

# PHILOTORAH

לה"ו

יהי רצון מלפניך ה' אלהינו וא'להי אבותינו שתשלח מהרה רפואה שלמה מן השמים, רפואת הנפש ורפואת הגוף לפצועי המלחמה, ולנפגעי מעשי טרור ואנטישמיות בישראל ובכל מקום שהם - עם שאר חולי ישראל. אמן.

**May HaShem protect our soldiers and the hostages; may He send Refu'ah Sh'leima to the many injured; may He console the bereaved families and all of Israel, and may He end this war with success and peace for Klal Yisrael.**



**YERUSHALAYIM** in/out times for Shabbat Parshat **BALAK**

י"ד תמוז ה'תשפ"ד • July 19-20, '24

 **7:09PM** PLAG (earliest) **6:17PM** •  **8:25PM** R' Tam **9:02PM**

For other locales, click on the Z'MANIM link



## Kiddush L'vana

The molad was Shabbat (of Parshat Korach at 1:53pm Israel Summer Time.

The last opportunity for KL in any month is 14 days 18 hours and 22 minutes after the molad. That amount of time is halfway from a molad to the next molad. Halfway between moladot is called the NIGUD, literally, opposition, when the Moon is opposite the Sun from our perspective on Earth. The calculations for both Molad and Nigud use average time of the Moon's trip around the Earth. This varies from the actual, astronomical times of New Moon and Full Moon, but the timing for Kiddush L'vana is based upon the average, rather than the actual.

Adding 14d 18h 22m to the Molad of Tamuz brings us to Sunday morning, July 21st at 8:15am. This means that the last opportunity for KL this month is all night of Motza'ei Shabbat (Balak), July 20th to Sunday morning before dawn.

Be aware that the times of the Molad and Nigud should be adjusted for one's locale. For instance, in New York, the Nigud occurs at 1:15am on Sunday, and that would be the last

time for KL (not all night as it is in Israel).

Travel to the West Coast of the US and the last op for KL would be 10:15pm of Saturday. And so on.

The purpose of the CALnotes that focus on Kiddush L'vana, a number of weeks per month, are meant to be informational. But more importantly, they are meant to encourage those who may not be regular KL-sayers to take KL more seriously. As we say in the recitation after the KL-bracha, KL is KABBALAT P'NEI HASH'CHINA, welcoming the Divine Presence in our midst. We quote TANA D'VEI RABI YISHMAEL - If we were only privileged to do this one act of Kiddush L'vana, we would be content.

KL is a special b'racha that represents and reminds us of the partnership that HKBH brought us into with Him, in the sanctifying of the month and the setting up of our Calendar.

## Shiv'a Asar b'Tamuz

This week's sedra is Balak. The following Tuesday is the 17th of Tamuz. Use 4:25am for the beginning of the fast. It ends in Jerusalem at 8:12pm (for other locales, check the calendar link).

This mishna in Masechet Taanit (4:6) tells us that five calamities occurred to our ancestors on the 17th of Tamuz and five on Tish'a b'Av. On 17 Tamuz,

the (first) Luchot were broken (i.e. the sin of the golden calf), the daily korbanot (morning and afternoon lambs) ceased (prior to the first Churban), the city (Jerusalem) was breached (prior to the destruction of the second Beit HaMikdash; the breach of Jerusalem the first time was on 9 Tamuz), Apostimus burned the Torah (no certainty who he was or what year this happened), and an idol was placed in the Heichal (main sanctuary of the Beit HaMikdash).

Interesting - and important - to note that of the five calamities listed for Shiv'a Asar b'Tamuz, four of them are related to Churban Beit HaMikdash in some way, and the first - is an event that occurred in the time of Dor HaMidbar, when Bnei Yisrael had just left Egypt.

Doubly interesting is that we can say the same thing about the five calamities associated with Tish'a b'Av - four are connected to the Churban and the first on the list - the Sin of the Spies - belongs to Dor HaMidbar.

While the Three Weeks (a.k.a. Bein HaMeitzarim) is the mourning period for the destructions of the Batei Mikdash, we need also to focus on the 'foundation' calamities which opened the door, so to speak) for other calamities to occur.

It can be said that a building - any building, but especially The Building -

that has a flawed foundation, cannot last forever.

Cheit HaEigel and Cheit HaMeraglim indicated the existence of flaws in us - the People of Israel. The only way to guarantee that the next Beit HaMikdash will be part of the Geula Sh'leima, is to perfect ourselves.

Shiv'a Asar b'Tamuz (and the other fast days) is not just for not eating and drinking.

It is a day for serious introspection and T'shuva. We are promised by HKBH, via the Navi, that the fast days associated with the Churban will become Yamim Tovim - as Rabbi Sprecher z"l like to say, with the addition of the letter "e", the fast days will become feast days.

It is up to each of us to do our share in repairing and erasing the causes of the Churban, by the aforementioned T'shuva and the spread of Torah and Mitzvot and Chesed throughout the Jewish World.

## More in TAMUZ

**8 Tamuz** - Queen-mother Maria Christina abolished the Spanish Inquisition in 1834. It had begun in 1478! What took so long to end it?

**9 Tamuz** - as mentioned earlier, Nevuchanetzer's army breached the walls of Yerushalayim and entered the city - 586<sup>BCE</sup>.

Pompey captured Jerusalem in 63BCE. This was the first military confrontation between Rome and Judea. This gives a connection to 9 Tamuz with both the First and the Second Beit HaMikdash.

**10 Tamuz** - A fast was observed by the Frankfort community commemorating the escape of the Jewish Quarter from a major fire, in 1720. Good. On the other hand, 12 Jews were martyred in Cologne, in 1266. Bad. And so goes it for most dates on our calendar. Jewish History is filled with sad dates on the calendar and sprinkled with reasons to celebrate. Note that the choice of the verbes - filled and sprinkled, say something.

**11 Tamuz** - Purim of Tamuz, celebrated by the Jews of Algiers to mark their escape from attack by a Spanish army - 1774.

**12 Tamuz** - Jews of Wiener-Neustadt, Austria were massacred in 1298.

Yahrzeit of the Baal HaTurim, author of the Tur Shulchan Aruch, R' Yaakov ben Asher, 1340.

Yahrzeit of R' Elchanan Wasserman HY"D, vicim of the Nazis, 1941.

**13 Tamuz** - First edition of Chumash with Ramban's commentary was printed in 1490.

First printed edition of Sefer HaChinuch, 1523.

**14 Tamuz** - 30 Jews in Switzerland,

accused of ritual murder, were burned at the stake, 1401.

Berlin Jews were attacked by Nazi gangs in 1935.

*"More in Tamuz" excerpted from Day by Day in Jewish History by Abraham P. Bloch (1983)*