

## Q&A From the Bais HaVaad Halacha Hotline

Father Time

*Rav Aryeh Finkel*

July 1, 2021

**Q** Our baby is due to be born during the Three Weeks. Should I refrain from reciting the *bracha* of *shehecheyanu* for a girl or *hatov vehameitiv* for a boy?

**A** The Shulchan Aruch (551:17) writes that the *bracha* of *shehecheyanu* is not made during the Three Weeks. This is because the words *vehigianu lazman hazeh* (and He made us reach this time) are not appropriate at the saddest time of the year (see Aruch Hashulchan *ibid.* 38). The problem is not that a celebratory *bracha* should not be made during this sad period, only that those particular words aren't appropriate, so *hatov vehameitiv* may be recited (Sha'arei Teshuvah). The Shulchan Aruch rules that if a *shehecheyanu* opportunity like a *pidyon haben* comes along, one should recite it and not wait. But the Mishnah Brurah (*ibid.*) says that if you see a new fruit during the Three Weeks you should wait until Shabbos to eat it, because *shehecheyanu* may be recited on Shabbos. It would seem that in your case you should preferably wait until Shabbos to recite the *bracha*, because it may be recited for as long as one still feels the joy of the birth (see Mishnah Brurah 223:3). However, the *poskim* explain why *pidyon haben* is different from a new fruit: The obligation of *shehecheyanu* comes at the time of the *pidyon haben*, so it should not be postponed, but although one *may* say *shehecheyanu* upon seeing a new fruit, the obligation comes only when he eats it. For this reason the *poskim* rule that in your case, you should say the *bracha* when you see the baby, because your obligation comes at that time (Piskei Teshuvos *ibid.*).

