



ALL PARSHA
A PROJECT OF THE OU

SHNAYIM MIKRA

FAQ


CREDIT: OU HALACHA YOMIS

WHAT IS THE PROPER MANNER FOR READING SHNAYIM MIKRA V'ECHED TARGUM?

The Mishnah Berurah (285:2) offers two acceptable options for how one should read Shnayim Mikra V'echad Targum. The first option is to read each pasuk twice and then the Targum or Rashi for that pasuk. Another option is to read a section of the Parsha until there is a break in the reading. In a Chumash, this is indicated by a "Samech" or a "Peiy". One may also stop if one reaches the end of a topic. Then one should read the passage a second time, and then read the associated Targum or Rashi.


The Chavos Yair writes that instead of reading the Targum last, one may instead read the text of the chumash, the Targum (or Rashi) and then again the text of the chumash. The advantage of this method is that one will have a better understanding of the chumash when they read it the second time having already read the commentary. It is reported that the Chazon Ish followed this custom (See Orchos Rabbeinu Vol. 1 pg. 123).





I DON'T UNDERSTAND ARAMAIC. IN PLACE OF READING TARGUM ONKELOS (WHICH IS WRITTEN IN ARAMAIC), MAY I READ AN ENGLISH TRANSLATION INSTEAD?


Targum Onkelos is not only a translation of the Torah, it is also a commentary. There are many insights that one can gain from Targum Onkelos. For this reason, it is not sufficient to read a literal translation—we must also read a commentary that adds to our understanding of the Torah portion. Therefore, one may not read a direct English translation, since it lacks this component (Mishnah Berurah 285:4). However, instead of Targum Onkelos one may read a different commentary such as Rashi. One may even read Rashi in English (Rav Moshe Feinstein, zt”l quoted in Dirshu Mishnah Berurah 285, n.15). Verses that do not have Rashi should be read three times (Mishnah Berurah 285:5). One may also read an elucidated translation that incorporates Chazal and Rashi into the translation, such as the ArtScroll translation of Chumash (based on Mishna Berura ibid 5), though Rashi’s commentary is preferred





WHEN IS THE EARLIEST THAT ONE MAY BEGIN REVIEWING THE PARSHAS HASHAVUA (TORAH PORTION OF THE WEEK) TO FULFILL THE MITZVAH OF “SHNAYIM MIKRA V’ECHAD TARGUM”?


The Talmud (Brachos 8b) relates that instead of reviewing the Torah portion weekly, Rav Bibi Bar Abayei wanted to read Shnayim Mikra V’echad Targum for the entire Torah on Erev Yom Kippur. He was told that this is not the correct procedure. One must read the parsha every week together with the congregation. The Mishnah Berurah (285:7) writes that one may begin Shnayim Mikra V’echad Targum for the next week’s parsha as soon as the congregation begins reading from the next week’s parsha on Shabbos at Mincha. If one began earlier than this, they did not fulfill their obligation and are required to read it again. Some have the custom of learning one aliyah of the parsha each day of the week, and some review the entire parsha on Erev Shabbos. Either way, it is proper to complete the parsha before one sits down to their Shabbos day meal.



I DID NOT FINISH REVIEWING LAST WEEK'S TORAH PORTION SHNAYIM MIKRA V'ECHAD TARGUM. CAN I MAKE IT UP THIS WEEK?

Shulchan Aruch (285:4) writes that ideally one should finish reviewing Shnayim Mikra V'echad Targum before one sits down to their Shabbos day meal. However, if one did not, they have until Mincha on Shabbos to complete it. If one did not complete it by then, bedieved (after the fact) it should still be completed before Tuesday evening of the upcoming week. This is because the first three days of the week are still associated with the previous Shabbos. If one did not finish by then either, one must still make up the missing portion before the end of the Torah reading cycle, which is on Simchas Torah (and in Israel on Shmini Atzeres). Once Simchas Torah has passed, if one has not completed reading the Torah Shnayim Mikra V'echad Targum, the mitzvah is lost. One can no longer make up any missed readings.





I HAVE FALLEN BEHIND IN REVIEWING SHNAYIM MIKRA V'ECHAD TARGUM AND I FIND MYSELF A FEW PARSHIYOS BEHIND. IS IT BETTER TO SKIP TO THIS WEEK'S PARSHA AND MAKE UP THE MISSING PARSHIYOS AT A LATER TIME, OR SHOULD I CONTINUE GOING IN ORDER EVEN THOUGH THAT WILL MEAN THAT I WON'T FINISH THIS WEEK'S PARSHA BY SHABBOS?

If one can make up the missing parshiyos and complete this week's parsha as well, then it is best to read the parshiyos in order and not to skip (See Teshuvos Be'er Moshe 5:79). However, if one sees that if they will follow in order, they will miss out on reviewing this week's parsha Shnayim Mikra V'echad Targum, then they should skip to this week's parsha. The main obligation is to finish this week's Torah portion on Shabbos. Therefore, this has priority. Mishnah Berurah (285:6) writes that when doing Shnayim Mikra V'echad Targum, each parsha should be read in order. One should not skip a verse or a section and then go back to it later. However, bedieved (after the fact), if one did skip a section, that portion can be made up later.



However, bedieved (after the fact), if one did skip a section, that portion can be made up later. One is not obligated to return to the skipped portion and then reread until the end of the parsha (K'tzos Hashulchan 72, n.5). Nevertheless, it is considered meritorious to do so. Presumably, if one missed an entire parsha, it can be made up at a later date,

IF I READ THE TORAH PORTION ALONG WITH THE BA'AL KOREI (THE ONE WHO READS THE TORAH ALOUD IN SHUL) CAN THAT COUNT TOWARDS ONE OF MY READINGS FOR SHNAYIM MIKRA V'ECHAD TARGUM?

Yes. Shulchan Aruch (285:5) writes that one can fulfill the obligation in this manner. Although one is not permitted to learn a different portion of the Torah while the Torah is being read, one is permitted to read along with the ba'al korei. The Mishnah Berurah (285:14) writes that it is appropriate for one to read along quietly with the ba'al korei word by word, since it is difficult to follow the reading without reading along.