



RA'ANANA
COMMUNITY
KOLLEL

İYUN 2 HALACHA

Real Questions Learned Real Well

SUN & WED NIGHTS



8:30 - 9:30pm
Maariv 9:30pm

Safe Travels!

The Laws of Birkas HaGomel

***Should one say Birkas
HaGomel after flying?***

***Must you say it after avoiding
a horrible car crash?***

***What about after
elective surgery?***

... and more!

TABLE OF CONTENTS & QUESTIONS

- Q1:** Should I still say Birkas HaGomel if I had an uneventful (b"H!) flight?
Q2: What if I narrowly missed being in a bad car accident?
Q3: Should women say Birkas HaGomel? What about after giving birth?
Q4: Does it make a difference if I fly over land or water?



NOTE: Sometimes the order of the sources skips to different pages.
 This is in order to make the sugya clearer and more accessible.

Source Page

Q: In what cases should one say the beracha of HaGomel?

Berachos daf 54b 1

Tehillim Chapter 107 2

Q: What's the source for saying such a beracha? Is it D'Oraisa (from the Torah) or D'Rabanan (a rabbinic enactment)? What's it modeled after?

Vayikra 7:12 and Rashi there 3

[Background: The Gemara explains that even if a person ends up with more than one animal that could serve as his korban todah, only the korban that fulfills his obligation is brought with bread. Rashi comes to explain the Gemara is dealing with an obligatory korban todah chova (obligatory one) rather than an optional one.]

Rashi (bottom of page) Menachos 79b 4

The Shita Mikubetzes questions Rashi:

Shita Mikubetzes Menachos 79b 5

Q: Where does the Rosh think the berachos come from? What are they modeled after?

Rosh, Berachos 9:3 6

For a practical difference and bottom line, see the following:

Teshuvos Chasam Sofer O"CH Siman 51 7

Q: How dangerous must travel be in order to say Birkas HaGomel? Does the distance or destination of the journey matter?

Yerushalmi Berachos 4:4 8

Rabeinu Yona Berachos 54b 9

Rambam, Hilchos Berachos 10:8 10-11

Rabeinu Manoach, ibid 10

Shulchan Aruch O"CH 219:7 19

Q: Above, we discussed how dangerous travel must be to require saying the beracha. What about illness - how sick does a person need to be?

Toras HaAdam (Ramban)	12
Rabeinu Manoach (above, but see end the end of the piece)	10
Shulchan Aruch O"CH 219:8	19-20
Mishna Berura, ibid (28)	20

Q: Is the beracha limited to these four cases, or does someone who is saved from another dangerous situation also say Birkas HaGomel? If it is limited to these four, why specifically them? And does it matter if you're Ashkenazi or Sefardi?

Shu"t Rivash Siman 337	13
Ben Ish Chai, Parsha Eikev	14-15
Shulchan Aruch O"CH 219:1-2	16-17
Shulchan Aruch O"CH 219:9	20
Mishna Berura, ibid (31-32)	20
Tzitz Eliezer 11:22 (Rav Eliezer Waldenberg)	30

Q: If travel was completely uneventful, does it still make sense to say Birkas HaGomel?

Biur Halacha, O"CH 219:1	16
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Q: Does it matter if someone is in a minimum-security prison or a regular prison?

Biur Halacha, O"CH 219:1 d'h V'hinei	17
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Regarding being saved from a close call:

Teshuvos V'Hanhagos 2:135 (Rav Moshe Shternbach)	21-22
Halichos Shlomo, Tefillah 1 (Shlomo Zalman Auerbach)	23

Regarding flights and travel:

Halichos Shlomo, Tefillah 5	24-25
Yechave Da'at 2:26 (Rav Ovadia Yosef)	26-27
Igros Moshe O"CH 2:59 (Rav Moshe Feinstein)	28-29
Tzitz Eliezer 11:13 (Rav Eliezer Waldenberg)	31-32

QUESTION?

**Ask Rabbi Postelnek, Rabbi Rabi
or one of the other available RCK Rabbis**

WE'RE HERE TO HELP, GROW AND LEARN TOGETHER!