



# B'NAI DAVID-JUDEA

## *Shabbat Shorts*

When does Shabbat start?

This seems like a simple question, but as it turns out, it really is not.

Here are the two primary answers:

1. **Shabbat begins when we light candles.** The Shulchan Aruch codifies the opinion that when a person lights, he or she takes on Shabbat immediately. This means that Melacha is prohibited and that one can only daven the prayers for Shabbat (Shulchan Aruch 263:10). The understanding is that this Mitzvah applies to each household, to both men and women, so a single man would need to light in his home, whereas most married women light on behalf of their households. Today, for example, we see this position upheld when a person does not blow out the match after lighting but instead sets it somewhere safe to burn out, as he or she is prohibited from the Melacha of extinguishing.
2. **Shabbat begins when we say Barechu or Mizmor Shir LeYom HaShabbat.** According to this position, Shabbat begins with Maariv. The Shulchan Aruch clarifies that back in the day they accepted Shabbat with Barechu, but by the 16th century, we officially accepted Shabbat at Mizmor Shir LeYom HaShabbat. Today, for example, this applies when a person already lit, but while davening the beginning of Kabbalat Shabbat (but before Mizmor Shir LeYom HaShabbat) he remembers to turn on a needed light. According to this opinion, he could still turn on that light.

In these two explanations we see that Shabbat can either begin through physical action (lighting) or through spiritual prayer (Mizmor Shir LeYom HaShabbat). Ask yourself: When do I actually feel like I can relax and feel Shabbat? When I see the flames of my candles or when I sing along in Shul

with our community? Reflecting on our answer may greatly impact our observance or challenge us to enhance what we have been doing for years.

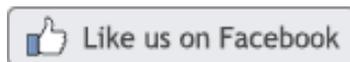
At this point you may still be wondering, 'When does Shabbat start?' Meaning, once I light candles is it forbidden for me to do Melacha? In addition, does the lighting of candles have any implications for whether or not I can still daven Mincha (which is a Friday prayer, not a Shabbat prayer)?

We will explore the thrilling conclusion in our next Shabbat Short...

I love feedback!  
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