

The Halachos of Asarah B'Teves on Erev Shabbos

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INTRODUCTION

This year, we have the rare occurrence of Asarah B'Teves being on a Friday. Although other fast days would not be observed on an Erev Shabbos¹, Asarah B'Teves holds the distinction of being the only fast day that we do observe on a Friday. In fact, according to the Avudraham² and others³, we would even fast if Asarah B'Teves would come out on a Shabbos.

For the most part, all of the halachos of a regular Asarah B'Teves also apply when it is on Erev Shabbos. Nevertheless, there are several *halachos* unique to a fast day on Erev Shabbos. The following is a brief review.

LENGTH OF THE FAST

The fast starts at *alos hashachar* as usual and it goes until *tzeis hakochavim* even if one has already come home from shul on Friday night⁴. *Tzeis hakochavim* in this case is based on the amount of time past *shkiyah* that one normally waits after a fast. For many, this is 50 minutes after *shkiyah*. There is no concept of accepting an “Early Shabbos” thereby ending the fast early.

SHOWERING AND MUSIC

The Shulchan Aruch⁵ *paskens* that washing and bathing are permissible on a regular fast day. The Mishna Berura⁶, however, writes that a “*baal nefesh*” (someone fastidious in matters of halacha) should be *machmir* and avoid these activities on a fast day. Even those who normally adopt this stringency should not be *machmir* when Asarah B'Teves is on Erev Shabbos and may shower normally in honor of Shabbos⁷.

¹ למעשה לפי הקביעות שלנו אין שאר התעניתים חלים בערב שבת (משנה ברורה סי' תקנ"ג ס"ק י"א)

² אבודרהם הלכות תעניות עמ' רנ"ד

³ שיטת הבה"ג הו"ד בחידושי הגר"ח (סטנסיל) אות מ"ד אבל יש חולקים עליהם

⁴ רמ"א או"ח סי' רמ"ט סעי' ד', ח"י אדם כלל קל"ג סעי' ז', וקיצור שלחן ערוך סי' קכ"א סעי' ו'

⁵ שלחן ערוך או"ח סי' תקנ"ג סעי' ב'

⁶ משנה ברורה שם ס"ק ו'

⁷ ערוך השלחן או"ח סי' תקנ"ג סעי' ג' ומשנה ברורה שם

⁸ שיטת הרב משה פיינשטיין צ"ל מפי השמועה

One should not listen to music on fast days that have been established in memory of the Beis Hamikdash⁸. This includes Asarah B'Teves that falls out on Erev Shabbos.

TASTING SHABBOS FOOD

There is a mitzvah to taste the Shabbos food on Erev Shabbos every week. When Asarah B'Teves is on Erev Shabbos, one should not taste the food, even if he plans on spitting it out afterwards⁹.

MINCHA

There is Krias Hatorah and Haftara as usual during Mincha¹⁰. Additionally, “Aneinu” is still inserted into the silent Shemoneh Esrei and Chazaras Hashatz¹¹. However, in honor of Shabbos, “Avinu Malkeinu”, Tachanun and Vidui are omitted¹².

One should be careful to daven Mincha early enough that he does not risk having to daven after *shkiyah*. If one ran late and it's already after *shkiyah*, “Aneinu” may still be said¹³.

MAARIV

Shuls may daven Maariv earlier than usual to enable their congregants to arrive home before *tzeis hakochavim* and be able to end their fast without delay¹⁴. Those who will be *davening* Maariv soon after *shkiyah*, should remember to repeat Krias Shema after *tzeis hakochavim*.

STARTING SEUDAH

One should be mindful to only start eating after *tzeis hakochavim*. However, once one arrives home, the family may gather around the table and start singing “Shalom Aleichem” and “Eishes Chayil” and by that time it is usually past *tzeis*.

If one is very hungry when he gets home from shul and it is already past *tzeis hakochavim*, singing “Shalom Aleichem” and “Eishes Chayil” may be pushed off until after eating a bit¹⁵.

Regardless, once *tzeis hakochavim* does arrive, one should make Kiddush without any unnecessary delay. This is a sensitivity to those that are fasting and it is a greater *kavod* of Shabbos to not extend the fast into Shabbos¹⁶.

⁹ שיטת הגר"ח קנייבסקי שליט"א בספר אשיחה עמי שמ"ט אבל ע"י שמירת שבת כהלכתה פרק מ"ב סעי' ס"א שהתיר לטעום ולפלוט

¹⁰ רמ"א או"ח סי' תק"נ סעי' ג' ותקס"ו סעי' א'

¹¹ ערוך השלחן סי' תק"נ סעי' ב' ומשנה ברורה תק"נ ס"ק י"א

¹² ערוך השלחן שם ומשנה ברורה שם

¹³ שו"ת דברי יהושע חלק ג' יו"ד ס"י ס"ג

¹⁴ מטה אפרים סי' תר"ב סעי' כ"ט, שלחן הטהור סי' רמ"ט סעי' י"ג בזר זהב ס"ק ד', וארחות רבינו חלק א' עמי ק"ו אות כ"ו

¹⁵ חוט שני (חלק העניינים בסוף הספר על הלכות מזוזה) עמי ת"ד

¹⁶ תהלה לדוד או"ח סי' רמ"ט