



Dear Members

A common question that arises on Pesach is whether one can start their seder early so that the kids will stay awake and participate more fully in the seder. This year in particular is a problem because we've moved the clocks back and therefore the seder will be starting even later this year.

I want to provide a quick summary of why starting the seder "early" is a problem. The mitzvot that we perform at the seder such as eating Matzah, Marror, and drinking four cups of wine, need to be performed during the night which begins at **צאת הכוכבים** which this year falls out at **7:34 PM**. **Therefore one cannot make Kiddush and effectively start their seder before this time.**

Aside from this Halakhic limitation of starting the seder at **צאת הכוכבים**, there is another practical problem. Namely, if we start Mincha and Arvit based on our usual tefillah times, one will only arrive home at 8ish PM earliest and it often takes a few minutes to get the seder prepared. Simply moving up Mincha and Arvit is a problem because of certain halakhic limitations of when one is allowed to daven each tefillah.<sup>1</sup>

In order to provide an option for those who want to start their Seder at **exactly 7:34 PM**, we will have two minyan options at Shivtei on Erev Pesach:

1. **Mincha Gedolah at 1:30 PM** with **Arvit** starting at **6:30 PM** followed by Hallel (with no derasha). This minyan will take place in the Library and should finish by 7:00 PM.
2. The regular minyan upstairs with **Mincha** starting at **7:00 PM (6:57 candle lighting)** followed by a derasha, Arvit, and full Hallel.

**Here is the catch - If you would like to attend the early Arvit minyan, you have to do three things:**

**#1 - Attend the early Mincha (1:30 PM)**

**#2 - Wait to start your seder until 7:34 PM (i.e. Kiddush itself)**

**#3 - Remember to recite all three paragraphs of Shema immediately after Kiddush at the seder**

שנזכה לראות גאולה שלימה בימינו

May we merit the coming redemption

Rabbi Bendavid

<sup>1</sup> Our custom at Shivtei is to daven Mincha before שקיעה (sundown) and to wait to daven Arvit after צאת הכוכבים (nightfall). Additionally, we fulfill the mitzvah of reciting Shema after nightfall as well (if you recite it earlier, you need to recite it again after nightfall, which is what I am recommending for those who daven at the early minyan). Usually there is a break of about twenty minutes between sundown to nightfall. שקיעה this year on Erev Pesach is 7:15 PM, which means we will daven Mincha around 7:00 PM. Then we will have a derasha to span the time in order to start Arvit after 7:34 PM (צאת הכוכבים). Some are also stringent to daven Hallel itself on Pesach night because it is considered one of the mitzvot of the night of Pesach (רמב"ם שטרנבוך), however, others, including Rav Ovadia Yosef argue this is not necessary (יחווה דעת). (ה"ל"ד).