

A Practical Guide to Proper Observance of the Wayfarer's Prayer

Rabbi Shalom Zagelbaum

Part One: Where It Is Said

- 1) When leaving a city to set out on a journey one must daven to Hashem to protect him from harm^א. This prayer is known as Tefilas HaDerech (The Wayfarer's Prayer), and can be found on page 222 of the ArtScroll Siddur.
- 2) Tefilas HaDerech concludes with a blessing "Baruch Atah Hashem Shomea Teffilah". This conclusion is only recited when the trip is considered to contain an element of danger^ב. Within a parsah (approximately 3 miles) of a city is a safer area, hence one only recites the concluding blessing if travelling past that point^ג.
- 3) If one happens to be passing through a dangerous area outside of the city, the concluding blessing should be said even if traveling less than a parsah^ד.
- 4) The proper time to recite Tefilas HaDerech is after leaving the city limits^ה and up to a parsah past that point^ו (i.e. before having traveled 3 miles past the city).
- 5) If not said in the first parsah it can still be recited throughout the journey^ז. However once one is within a parsah of a different city, the concluding blessing should be omitted, as that area is not as dangerous^ח (unless it happens to be dangerous, as above).

Note: This column is not comprehensive; please consult your Rav for more details.

^א שו"ע או"ח סימן ק"י ס"ד.

^ב שם ס"ז ומ"ב ס"ק ל'.

^ג שם.

^ד מ"ב שם. ועי"ש שעיבורה של עיר הוי כתוך העיר.

^ה שו"ע שם ומ"ב ס"ק כט'.

^ו רמ"א שם.

^ז שו"ע שם.

^ח שו"ע שם ומ"ב ס"ק לג', וע' ביה"ל שם ד"ה ואין לאמרה.