Havdalah



The Harvest

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Havdalah – Order of Service

(Hebrew is Optional)

Lighting the Candle

Havdalah begins with the lighting of the candle. Turn off all the lights so that the Havdalah candle is the only source of light in the room. If no Havdalah candle if available, two ordinary candles can be lit with the flames joining at the top in an upside down "V". During Erev Shabbat we light the candles at sundown to mark the beginning of the Shabbat. During Havdalah, we light the candle at the outset, after sundown to mark the end of Shabbat. This act sets apart or sanctifies Shabbat. (No blessing is said yet.)

The Scripture: The Father Reads Psalms 128

How blessed is everyone who fears Yahweh, Who walks in His ways.

When you shall eat of the fruit of your hands.

You will be happy and it will be well with you.

Your wife shall be like a fruitful vine, within your house,

Your children like olive plants around your table.

Behold, for thus shall the man be blessed who fears Yahweh.

Yahweh bless you from Zion,

And may you see the prosperity of Jerusalem all the days of your life.

Indeed, may you see your children's children.

Peace be upon Israel!

Or Isaiah 12:2-3 (optional)

Behold, God is my salvation, I will trust and not be afraid;

For Yahweh Elohim is my strength and song.

And He has become my salvation.

Therefore you will joyously draw water from the springs of salvation.

Drink from the Kiddush Cup

The father fills the Kiddush cup with wine or grape juice so that it overflows into the saucer. Explain the overflowing Kiddush cup:

The joy that Shabbat give us is overflowing. We are able to be a family, to worship Yahweh, to rest, and to be reminded again of the Shabbat-rest we posses by faith in Yeshua. May this joy carry us through the week. Everybody recites the blessing over the wine then everyone partakes (Hebrew is Optional):

Baruch ata Yahweh, eloheynu melech ha-olam, borey p'ri ha-gafen. Amen. Blessed art Thou, Yahweh our God, King of the universe, Who creates the fruit of the vine.

Smell the Sweet Spices

The mother raises the spices and explains:

May the remembrance of the Shabbat be as sweet to us as these sweet spices are.

Everybody recites the blessing over the sweet spices (Hebrew is Optional): Baruch ata Yahweh, eloheynu melech ha-olam, borey miney b'samim. Amen. Blessed art Thou, Yahweh, our God, King of the universe, Who creates various kinds of spices.

The spices are passed around so everyone can smell. Take a deep sniff and say a prayer that Yahweh would help everyone present carry the fragrance of Messiah into the new week. We want to be love songs to the Messiah.

Discuss the Havdalah Candle

Turn your attention to the candle. Father or Mother explains:

Shabbat has brightened our life as we get both physical and spiritual rest. Our eyes again have been focused on Yeshua, our Shabbat, the light of the world. Lighting the candle as the first act of the new week reminds us too, that God's first act of creation took place when he said, "Let there be light." We now bid Shabbat farewell by lighting the Havdalah candle, giving even more light than when Shabbat began.

Everyone recites the blessing for the candle (Hebrew is Optional):

Baruch ata Yahweh, eloheynu melech ha-olam, borey m'orey ha-eysh.

Blessed art Thou, Yahweh, our God, King of the universe, Who creates the light of the fire.

This is a good time for everyone to hold their hands toward the light, and to examine their fingernails. We see the light reflected in our fingernails and remember that our hands were at rest on Shabbat.

Recite the Havdalah Blessing (Hebrew is Optional):

Baruch ata Yahweh, eloheynu melech ha-olam. Hamavdil beyn kodesh l'chol beyn or l'choshech beyn Yisrael la-amin beyn yom ha-sh'vi'l l'sheyshet y'mey ha-ma'aseh. Baruch ata Yahweh, hamavdil beyn-kodesh l'chol.

Blessed art You, Yahweh our God, King of the universe, who makes a distinction between holy and profane, between light and darkness, between Israel and the heathen nations, between the seventh day and the six working days. Blessed are you, Yahweh, Who makes a distinction between holy and profane.

It's customary to read and/or sing Isaiah 12:

Then you will say on that day, "I will give thanks to You, O LORD; For although You were angry with me, Your anger is turned away, And You comfort me. ² "Behold, God is my salvation, I will trust and not be afraid; For the LORD GOD is my strength and song, And He has become my salvation." ³Therefore you will joyously draw water From the springs of salvation. ⁴ And in that day you will say, "Give thanks to the LORD, call on His name. Make known His deeds among the peoples; Make them remember that His name is exalted." ⁵ Praise the LORD in song, for He has done excellent things; Let this be known throughout the earth. ⁶Cry aloud and shout for joy, O inhabitant of Zion, For great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

Extinguish the Candle in the Wine

Make sure all the lights are off.

Father explains:

May the light (the candle) and joy (the wine) of Shabbat be mixed together into one, reflecting the truth that Yehsua is the one true source for both. May this statement stay with us this coming week.

Extinguish the candle in the wine spilled in the saucer.

Another explanation is as follows:

As the darkness penetrates the room when the candle is extinguished, remember how Yeshua paid for all of our sins. He sacrificed Himself for us. He took our place on the cross.

Extinguish the candle in the wine spilled in the saucer.

The darkness fills the room is a reminder of the state we were once in as unbelievers. Let us take some time to pray for those who have not stepped into the light of Messiah.

Conclude Havdalah

"How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who proclaims peace, who brings glad tidings of good things, who proclaims salvation, who says to Zion, Your God reigns!"

- Isaiah 52:7

Havdalah is now complete. The common greeting is Shavua Tov or "Have a good week!"

Shalom!



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