

הָלָכָה of the Week

ברכוֹת ~ Recited for Thunder, Lightning and a Rainbow ~

One recites the בָּרָכָה “עֹשֶׂה מַעֲשָׂה בְּרָאָשִׁית”, (“Who does the act of Creation”) immediately after seeing a flash of lightning.

One recites the בָּרָכָה “שֶׁבֶחּוּ וְגִבְרָתוֹ 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 כַּדִּי דִּיבּוֹר”) - 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 the בָּרָכָה “עֹשֶׂה מַעֲשָׂה בְּרָאָשִׁית”.

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 בְּבְרִיתוֹ, וְקִים בְּמִאמְרוֹ”

“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.

פָּרָקִי אֲבוֹת of the Week

פרק ד
בַּד שְׁמוּאֵל הַקָּטָן אָמֵר, (משלי כד) בָּנְפֵל אֹיְבֵךְ אֲלֹת תְּשַׁמְּחָה וּבְכַשְׁלָוּ אֲלֹת גִּיל לְבָה, פָּנֵן יְרָאָה ה' וְרָע בְּעִינֵינוּ וְהַשִּׁיב מַעַלְיוֹ אָפֹה:

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.”
