

Kaarah – Volume two.

Kitzur Hilchos Yerushalmi – Halacha derived from Gemara Yerushalmi

– Maamarei Mordechai

Teffilah

One must recite Shema (twice daily) in its proper time, otherwise he has not fulfilled his obligation. When said in shul earlier it is merely tefillah or like learning.

Maariv can be recited while the sun is still shining (after plag).

Doubtful recitation: Benching and shema are repeated if one is doubtful if he said them (when applicable). Tefillah is not repeated.

There is no proof of night in the Torah, it is only hinted at. Exact transition to nightfall is calculated by Chazal. Nightfall is three stars that are not seen during the day. Planets are not inclusive in “stars” for this count. When cloudy, look toward the eastern sky. Night is when it is black (deep purple).

Editor note: The moon and some stars are seen during the daytime. In our cities it is hard to judge the “three stars” standard because of light pollution. Nightfall, then, is actually much earlier than the appearance of three stars in the night sky. It takes longer for three stars to appear in the city. One would have to judge when in a field with no lights around, and also, when the sky itself was less polluted by smog, which also distorts the view of stars. Additionally, nightfall is not a standard time after sunset. Depending on elevation from sea level and also distances from the equator, the time differs. Close to the equator it is shorter than further away. Distance from sea level also increases time because elevation increases daytime hours.