

Bais HaVaad on the Parsha, Parshas Ki Sisa

Tea Time

Excerpted and adapted from a shiur by Rav Yosef Jacobovits

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https://baishavaad.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/SHE81_009_Ki_Sisa_Cal_l_it_a-Holy-Day-Laws__Concepts_of_Shabbos-Day_Kiddush.mp3

And the B'nei Yisrael shall keep the Shabbos, to make the Shabbos for their generations an everlasting covenant...

Shemos 31:16

The Mishnah Berurah (O.C. 289:2) writes that many people customarily recite this *pasuk* and the following one as part of the Shabbos daytime kiddush. Others have the custom to recite the *pesukim* of “*Zachor...*” (Shemos 20) as well, though the Mishnah Berurah cautions against reciting only the words “*al kein beirach...*” because one should not recite only part of a *pasuk*. The Aruch Hashulchan (O.C. 289) defends the custom by explaining that only one recites the passage to introduce the kiddush with ideas about Shabbos, not as a reading of the *pasuk*. In either case, reciting these *pesukim* is only a matter of custom and not required.

Although wine (or grape juice) is generally used for kiddush, on Shabbos day it is also permitted to use *chamar medinah*, an important drink in one's time and place. R' Moshe Feinstein says it should be a drink one would serve a prominent guest. In Europe, beer was often used as *chamar medinah*, though coffee or tea are more commonly used that way today in the U.S. One who uses these drinks must be careful to drink the proper *shiur* (the majority of a *revi'is*) immediately following the *bracha* (some allow up to a minute).

Schnapps is also acceptable halachically, though here too, most *poskim* hold that one must be careful to drink the proper *shiur* and ensure that the cup contains a *revi'is*. Iced coffee may also be used today according to many *poskim*, since it has recently become quite popular as a special drink. But most *poskim* hold that iced tea and soda do not qualify as *chamar medinah*. (For other, more lenient opinions concerning soft drinks, see R' Moishe Dovid Lebovits, *Halachically Speaking*, at <http://www.shemayisrael.com/parsha/halacha/Volume%206%20Issue%201.pdf> and R' Eliezer Melamed, *Peninei Halacha*, at <https://ph.yhb.org.il/plus/01-08-04/>.)