

## PhiloTorah This 'n That

**TUE, eve of 18 Tamuz, July 23rd** - Today, the fast day, saw me at home, not wanting to be out in the heat. Hence, a lot of the website has been updated already. The only things missing are contributions from some of the columnist who have yet to send me their piece.

The meal tonight was not just a fast-breaking meal for practical reasons. It was, or could have been, if one thought about it, a meal to commemorate the future.

Sounds weird? Agreed. Generally, one commemorates events that happened already, in the past. But when we have a prophecy of something to come, we have G-d's guarantee, so to speak, that it will definitely happen. And that allows us to commemorate that prophesied event.

Specifically, I am talking about the change of the fast days related to the Churban into Yamim Tovim. We weren't able to eat a festive meal on the 17th of Tamuz itself (except when the 17th falls on Shabbat), so right after the fast, we have the meal that reminds us of HaShem's promise. Remember, of course, that we cannot have a festive meal (at least one with meat) after Tish'a b'Av (unless that fast was postponed until Sunday the 10th). But for the other three fasts, one should keep in mind, the idea of projecting into the future (maybe even retro-actively).