

PHILOTORAH

לה"י

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 Parshat **Pi-N'CHAS**

כ"א תמוז ה'תשפ"ד • July 26-27, '24

 **7:05PM** PLAG (earliest) **6:14PM** •  **8:20PM** R' Tam **8:57PM**

For other locales, click on the Z'MANIM link



Shiv'a Asar b'Tamuz

Tuesday, July 23rd 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 preparing 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.

A different question

Why will 17 Tamuz and 9 Av become Yamim Tovim in the future? We can understand that they will no longer be sad, mournful days - but why will they become festivals? They should just become ordinary calendar dates.

A long time ago, I heard a beautiful explanation from Rabbi Ephraim Sprecher z"l.

What would 17 Tamuz have been without CHEIT HA-EIGEL, without the sin of the golden calf?

Picture this: 40 days after the day of Revelation at Sinai, the people eagerly awaited Moshe's return from his one-on-one with G-d. Finally, the wait was over. Moshe descends Har Sinai with the LUCHOT EVEN (Tablets of Stone) in hand and with the teachings of Torah and Mitzvot ready to be transmitted to Bnei Yisrael.

Can you imagine the celebration of that day, as the completion of that which began with ANOCHI HASHEM ELOKECHA...

We, Bnei Yisrael, cheated the 17th of Tamuz out of its festive nature that it should have had. That festive nature will be restored with the Geula

Sh'leima.

Similarly, for Tish'a b'Av. Here's what should have been. 12 scouts, each a leader of his tribe, return to the people after a 40 days tour of the Land of Israel. They each express their impressions of the beautiful land and outdo each other in praising G-d for the special gift the people would soon be receiving.

Imagine how joyous that day would be. G-d took us out of Egypt to bring us to Eretz Yisrael and to give us the Torah on the way.

We cheated 9 Av big time! It should have been a joyous day of celebration - and it yet will be!

May we be privileged to merit and witness the restoration of the FASTS that commemorate the Churban, and see the E returned to each date (another way that Ephraim used to say it) when we will celebrate the FEASTS of the 17th of Tamuz and the 9th of Av respectively.

More in Tamuz...

15 Tamuz - Chur, son of Miriam and Kalev, was killed when he attempted to dissuade the Israelites from demanding a golden calf. (Some say it was 16 Tamuz.)

Yahrzeit of R' Chayim ben Moshe Attar, author of the Ohr HaChayim.

16 Tamuz - Czarina Anne ordered the expulsion of all Jews from Little

Russia, 1740.

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.

17 Tamuz - See above

Yahrzeit of R' Yehuda ben Asher (son of the ROSH), 1349.

4000 Jews were killed in Toledo, Spain, in riots that broke out on Shiva Asar b'Tamuz, 1391.

American Independence, July 4th, 1776, was on the fast day. What does that say? Possibly, it serves as a ray of good light that shines through the darkness of our national day of mourning.

4000 Jews of the ghetto of Bialystok were shot, 1941.

The Nazis decreed the liquidation of the Kovno ghetto, 1944.

18 Tamuz - King Louis IX (St. Louis) decreed, 1269, that all Jews must wear the yellow badge, known as the badge of shame. Almost seven centuries before the Sho'ah.

19 Tamuz - 6000 Lithuanian Jews were killed, 1941.

Yahrzeit of R' Yitzchak HaLevi Herzog, first chief rabbi of the State of Israel, 1959.

20 Tamuz - Yahrzeit of Theodore Herzl, 1904.