



## Adar Rishon, Adar Sheni

*Purim* is celebrated in the month of *Adar*. We have learnt previously that in the Jewish calendar, some years include an additional month – *Adar Sheni*. In such years *Purim* is celebrated in the second *Adar*. The *Gemara* explains that it is celebrated in this manner so that the month in which we celebrate the redemption of *Purim* is next to the month that we celebrate the redemption from Egypt. The *Mishnah* teaches that if one celebrated *Purim* in *Adar Rishon*, and it was decided after that, that in that year there would be *Adar Sheni* as well, they would not have fulfilled their obligation, and be required to read the *megillah* again in the next month. The *Mishnah* continues that the difference between the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> of *Adar Rishon* and *Adar Sheni* is the reading *megillah* and *matanot la'evyonim* (gifts to the poor). The *Bartenura* explains that *Mishnah* is teaching that on these days during both months, one is prohibited from fasting or reciting eulogies.

The *Chatam Sofer* (O.C. 208) poses a few difficulties on our *Mishnah*. Despite the above reason for celebrating *Purim* in *Adar Sheni*, it nonetheless appears inappropriate to delay thanking *Hashem* for the miracle performed. In general it is encouraged to act eagerly and perform a *mitzvah* as soon as possible (*zerizim makdimin le'mitzvot*), even at the expense of performing it in a more enhance manner<sup>1</sup>. Furthermore, if *Purim* is being delayed to the second *Adar*, why are fasts and eulogies prohibited on the fourteenth and fifteenth of *Adar Rishon*. If *Purim* is not being observed, it should be considered a regular day!

The *Chatam Sofer* answers by citing the *Gemara* (14a) that questions the basis for the *mitzvah* of *megillah*. *Rabbi*

*Chiya bar Avin* explains in the name of *R' Yehoshua ben Korcha* that it is based on the following *kal va'chomar*. If when we were freed from slavery (from Egypt), we sang *shira* by the reed sea, then certainly, after our lives were saved when should sing *shira*. The *Chatam Sofer* understands that this *kal vachomer* is biblical in nature and obligates us to do something in memory of the miracle. Exactly what form it takes, is determined by the *Rabbanan*.

The next principle the *Chatam Sofer* presents is that *zerizim makdimin le'mitzvot* only applies from the time that one is obligated to perform that *mitzvah*. This is not the case regarding a *mitzvah* that one is not yet obligated in performing. Consequently, regarding a rabbinically implemented *mitzvah*, they *Chachamim* can select the optimal time based on other considerations. For example, in our case celebrating *Purim* in the *Adar* that is closer to *Pesach*.

Combining the two concepts, since the obligation of *Purim* is biblical and its expression rabbinic, this explains why there are traces of *Purim* in *Adar Rishon* also. Once the fourteenth of *Adar Rishon* arrives, we are obligated to do something to remember the miracle. This is because the obligation is biblical, and we are compelled to act based on *zerizim makdimin le'mitvot*. This however is satisfied with prohibition against fasting and giving eulogies during the fourteenth and fifteenth. The rabbinic side however finds its best expression when *Purim* is celebrated in *Adar Sheni* explaining why it is celebrated in its fullest during that month.

*Yisrael Bankier*

<sup>1</sup> The *Chatam Sofer* cites the *Radbaz* and *Mishnah Le'Melech* in support of this assertion.

## Revision Questions

תענית ד' ז' – ח'

- What two things are prohibited the week of *Tisha B'Av*? (ד': א')
- What is one prohibited from eating on the day before *Tisha B'Av*? (ד': א')
- On which two dates had events occurred that were the greatest for *Am Yisrael*? (What occurred on these dates?) (ד': ח')
- Explain what occurred on *Tu B'Av*? (ד': א')

מגילה א' – ב' א'

- On which dates during *Adar* is it possible for the *megillah* to be read? (א': א')
- Explain how it is possible for the *megillah* to be read on different days? (ב': א')
- What is the definition of a “big city” and why is this important? (ג': א')
- Which four events are delayed if they coincide with *Shabbat*? (ג': א')
- What is different about a day on which the *megillah* is read early and *Purim*? (ג': א')
- What is the law if they read the *megillah* during *Adar* and then the year was turned into a leap year – do they read the *megillah* again in *Adar Sheni*? (ד': א')
- What is the difference between:
  - *Adar Rishon* and *Adar Sheni*? (ד': א')
  - *Shabbat* and *Yom Tov* with respect to the prohibition of performing *melacha*? (ה': א')
  - *Shabbat* and *Yom Kippur* with respect to the prohibition of performing *melacha*? (ה': א')
  - A person that vows against gaining any benefit from his friend and a person that vows against gaining any food-related benefit from his friend? (ו': א')
  - A *neder* and *nedava*? (ו': א')
  - A *zav* of two and three sightings? (ז': א')
  - A *metzora musgar* and a *metzora muchlat*? (ז': א')
  - A *metzora* that becomes *tahor* from being a *musgar* and *muchlat*? (ז': א')
  - *Sefarim (Tanach)* and *tefillin* and *mezuzot*? (ח': א')
  - A *kohen gadol* anointed with the anointing oil and a *kohen gadol* inaugurated by wearing the required clothing? (ט': א')
  - A *kohen gadol* and a ‘past’ *kohen gadol* that served having been a deputy? (ט': א')
  - *Bamah gedolah* and a *bamah ketanah*? (י': א')
- What is the difference between *Shilo* (when the *Mishkan* was there) and *Yerushalaim* (at the time of the *Beit Ha'Mikdash*)? (א': י"א)
- Has one fulfilled their obligation of reading *Megillah* if: (ב': א')
  - It was read out of order?
  - They recited it by-heart?
  - They read it in a foreign language? (Be specific)
  - It was read in Hebrew and one does not understand Hebrew? (ב': א')

## Melbourne, Australia

### Sunday -Thursday

10 minutes before *Mincha Mizrachi Shul*  
Melbourne, Australia

### Friday & Shabbat

10 minutes before *Mincha Mizrachi Shul*  
Melbourne, Australia

## Efrat, Israel

*Shiur in English*

### Sunday -Thursday

Rabbi Mordechai Scharf  
9:00am  
Kollel Magen Avraham  
Reemon Neighbourhood

## ONLINE SHIURIM

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*Rabbi Chaim Brown*  
[www.shemayisrael.com/mishna/](http://www.shemayisrael.com/mishna/)

*Rabbi E. Kornfeld*  
*Rabbi C. Brown*  
<http://www.dafyomi.co.il/calendars/myomi/myomi-thisweek.htm>

## SHIUR ON KOL HALOSHON

*Rabbi Moshe Meir Weiss*  
In US dial: 718 906 6400  
Then select: 1 – 2 – 4

## Next Week's Mishnayot...

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	שבת קודש
24 December ו' טבת	25 December ז' טבת	26 December ח' טבת	27 December ט' טבת	28 December י' טבת	29 December י"א טבת	30 December י"ב טבת
Megilah 2:2-3	Megilah 2:4-5	Megilah 2:6-3:1	Megilah 3:2-3	Megilah 3:4-5	Megilah 3:6-4:1	Megilah 4:2-3

