Eretz.*”

If we choose to follow this order, we make a *bracha* on the first of the fruits that we have in this list: **Olives** (*Zayis*), then **dates** (*Devash Temarim*), **grapes** or **raisins** (*Gefen*), **figs** (*Te'einah*), and then **pomegranates** (*Rimon*).

See Seder Birchos Hanehenin Perek Yud



ORDER OF BRACHOS

We learned yesterday that if we ONLY have *Shivas Haminim* fruits in front of us, we can choose which one to make the *bracha* on based on the order that they are said in the Torah, or choose the one we like the best.

But what if we have many fruits, some from the *Shiva Minim* and some not?

If we like them all the same, we should choose the most important fruit from the *Shivas Haminim*, the first one we have from the list we said yesterday (olives, dates, grapes or raisins, figs, pomegranates). For the *Shiva Minim*, it doesn't matter if it is whole or cut up.

If we like some of the fruits more (*chavivus*), then we don't have to say the *bracha* on one of the *Shiva Minim*. We can choose whichever fruit we like the best! But we should choose a whole fruit (not one that is cut up) that we like best to say the *bracha* on, since whole fruits are more important.

Seder Birchos Hanehenin Perek Yud



ORDER OF BRACHOS - REVIEW PART 1

As Yidden, we try not just to do the *mitzvos*, but to do them in a beautiful way! That is why we have elegant silver Shabbos candlesticks, or fancy leather-bound siddurim. That is why we read every word of *bentching* loudly and clearly, and why we invite LOTS of Shabbos guests.

Saying *brachos* before enjoying Hashem's delicious food is also a *mitzvah*. To do this *mitzvah* in the best and most beautiful way, we are careful not only to say the right *bracha* on the food, but to make the *brachos* in the right order, on the most important foods we have.

We follow the order of *brachos* in *Shulchan Aruch*: **Mezonos**, **HaGafen**, **Ha'Eitz-Ha'Adamah**, and **Shehakol**. (A way to remember the order is with the words "Maga Aish.")

(We only follow this order with foods that are in front of us, that we are planning on eating now. We don't have to go find more foods to make other brachos first, or switch around the order of courses to make the brachos in the right order. If we need to eat or drink another food first to enjoy the meal, we can also make the brachos in whatever order makes sense.)



ORDER OF BRACHOS

- REVIEW PART 2

When we have more than one food for a certain *bracha*, we choose one of two ways to figure out which is the most important food, to make the *bracha* on:

1) **Our favorite:** We can choose to make the *bracha* on the food that WE feel is the most important — the food we usually like most or want to eat most now.

If we choose this way of finding out the most important foods, we pick a food that is whole if we have one, not a food that is broken or cut up. If we are choosing a favorite fruit or vegetable, we can even make the bracha of Ha'adamah before Ha'eitz, but we shouldn't change the order of any other brachos! We also don't have to worry about the order of the Shiva Minim.

2) **Eretz Yisroel fruit:** We can choose to make the *bracha* on a food the TORAH says is special, because it comes from the *Shiva Minim*.

If we choose this way of finding which food is most important, it doesn't matter if the fruit is whole or not. But we should follow the order of the posuk which speaks about the Shiva Minim to see which one the Torah considers most important. That order is wheat, olives, barley, dates, grapes or raisins, figs, pomegranates.

Because olives are so close to the word “Aretz” (the land of Eretz Yisroel) in the *posuk* about the *Shiva Minim*, they are after wheat, but come before barley and other grains in importance. So if we have olives along with a non-wheat grain (like oatmeal or spelt cookies), we can choose to go by the order of the *Shiva Minim* and make the *bracha Ha'eitz* on the olives before the *Mezonos*.



ORDER OF BRACHOS

When we make a *bracha* on bread, there are extra *halachos* to decide which is the more important one to make a *bracha* on!

If we have two different rolls or loaves of bread, both made of wheat (the first of the *Shiva Minim*), which one should we make the *bracha* on?

To figure it out, we ask ourselves, is one of them:

- Better quality
- Bigger
- Tastier

That nicer bread is the one we should choose to make the *bracha* on!

(If we weren't planning on eating one of the loaves or rolls, we don't have to make the *bracha* on it even if it is better.)

See the Alter Rebbe's Seder Birchos Hanehenin, perek Yud



LECHEM MISHNA

When we set up the Shabbos table, we put out the *becher* for *Kiddush*, and the *challah* board and the *challos*.

Did you know that there is a *minhag* of how to set up the *challos* we are using for *Lechem Mishna*?

On Friday night, we put the two *challos* flat on the tray, next to each other.

On Shabbos day, we put the *challah* on the right side leaning a little bit on the second *challah*, so it is a little higher than it.

Then, according to Kabbalah, when we make the *bracha* on the *challah*, we put the *challos* back to back, with the bottom part of both *challos* touching. This way, only the tops of the *challos* are showing!

See Shulchan Menachem vol. 2 p. 84, Igros Kodesh vol. 18, p. 361

