

הַלָּכָה of the Week

~ בְּרָכוֹת Recited for Thunder, Lightning and a Rainbow ~

One recites the בְּרָכָה, “עוֹשֶׂה מַעֲשֵׂה בְּרָאשִׁית” (“Who does the act of Creation”) immediately after seeing a flash of lightning.

One recites the בְּרָכָה, “שִׁכְחוֹ וּגְבוּרָתוֹ מְלֵא עוֹלָם” (“Whose strength and might fill the world”) immediately after hearing a clap of thunder.

After seeing lightning or hearing thunder one must say the בְּרָכוֹת quickly (“תּוֹךְ פְּדֵי דִבּוּר” - within the time it takes to say three words).

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

These בְּרָכוֹת 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 בְּרָכוֹת for thunder and lightning twice in one day.

When one sees a rainbow he recites the בְּרָכָה,

“זוֹכֵר הַבְּרִית, וְנֹאמֵן בְּבְרִיתוֹ, וְקִים בְּמֵאמְרוֹ”

“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.

פְּרָקִי אֲבוֹת of the Week

פְּרָק ד'

כ"ד שְׁמוּאֵל הַקָּטָן אוֹמֵר, (משלי כד) בְּנִפְל אוֹיְבֶיךָ אַל תִּשְׂמַח וּבְכַשְׁלוֹ אַל יִגַּל לִבְךָ, פֶּן יֵרָאֶה ה' וְרַע בְּעֵינָיו וְהֵשִׁיב מֵעָלָיו אָפוֹ:

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.”
