



הלכה of the Week

~ ברכות Recited for Thunder, Lightning and a Rainbow ~

One recites the ברכה, “עושה מעשה בראשית” (“Who does the act of Creation”) immediately after seeing a flash of lightning.

One recites the ברכה, “שכחו וגבורתו מלא עולם” (“Whose strength and might fill the world”) immediately after hearing a clap of thunder.

After seeing lightning or hearing thunder one must say the ברכות quickly (“תוך כדי דיבור” - 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 “עושה מעשה בראשית”.

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

When one sees a rainbow he recites the ברכה,

“זוכר הברית, ונאמן בבריתו, וקים במאמרו”

“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.

פירקי אבות of the Week

פרק ד

כ"ד שמואל הקטן אומר, (משלי כד) בנפל אויביך אל תשמח ובכשלו אל יגל לבך, פן יראה ה' ורע בעיניו והשיב מעליו אפו:

Shmuel HaKatan 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.”
