

THE HALACHAH SHEET

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Coming Late to Davening

Introduction

- *Tefillah* — from start to finish — is considered one entity, which climaxes with Shemoneh Esrei. There is great significance to the way our davening is structured, and therefore the *tefillos* should be said in the correct order.¹ A *malach* who learned with the Beis Yosef told him that skipping around in *tefillah* can mess around with the spiritual pipelines ("מהפך צינורות") that bring down blessing from *Shamayim*.² Nevertheless, saying Shemoneh Esrei with a *tzibbur* is such an important priority that it sometimes warrants skipping certain parts of davening in order not to miss out on it.
- Coming to davening on time, in addition to enabling you to say everything, also has a major effect on your ability to have *kavanah*. Starting at your own pace, as opposed to starting in the mode of catching up, is extremely conducive to davening with focus and concentration.

Tefillah b'Tzibbur

Levels

- Chazal teach us that *tefillos* are more readily accepted when said with a minyan of men. At times, it may be necessary to skip parts of *pesukei d'zimra* in order to achieve this (as will be explained further). There are three levels of *tefillah b'tzibbur*, each one attaining this advantage to a differing degree.
 - **Level 1:** Beginning Shemoneh Esrei with the *tzibbur* (or at least when ten men are within the first three berachos of their silent Shemoneh Esrei).³
 - **Level 2:** Beginning Shemoneh Esrei while ten men are still davening Shemoneh Esrei (yet are past the first three berachos).⁴
 - **Level 3:** Beginning Shemoneh Esrei with the *shaliach tzibbur* (at *chazaras hashatz*) and davening along with him word by word.⁵

Rules

- The general guidelines for davening *b'tzibbur* are as follows:
 - You must skip certain parts of davening that lead up to Shemoneh Esrei in order to achieve **levels 1 or 2**,⁶ but not in order to attain **level 3**.⁷
 - You must skip to achieve **level 1** even if you're able to reach **level 2** without skipping.

Shacharis

Prioritizing

- **Two options.** If you have the choice between a minyan that has already begun and a later one, you should daven at the later one to avoid having to skip parts of davening. A few exceptions that would make it acceptable to join the minyan that has already begun (which would necessitate skipping) are:
 - If this will make you late to an obligation (e.g., morning *seider* or a job).⁸ The *poskim* emphasize that this shouldn't be done consistently.
 - If the earlier one is your "set" minyan, where you daven every morning.⁹
 - If you are a part of a *yeshiva* and therefore obligated to attend their *minyanim*.¹⁰

Tefillin

- Immediately upon arriving at Shacharis late, put on your tefillin and say the berachos over them. Saying Krias Shema and Shemoneh Esrei while wearing tefillin is very important.¹¹

Birchos Hashachar

- *Birchos hashachar* should not be skipped even at the expense of *pesukei d'zimra*.¹²
 - If you didn't say them before davening, they can be said afterward except for:¹³ 1) **Al netilas yadayim**, 2) **Elokai neshamah** and 3) **Birchas haTorah** (ask a *sheilah*).

Korbanos

- The most important *korbanos* to say are *Korban Tamid*¹⁴, and *Pitum Haketores*. Both of these can be said after davening if you missed reciting them beforehand.¹⁵ HaRav Nebenzhal, *shlita*, holds that saying Rabbi Yishmael is also a top priority.

Pesukei D'zimra

- **Minimum.** The bare minimum of what you need to say in *pesukei d'zimra* is a) **Baruch She'amar**, b) **Ashrei**, and c) **Yishtabach**.¹⁶ This is even at the expense of missing *tefillah b'tzibbur*. The only exception is if it's nearly *sof zeman krias Shema* or *sof zeman tefillah*, in which case these should be skipped.

1. עיין ארחות יושר עמ' צה 2. מ"ב (נב:סק"א) 3. בשם רי"י נויברט, בצל החכמה ח"ד סי' ג אות ח 4. הליכות שלמה פ"ח הע' ח 5. שם אות מא 6. ש.ה. הע' ח 7. עיין שם אות מא 8. הליכות שלמה פ"ה הע' ד, אות טז 9. הליכות שלמה פ"ה אות ב 10. ביצחק יקרא ח"א עמ' קנג 11. מ"ב (נח:סק"ד) 12. הליכות שלמה פ' ו: 13. מ"ב (נב:סק"ב) 14. שו"ע (מח:א) 15. ארוממך אלוקי המלך עמ' 24 16. רמ"א (נב:א)

- **Priorities.** Depending on how much time you have, aside from the minimum (mentioned above), the order of priorities is as follows:¹⁷
 1. The **Halellukahs**. Among them, the order of importance is the fifth, the third, and then the rest.
 2. **Vayevarech David** until the words "*l'shem tefartecha*"
 3. **Hodu** until the words "*v'hu rachum*"
 4. **Az Yashir**¹⁸ or **Mizmor L'Sodah**¹⁹
- Estimate how much of *pesukei d'zimra* you have enough time to say, and whatever you decide should be said in its regular order.²⁰
- **Shabbos.** All of the *mizmorim* that we also say on a weekday take precedence over the additional ones that we say on Shabbos.²¹ An exception to this is Nishmas, which is included in the minimum of what must be said and not skipped. If you have time to say only some of the Shabbos additions, you should choose:
 1. The first three *mizmorim* following Hodu (**Lamenatzei'ach, Mizmor L'David, L'David B'Shanaso, Tefillah L'Moshe**)
 2. **Hodu La'Hashem Ki Tov** or **Mizmor Shir L'Yom Ha'Shabbos**

Birchos Krias Shema

- You can never skip any part of *birchos krias Shema* or *krias Shema* for the sake of *tefillah b'tzibbur*. This also applies during Shacharis on Shabbos.

Making up what you Skipped

- You should make up any *tefillas* that you skipped.²² The only exceptions are 1) Baruch She'amar and 2) Yishtabach, neither of which cannot be made up after davening.²³ When doing so, you should stand for any *tefillah* that we stand for while davening.
- **Shabbos.** If you skipped the extra *mizmorim* that are added on Shabbos, you do **not** need to make them up afterward.²⁴
- **Before Yishtabach.** If you assessed that you only had time to say certain parts of *pesukei d'zimra*, but ultimately you had time to say more, if you haven't yet said Yishtabach you can go back and fill in what you skipped.²⁵
- **Before chazaras hashatz.** It is forbidden to be *mafsik* between concluding Shemoneh Esrei and reciting Tachanun. However, on days that Tachanun is omitted, catching up on *mizmorim* that you skipped can be done after you've concluded Shemoneh Esrei until the chazan begins *chazaras hashatz*.²⁶
- **Krias haTorah.** You should **not** catch up during *krias haTorah*, but you **can** do so between *aliyos*.²⁷
- **Deadline.** Ideally, you should make up what you skipped immediately after davening.²⁸ Korbanos and

birchas hashachar should be said before *sof zman tefillah*. *B'dieved*, *birchos hashachar* can be recited all day, preferably before chatzos.²⁹ Anything you skipped in *pesukei d'zimra* can be made up all day.

Sof Zeman Tefillah

- You must be finished with Shemoneh Esrei before *sof zeman tefillah*.³⁰ This takes precedence over davening with a minyan after that time. If you missed it, *b'dieved* you can still daven Shemoneh Esrei until chatzos.³¹ However, its questionable whether you can say *birchos krias shema* after *sof zeman tefillah*.³²

Minchah

- **Ashrei.** Ashrei should be skipped if it will cause you to miss any level of *tefillah b'tzibbur*. You should make it up after davening.³³ If time allows, say a few *pesukim* of Ashrei before beginning Shemoneh Esrei.

Maariv

- **Walked in at the beginning of birchos krias Shema.** Skip *v'hu Rachum* and *Barechu* (these are only said *b'tzibbur*), and begin *birchos krias Shema* and catch up to the *tzibbur*.
- **Walked in at the end of birchos krias Shema.** If you assess that saying *krias Shema* and its berachos will make you miss *tefillah b'tzibbur*, begin Shemoneh Esrei with the *tzibbur* and say *Shema* and its berachos afterward.³⁴ If possible, you should go to a different minyan to avoid doing this.³⁵ Breaking up *birchos krias Shema* in order to recite part of it before Shemoneh Esrei and the rest after is not permitted.

17. שו"ע, רמ"א (נב:א) 18. ח"י אדם 19. ערוך השלחן (נב:ו) 20. שו"ת אג"מ או"ח ח"ב ס' טז 21. מ"ב (נב:סק"ה) 22. מחנה ישראל א:ח, אשי ישראל פט"ז הע' נו 23. מ"ב (נב:סק"ח) 24. מ"ב (רפא:סק"ג) 25. הגר"ח קנייבסקי, אשי ישראל פ"טז הע' כב 26. הרב נבנצל 27. הרב נבנצל 28. הגר"ח קנייבסקי ארחות יושר עמ' צה 29. מ"ב (נב:סק"י) 30. מ"ב (פט:סק"ה) 31. שו"ע (פט:א) 32. ביה"ל (נח: ד"ה קוראה) 33. מ"ב (קח:סק"ד) 34. שו"ע (רלו:ג) 35. מ"ב (רלו:סק"ב)