

Tisha B'Av: Solemn Jewish Day Marks Time for Rebuilding

Roman generals and emperors desired to control Jerusalem. On the 17th day of the Hebrew month of Tammuz, they breached the walls of Jerusalem. Over the course of three weeks of fighting between the Jews and the Romans, the Romans overtook the Jews' most sacred temple on the ninth of the Jewish month of Av.

The Roman soldiers committed this assault of the Jewish people as a part of their larger goal to conquer the world. Although the Romans would later attempt to conquer Babylon and other civilizations in the Middle East, the Romans particularly scorned the Jews, because the Jews had their own religion and, unlike many other peoples, were unwilling to accept the Roman way of life.

This year, the period mourning began on the 17th of Tammuz of the Jewish calendar, equivalent to July 27th. Tisha B'Av itself falls on the 9th day of Av and begins Wednesday night, August 9 at 8:00 p.m. At that time, Jews embark on a fast of no food or drink that concludes Thursday night at 9 p.m.

There are several laws that distinguish the three-week period leading up to Tisha B'Av from the rest of the year: these include prohibitions against buying new clothes, eating meat or drinking wine, or listening to music. Moreover, men are not supposed to shave and Jews are advised to refrain from happy occasions like weddings to internalize the feeling of mourning and examine our deeds and make amends for our future.

Although Tisha B'Av is the one of the saddest days of the Jewish year, Mr. Kurinsky explains, "The purpose of it is not to become depressed about it and say how it's so sad, it's a day of remembrance that we rebuild the future."

Mr. Kurinsky discusses the idea of continuity—that everything is eternal in explaining that after the first and second holy temples of the Jews were destroyed, holy scriptures speak of a third temple which will never be destroyed. Furthermore, he explains that on Tisha B'Av, the redeemer of the Jewish people, the messiah, is believed to have been born.



Levi Kurinsky

Fast Commemorates Roman Destruction Of Holy Temples in Jerusalem

By Josh Simons

Rabbi-in-training and Crown Heights resident Levi Kurinsky provided information for this article on the meaning of Tisha B'Av, a three-week period of mourning for the Jewish people, which culminates this week.

B e g i n n i n g

Wednesday night, the Jewish people will begin a 25-hour-long fast to commemorate one of the saddest occasions of the Jewish heritage, the mourning day of Tisha B'Av.

Tisha B'Av actually concludes a three-week long period of grieving in which Jews symbolize the destruction of their first and second holy temples in Jerusalem by the Romans.

Roman conquests of ancient Judea began when scornful and anti-Semitic Roman generals and emperors desired to control Jerusalem. On the 17th day of the Hebrew month of Tammuz, they breached the walls of Jerusalem. Over the course of three weeks of fighting between the Jews and the Romans, the Romans overtook the Jews' most sacred temple on the ninth of the Jewish month of Av. Roman conquests of ancient Judea began when scornful and anti-Semitic

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