The Chicago Center
Digest
Mishna Berura
THE DAILY RESOURCE FOR MISHNA BERURA YOMI
Tues, Nov 22 2022 ■ כ"ח חשון, תשפ"ג
סימן רי"ח סעיף א'-ג'

Overview

Siman 218 Seif 1:

When one sees a place where a miracle occurred for the Jewish People, for example, the crossing at the sea, the crossing at the Jordan River, the crossing at Nachalei Arnon, the stones of Elgabish of Bais Choron, the stone that Og wanted to throw on the Jewish People, the stone that Moshe sat upon during the war with Amalek, the walls of Yericho, one recites: שעשה נסים לאבותינו במקום הזה. Regarding this beracha as well as the other berachos that one recites upon seeing something, one must mention Hashem's Name as well as His Kingdom.

- Magen Avrohom asserts that this applies when the place serves as a reminder of the miracle but if the miracle is not recognizable in the place where it occurred, for example the place where the Angel killed the soldiers of Sancheriv, one does not recite a beracha. For a personal miracle one recites it in the place it occurred even if it is not recognizable from that place. (M.B. 7)
- One must also say אתה and א-לוקינו as is done for other berachos. (M.B. 9)

Siman 218 Seif 2:

If a miracle occurred for a minority of the Jewish People, as long as it did not happen for the entire nation of for at least a majority of them, even if it occurred to some entire tribes, a beracha is not recited.

- Only those who experienced the miracle recite the beracha. (M.B. 10)

Siman 218 Seif 3:

Regarding all the above mentioned places one recites the beracha only once every thirty days and at that point it becomes obligatory like the first time he was there.

- The thirty days is besides the day he was last there and the day he is now there. (M.B. 11)
- Before the thirty days passed it is prohibited to recite the beracha. (M.B. 12)

Halacha Highlight

Reciting a beracha at the place where the Jewish People experienced a miracle

Shulchan Aruch Siman 218 Seif 1

הרואה מקום שנעשו בו נסים לישראל

When one sees the place that miracles occurred for the Jewish People

Shulchan Aruch (סע' א') teaches that when one sees the place that a miracle occurred for the Jewish People one is obligated to recite a beracha expressing thanks to Hashem for that miracle. The wording of the beracha is: שעשה נסים לאבותינו במקום הזה. Shulchan Aruch includes many different places where miracles occurred and included in the list are the places where the Jewish People crossed the sea when they left Mitzrayim and the place where they crossed the Jordan River as they entered Eretz Yisroel. There is a discussion amongst the Poskim whether it is necessary for one to stand specifically in the place where the miracle occurred or whether it is sufficient to see that place even though one is standing far away from that place. Sefer Ketzos HaShulchan infers from the Sefer Kaftor VaFerach (מובא דבריו בביה"ל ד"ה כגון) that it is unnecessary for one to literally be standing on the place where the miracle occurred as long as one could clearly see the place of the miracle. The difficulty Ketzos HaShulchan has with that position is that the wording of the beracha includes the words במקום הזה which clearly indicate that one is standing at the place of the miracle. Chaye Adam (כלל ס"ו סע' ה'), in fact, maintains that one must stand in the place where the miracle occurred to be able to recite the beracha.

Another important point regarding the recitation of this beracha is that according to Sefer Kaftor VaFerach one must know the precise location where the miracle occurred in order to be able to recite the beracha. Therefore, if one sees the Jordan River but does not know if he is looking at the precise location where the Jewish People crossed the river he would not recite the beracha. However, one who sees one of the general locations but does not know the exact location of the miracle should express appreciation to Hashem for the miracle but without including Hashem's Name or reference to His Kingdom (ביה"ל הנ"ל).