



PhiloTorah D'var Torah

FORK IN THE ROAD

Parshat Pinchas is usually the first Shabbat of the Three Weeks (in years that Matot and Mas'ei are read combined); on the rare side, it is the Shabbat right before the Three Weeks (when Matot and Mas'ei are read separately).

Either way, Parshat Pinchas is read very close to the fast of Shiv'a Asar b'Tamuz.

And that brings us to a fork in the road.

Shiv'a Asar b'Tamuz commemorates five calamities that befell Israel - according to the the Mishna towards the end of Masechet Taanit. One of those tragedies is the cessation of the Korban Tamid, the daily sacrifices, that had continued to be brought even during the two and a half year siege of Jerusalem. Even with the upcoming destruction of the Beit HaMikdash three weeks later, the Mishna considers the end of the daily T'midim to be a tragedy in its own right.

That is one path in front of us, at this fork in the road. The path to perpetuating the various causes of the Churban.

Put simply, our national mourning is not just for events that occurred a long time ago. We also mourn the state of affairs of the Jewish community now and ponder what we as individuals, and as

part of K'lal Yisrael, can do to effect a TIKUN, a repair, for the various sins and shortcomings of our ancestors that added to the causes of the Churban. In this way, we will get closer to the days when the fast days will become Yamim Tovim with the building of the Beit HaMikdash and the Geula Sh'leima.

Thus, we will not be going down the Shiv'a Asar b'Tamuz path, but rather take the other path, symbolized by the mitzva of the T'midim - the Parshat Pinchas path.

AVEILUT HACHURBAN, mourning the destructions of the Batei Mikdash is only TEMPORARY. A very long temporary, but within our power and ability to end it, speedily in our time. Easy to say, but we have our work cut out for us. Let's get cracking. **PTDT**

Presenting words for things that are commonly called by foreign names, and whose names in Hebrew are little-known or used.



For example, what's that in the upper-right corner? The logo of MicroUlpán. How do you say logo in Hebrew? Not LO-GO, לוגו

