

Milah (Brit)

Ref: *Sefer Ahavah, Hilchot Milah, Chapters 1–3*

📖 | Boys should be circumcised 8 days after birth.¹

Mitzvah relates to a father circumcising his son, or a master circumcising his slaves. However, the punishment of *karet* for not being circumcised relates to the ‘son’ himself. The son after *bar mitzvah* is obligated to circumcise himself. Every day thereafter is a transgression for him, but *karet* would not apply until his death (i.e. if he remains uncircumcised).

🔔 Reminder:

Pack on Punishment for *Sefer Ahavah*



A home-born slave should be circumcised on eighth day, whereas a bought slave is circumcised on day of purchase.

A gentile slave purchased from a gentile, has different rules. He is given 12 months to be circumcised.

🔔 Reminder:

Pack on Servants



Circumcision only performed at daytime.

If performed on eighth day, circumcision overrides *Shabbat*, but there are some exceptions (e.g. a child born without a foreskin).

A sick person should not be circumcised until he recovers (including a child who is excessively yellow or red in colour).

PROCEDURE.

Stages

- *Milah* (removal of foreskin around crown of penis)
- *Priah* (removal of soft membrane below the skin)
- *Metzitzah* (sucking out the blood from the area)

Tzitz – If strands of flesh remain, these should be removed

No special qualifications are needed to do *brit milah*, but it may not be done by a Gentile.

The choicest instrument to use is a scissor or knife, and it has become customary to use a knife.

Although *brit* can be done on *Shabbat* all procedures that could be prepared before *Shabbat* are not allowed to be done on *Shabbat*. E.g. if knife was forgotten, one would not be allowed to carry it on *Shabbat*.

A series of *brachot* are said.

A *brit* is of major importance.

- Avraham was only called perfect after he was circumcised.
- Anyone who does not have a *brit* does not have a portion in *Olam Haba*.
- Even someone who had a *brit* and then tried to hide it by extending the skin, also does not receive a portion in the World – to – Come.
- When *Mosheh Rabenu* delayed circumcising his son Eliezer, an angel in the form of a serpent swallowed him up. When his wife realised the problem, and circumcised him, the angel let go.
- Regarding *mitzvot* in general only 3 covenants are mentioned in Torah. But with the *brit* of Avraham 13 covenants were established.
- For an eternal covenant
- Etc.