

# Shoel U'Mashiv

## Better Late Than Never?

(Saying *Birchos Krias Shema* After the *Zman*)

Rabbi Noah Whittenburg

**Q** - “Today was kind of a crazy morning—my wife is in Israel, and I woke up late and missed *Minyan* and there was a lot going on with my kids. If I am going to say *Krias Shema* now (after the *Zman*), should I say the *Brachos*?”

**A** - When is the proper time to recite *Krias Shema*?

The *Shulchan Aruch O.C.* 58:1 says the most ideal time to recite *Krias Shema* is just before *Neitz HaChama* (sunrise), so that one can recite *Shemonah Esrei* exactly at the time of *Neitz HaChama*. This is the practice of davening *Vasikin*. The *Shulchan Aruch* says the earliest time for the *Brachos* of *Krias Shema* is when one can recognize an acquaintance from 4 *Amos* (6 feet) away. This is about an hour before *Neitz HaChama*. The *Shulchan Aruch* goes on to say that the *Mitzvah* of reciting *Krias Shema* is until the end of the third *Halachic* hour, which is a quarter of the day.

What if someone missed the proper time?

The *Shulchan Aruch O.C.* 58:6 says that even though the latest time to say *Birchos Krias Shema* is the end of the third *Halachic* hour, one can still say *Krias Shema* with the *Brachos* until the end of the fourth *Halachic* hour, which is a third of the day. The simple understanding of the *Shulchan Aruch* leads us to believe that after the fourth *Halachic* hour of the day, one is not able to say *Birchos Krias Shema* under any circumstance. However, the *Biur Halacha* “*Korah*” (at the end of 58:6) says that *Bedieved* one can rely on the ruling of the *Mishkanos Yaakov* who says that *Birchos Krias Shema* can be recited until *Chatzos* (midday), just like *Shemonah Esrei*.

What should our friend do?

In a case where a person simply felt like sleeping in and therefore missed the proper time to say *Krias Shema*, there would be nothing for them to do. But in this situation where he tried to wake up at the proper time, but inadvertently overslept and subsequently was not able to say *Krias Shema* in time, he can still say it with the *Brachos* until *Chatzos*. However, as the *Shulchan Aruch O.C.* 58:6 points out, after the third *Halachic* hour passes, one does not get the reward for saying *Krias Shema* at the proper time.