BERIT MILA: Circumcision on the Eighth Day (Part 2)

Today is the 19th of Iyar, 5771/ **34 days of Ome**r (3 weeks, 6 days)

Last week we explained the importance of Berit Mila, **the signal of Jewish identity of a Jewish male, in its reproductive organ.** (The Jewish female, says rabbi Melamed, is ***herself*** –or her womb– the symbol of Jewish identity. Because Jewishness is transmitted/"reproduced" exclusively ***via the mother*** :only when the mother is Jewish, the baby is Jewish as well).
The Berit Mila is performed eight days after the baby is born. **It is critical to know at what time *exactly* the baby was born**. Illustration: Sunset (**sheqia**) in NYC is today at 8.13PM. If a baby is born before 8.13 PM the brit Mila will be done **next Monday**. But if is born after 8.42PM–(nighttime, 3 stars in NYC, *for most opinions*) the Berit Mila will be next **Tuesday**. Now, if the baby was born in between sunset and nightfall (twilight, ***ben hashemashot)***, a Rabbi or an expert Mohel should be consulted to establish if the Berit Mila should be performed Monday or Tuesday.
The Berit Mila ceremony should take place only during **daytime**, since the Torah specifically indicated *bayom hashemini*,.. "on the eighth day" (=daytime). Even when the Berit Mila is **postponed**, and not done on the eighth day, it should be done during daytime.
Ideally, the ceremony should be scheduled **early in the morning**, after Shacharit service. Jewish tradition says that one should be eager to perform a Mitzvah (*zerizim makdimim laMitzvot*). This is the standard Sephardic Minhag. Other Rabbis would say that the Berit Mila could be done in the afternoon, anytime before sundown, if more people -especially close relatives- will be able to attend the ceremony.
What is circumcision? by Aish