

הַלְכָה of the Week**ברכוֹת** ~ Recited for Thunder, Lightning and a Rainbow ~

One recites the בָּרָכָה **עוֹשֶׂה מְعִשָּׂה בִּרְאָשִׁית** (“Who does the act of Creation”) immediately after seeing a flash of lightning.

One recites the בָּרָכָה **שֶׁבֶחָזׁ וְגָבוֹרָתוֹ מְלָא עַזְלָם** (“Whose strength and might fill the world”) immediately after hearing a clap of thunder.

After seeing lightning or hearing thunder one must say the בָּרָכוֹת quickly (“תָּזַק כִּדְיַי דִּיבָּר” - within the time it takes to say three words).

If one saw saw lightning and heard thunder at exactly the same time he should only recite “**עוֹשֶׂה מְعִשָּׂה בִּרְאָשִׁית**”.

These בָּרָכוֹת may only be recited once a day. However, if the storm clouds dispersed (separated and moved away) and the sky cleared and then a new storm arose, one could then recite the בָּרָכוֹת for thunder and lightning twice in one day.

When one sees a rainbow he recites the בָּרָכָה,

“זָכֵר הַבְּרִית, וְנָאֹמֵן בְּבְרִיתוּ, וְקִים בְּמַאֲמָרוֹ”

“Who remembers the covenant, and is faithful to His covenant and keeps His word.”

The Rabbis tell us we should not look at the rainbow for a long time.

פרק א' בְּרָכִי אֲבוֹת

בְּדַד שְׁמוּאֵל הַקּוֹטֵן אָמֵר, (משלי כד) **בָּנְפֵל אֹיְבֶךָ אֲלֹת תְּשִׁמָּה וּבְכַשְׁלֹן אֲלֹת גִּיל לְבָה,** פָּנֵן יְרָאָה ה' וְרָע בְּעִינֵינוּ וְהַשִּׁיב מַעַלְיוֹ אַפּוֹ:

Shmuel HaKotton taught: Always remember Shlomo HaMelech's lesson (Mishlei 24: 17-18),

“You should not be happy when your enemy falls, and when he trips you should not let your heart fill with joy. Perhaps, when Hashem sees you acting this way He will consider you wicked and He may turn his anger from your enemy to you.”
