

JEWISH FESTIVALS: ENDING

JEWISH FESTIVALS: ENDING: WHEN THEY END

Jewish Festivals: When Is

Jewish festivals (and Shabbat) end at “dark”: when three medium-sized stars are visible overhead.

NOTE When stars appear in the west (these are “large stars”), medium-sized stars should be visible overhead and the Jewish festival (or Shabbat) will be over.

JEWISH FESTIVALS: ENDING: BEFORE HAVDALA

Jewish Festivals: Ending: Before Havdala: Baruch HaMavdil

Say baruch ha'mavdil bein kodesh l'chol (without saying God's name!) if:

- It is already “dark” (you can see three medium-size stars--tzeit ha'kochavim), and
- You want to end the Jewish festival (and Shabbat) before saying ma'ariv's amida or havdala.

NOTE Saying this formula allows you to do melacha, but you may not eat or drink until you have said or heard havdala.

NOTE Men must still say the amida and men and women must say or hear havdala later even if they said baruch ha'mavdil bein kodesh l'chol. For how late you may say havdala after a Jewish festival, see Jewish Festival Havdala at Night or Next Day.

Jewish Festivals: Ending: Before Havdala: Baruch HaMavdil and Birkat HaMazon

Saying Baruch ha'mavdil bein kodesh l'chol after dark at the end of a Jewish festival or of Rosh Hashana does not affect the additions you will then say in birkat ha'mazon.

SITUATION On a Jewish festival afternoon, you washed your hands, said ha'motzi, and started eating. It is now dark and the end of the Jewish festival.

WHAT TO DO You may say Baruch ha'mavdil bein kodesh l'chol and do melacha, and then

- Continue to eat your meal, or
- Say birkat ha'mazon INCLUDING ya'aleh v'yavo and ha'rachaman hu yanchileinu yom she'kulo tov.

Jewish Festivals: Ending: Before Havdala: Ata Chonantanu

As on Shabbat, if you forgot to say ata chonantanu after Jewish festivals, you do not need to repeat the amida. But, if you then ate food before saying havdala, you must repeat the amida including ata chonantanu.

JEWISH FESTIVALS: ENDING: HAVDALA

JEWISH FESTIVALS: ENDING: HAVDALA: WHEN TO SAY

Jewish Festival Havdala at Night or Next Day

Say Jewish festival havdala at night. If this is impossible, say it the next day but only until sunset on the day after the Jewish festival.

NOTE This is different from havdala after Shabbat!

JEWISH FESTIVALS: ENDING: HAVDALA: WHO MUST SAY/HEAR

Men and Women Must Say/Hear Havdala

The following must each hear or say havdala for themselves:

- Men and boys 13 years old and up, and
- Women and girls 12 years old and up.

NOTE As on Shabbat, any male Jew above 13 years old and any female Jew above 12 years old may say Jewish festival havdala for himself/herself and for anyone else.

NOTE A husband's or father's hearing havdala at synagogue does not cover his family's obligation to hear havdala. He may say havdala for his wife and children even if he fulfilled his personal havdala requirement at the synagogue. (Men who say havdala for their families normally intend not to be covered by the synagogue's havdala).

JEWISH FESTIVALS: ENDING: HAVDALA: WHAT TO USE

Jewish Festivals: Ending: Havdala: No Candle or Spices

For Jewish festival havdala, use only wine (or a substitute, chamar medina, beverage); NO candle or spices (unless the Jewish festival also coincided with Shabbat).

Jewish Festivals: Ending: Havdala: Beverage

Wine or grape juice is the preferred beverage for havdala, but you may use any common beverage (chamar medina) that is drunk for social reasons.

Jewish Festivals: Ending: Havdala: Filling the Cup

You must pour at least 4 fl. oz. (119 ml--a revi'it) of wine or other beverage into the havdala cup--this is halacha. However, to symbolize that we are blessed (siman bracha) with wealth, overfill the cup (non-binding custom).

NOTE Do not drink the overflow, to show that we are so rich that we do not need the spilled beverage.

NOTE Do not overfill a cup containing shmita wine!

Jewish Festivals: Ending: Havdala: How Much To Drink

To fulfill the commandment of havdala (or kiddush), the person making kiddush must drink at least 2 fl. oz. (59 ml) within 30 seconds from the kiddush cup. However, drinking at least 4 fl. oz. (119 ml--a revi'it) from the havdala cup within 30 seconds allows you to say bracha achrona.

Jewish Festivals: Ending: Havdala: Who Drinks the Beverage

For men: No one should drink the havdala beverage except the person saying havdala. This is a non-binding custom, not a halacha.

For women: This custom does NOT apply to women. Women who say havdala for themselves may give their havdala beverage to someone else to drink.

JEWISH FESTIVALS: ENDING: HAVDALA: STANDING OR SITTING

Havdala Standing or Sitting

Sitting or standing while drinking havdala (or kiddush) beverage is a non-binding custom, not a halacha.