

Question:

Amidst everything going on in the world right now, especially in Eretz Yisroel, my mind is racing with thoughts about Mashiach. What can I do to help bring Mashiach and get us out of this *galus* already?

Answer:

Take all that inspiration of yours towards a small *chizuk* and change, that you can hold onto. Over time, that small step can make a broader impact on your life.

Hashem is definitely knocking on the door to let Him in. He is ready and wants to bring the *geulah*. We need to do our part in responding to how He is shaking up the whole world in different ways over these past few years.

We can't know when Mashich will come and as individuals, are not in complete control over that. We need to alongside the above, trust and accept the perfect master plan that the בורא עולם has to get us to the final *tachlis* of Mashiach. We need to do our part. That's all He expects from us. When it will happen, we can't know. We have to trust and wait.

The Chofetz Chaim said that waiting for the *geulah* is like waiting for a train that for sure is coming but is running late. Every time one hears a noise, one looks up thinking, "Maybe that's the train!" World events of today need to motivate us to look up and think maybe the *geulah* is very close, and what we can do to help it really happen.

We should be zoche bekarov.

Question:

What can I do to help bring Mashiach?

Answer:

Strengthen yourself in the different things *Chazal* tell us caused the *churban*, such as sinas chinam, refraining from speaking *lashon harah*, saying birkas hatorah with *kavana*, and overall valuing *talmud Torah*. Also davening for Mashiach to come.

Question:

When Mashiach comes, will it be too late to fix up my *aveiros*? It says that there will be a big התעוררות to do *teshuvah*. But I don't understand. If there's an overwhelming inspiration to change, how can I get credit for choosing to do so?

Answer:

You're correct in your understanding that Mashiach depends on our ma'asim. When Mashiach comes, it's an outcome of our bechira. So the inspiration to do *teshuva* is also coming from us.

Even for those who personally are not responsible from bringing about the inspiration, but they do benefit from and change from the inspiration, there's a way to understand this. There's a concept of ערבים כל ישראל included in which, a Yid can daven for another Yid to do *teshuva*. The Chazon Ish says this at the end of Taharos. We could suggest to apply the same concept to the times of Mashiach. Even those who didn't have a chelek in causing him to come will still be zoche to the *teshuva* through the actions of other Yidden.

Question:

What's the difference between Gan Eiden and Olam Habah?

Answer:

Very good question! Many Mefarshim explain that Gan Eden is where the neshama goes after a person is *niftar*. Olam Habah is what the world will be like after תחיית המתים. First Mashiach will come, and later, there will be תחיית המתים along with the world becoming more *ruchani* than *gashmi*. The physical body as well will be less *gashmi*. It's hard to know what that'll mean until we get there, but that's what is said. Olam Habah is where the ultimate reward will be received for all the good that one did during their lifetime. It will be an unimaginable pleasure of closeness to Hashem that will constantly get better and better.

Halachah Q and A

answered by Rabbi Aharon Yechiel Rosskamm. Rov, at Dial a Rebbi

(For halacha lema'aseh, one should not extrapolate from these Q and A, but rather ask one's personal Rov)

Question:

If you're in a taxi and there is music playing during the Three Weeks, do you need to tell them to turn it off?

Answer:

No.

Question:

1. On long drives, I normally listen to music to stay awake. What should I do during the Three Weeks?
2. Many story tapes have background music. Can one listen to them during the Three Weeks?
3. Can a hotline continue to play music while a caller is on hold during the Three Weeks, or do they need to switch it to a ringtone? The hotline wishes to have music so that the person on hold will be more patient and wait longer.
4. Can one listen to acapella and AI music during the Three Weeks? If one needs to listen to music, should one listen to acapella music only?

Answer:

When music is listened to for reasons other than enjoyment, it is permitted. Accordingly, it would be permitted to listen to music to alleviate a health issue (such as an anxiety attack or depression), for exercise, to keep oneself awake at the wheel, or to help one fall asleep. (Halichos Shlomo Moadim 11 Orchas Halacha 54, She'arim Mitzuyanim B'halacha 126:4, Shevet Halevi 8:69, Mikdash Yisroel 22:2, Divrei Shalom 4 Piskei Halachos 80, Rav Moshe Shternbach) Accordingly, background music in story tapes is also permitted during the Three Weeks. Similarly, music playing in a store or waiting room is not a problem. For this reason, there is certainly no issue of a caller remaining on hold, even while the hold music is playing. If a hotline or organization has reason to fear that callers will become too impatient if they don't have music playing while on hold, that too is sufficient reason to allow the hold music.

In regard to acapella and AI music, the consensus of the Poskim is that modern acapella music sounds considerably similar to real music and should not be listened to during the Three Weeks. Even if it were true that it isn't included directly in the *issur d'rabbanan* to listen to music, it is not in the spirit of the *gezeira* and atmosphere that the Chachamim wanted during the Three Weeks. (Rav Shlomo Zalman Auerbach, Rav Yosef Shalom Elyashiv, Shevet Halevi 8:69, Tzitz Eliezer 15:33, Rav Moshe Shternbach, Rav Yisroel Belsky, Rav Shmuel Kamenetzky, Rav Moshe Heinemann, Rav Shmuel Fuerst.) If one needs to listen to music for a valid reason, such as those listed above, one can listen to regular music and need not be limited to acapella music. This is because firstly, regular music is permitted, and secondly, we don't want to lend into the idea that acapella music is okay during the Three Weeks.