The Chicago Center
Digest
Mishna Berura
THE DAILY RESOURCE FOR MISHNA BERURA YOMI
Shabbos, Nov 5 2022 ■ י"א חשון, תשפ"ג
סימן רי"א סעיף ד'

Halacha Highlight

Prioritizing the seven species

Shulchan Aruch Siman 201 Seif 4

כל הקודם בפסוק ארץ חטה ושערה קודם לברכה

Anything that appears earlier in the pasuk: ארץ חטה ושערה takes precedence for the beracha

Shulchan Aruch teaches that when one is served different foods from the seven species, the food that appears closer in proximity to one of the appearances of the word ארץ takes precedence. Thus, for example, if one is served dates and grapes, one should recite the beracha on the dates since dates appear second from the word ארץ (the second appearance) whereas grapes appear third from the word ארץ (the first appearance). Rema then adds that this is true only when one is eating grapes but if one is drinking wine and eating, dates he should first make the beracha on wine since it is a more important beracha. Rema then notes that although wine is important and takes precedence over dates, it does not take precedence over cooked grains. Therefore, if one will drink wine and eat cooked grains he should first recite מזונות on the cooked grains and then recite בורא פרי הגפן on the wine.

Poskim stress that it is obvious that foods made from baked grains will certainly take precedence over wine. Moreover, even if one has food, whether cooked or baked, from the other grains that are not mentioned in the pasuk, i.e. rye, spelt and oats, Rema teaches that they also take precedence over wine. His reasoning is that since they are in the wheat and barley families they also carry the same importance. Mishnah Berurah notes that there is a disagreement whether foods made from barley that is second from the word ארץ takes precedence ahead of olives that appear first after the word ארץ. Mishnah Berurah in the name of later authorities rules in accordance with the opinion that maintains that מזונות foods always take precedence. It is important to note that although it is common custom to recite מזונות on rice, when served rice and wine one should first recite the beracha on wine (פסקי תשובות).

Overview

Siman 211 Seif 4:

Whatever appears earlier in the pasuk: ארץ חטה ושערה וגו' takes precedence. The second word ארץ restarts the list and whatever is closest to it is more important than a food that is in a later position in reference to the first ארץ. Consequently, dates take precedence over grapes since they are second from the second ארץ and grapes are third from the first ארץ. This is true if one is eating grapes but if one made wine out of the grapes which requires a unique beracha בורא פרי הגפן takes precedence and should be recited first. However, cooked grains are more important than wine. What is near the first word ארץ takes precedence over what appears in the same position in relation to the second appearance of the word ארץ.

- This rule applies even if the other food is more preferred. (M.B. 20)
- Wine comes before olives even though olives are closer to the word ארץ. (M.B. 23)
- מזונות is also specific and appears earlier in the pasuk. (M.B. 24)
- There is a disagreement whether food made from barley (second from ארץ) comes before olives (first from ארץ). (M.B. 25)