



# Carnegie Shul Chatter

## July 25, 2019



Light Candles 8:16 pm Shabbat Services 9:20 am

## Judaism's Sad Day

In a little more than a week, on Saturday evening August 9 and Sunday August 10, we will observe Tisha B'Av, one of the saddest days on the Jewish calendar.

It is absolutely incredible that so many tragic events occurred on this one date in Jewish history.

Below, from [ou.org](http://ou.org), is a summary of the calamities that occurred on Tisha B'Av. Let us pray that we never have to experience such misfortune ever again.



## A Jewish Response

You remember King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella of Spain from your history classes in school, don't you? I remember being taught about how they funded Christopher Columbus's journey to discover a trade route to the East Indies by going west, proving that the world was round. What visionaries, we were taught!

But never were we taught anything about the Inquisition that occurred under their rule, or about the expulsion decree, in 1492, the same year as Columbus's voyage, setting Tisha B'Av as the final date by which not a single Jew would be allowed to walk on Spanish soil.

Isn't it strange how little we learned in school about persecution of Jews?

We Conservative Jews may not do what the OU guidelines suggest, pertaining to Tisha B'Av, but we should, at the very least, take some time to ponder the horrible things that have happened to us throughout our history on Tisha B'Av and other days as well, and consider that some of these things, as with the plagues that we read about a couple of weeks ago on Shabbos, are a direct result of our impudence in not following Hashem's instructions.

So this year, in observance of Tisha B'Av, how about adding another mitzvah or two to your daily life? It's not that hard to do, and it will undoubtedly make you feel better about yourself.

# Tisha B'Av

Tisha B'Av – The “ninth day” in the Jewish month of Av, which starts at sundown on the eighth day and concludes at sundown on the ninth day of Av. This is the day when the intensity of the entire three week mourning period reaches its peak.

## History:

According to our sages, many tragic events occurred to our ancestors on this day:

1. The sin of the spies caused Hashem to decree that the Children of Israel who left Egypt would not be permitted to enter the land of Israel;
2. The first Temple was destroyed;
3. The second Temple was destroyed;
4. Betar, the last fortress to hold out against the Romans during the Bar Kochba revolt in the year 135, fell, sealing the fate of the Jewish people.
5. One year after the fall of Betar, the Temple area was plowed.
6. In 1492, King Ferdinand of Spain issued the expulsion decree, setting Tisha B'Av as the final date by which not a single Jew would be allowed to walk on Spanish soil.
7. World War I – which began the downward slide to the Holocaust – began on Tisha B'av.



## Prohibitions:

The prohibitions on Tisha B'Av itself are similar to those of Yom Kippur. In addition to not eating or drinking, we are not allowed to wash, anoint oneself or wear leather shoes. In a prohibition more stringent than on Yom Kippur, we are only allowed to study certain portions of the Torah and Talmud on Tisha B'Av.

## Observances:

The observance of Tisha B'Av begins with the Seudah HaMafseket, the last meal before the fast commences.

Note: During years when the fast starts on Saturday night we do not have a seuda HaMafseket.

Unlike the elaborate feast we have before Yom Kippur, this meal is typically one course, usually consisting of a hard-boiled egg and some bread. Also, this meal is generally not eaten with others to avoid having a Zimmun (quorum for public blessing) at Birchat HaMazon. Zimmun indicates permanence, habit and durability. We avoid the Zimmun because we'd prefer not to make this mournful meal a recurring experience. It is customary to eat this meal seated on the floor or a low stool.

- *Until Mincha on Tisha B'Av one should try to avoid sitting on a chair or bench. Instead, the custom is to stand or sit on the floor, just like a mourner during the Shiva (traditional seven days of mourning a loved one).*

- *Beginning at Mincha sitting on chairs is permitted, and we reduce the intensity of the grief that has pervaded us so far. Also, men put on Tefillin and recite those Tefillot that were omitted at Shacharit.*
- *It is forbidden to greet friends or acquaintances on Tisha B'Av. However, if greeted first, one should answer, but in a low tone in order not to arouse resentment.*
- *At the evening Ma'ariv service, the entire congregation sits on the floor and recites the Book of Eicha (Lamentations) where the prophet Jeremiah weeps the destruction, and we weep with him.*
- *The morning of Tisha B'Av is the saddest part of the day. We recite Kinot, and the men do not don Tefillin at Shacharit, because Tefillin are called "Pe-ar," "Glory," and this is definitely not a day of glory for the Jewish People.*

Our sages teach that whoever mourns over Jerusalem will merit the future vision of her joy. As it is written in Isaiah (Chapter 66, verse 10), "rejoice greatly with her, all who mourn her."

## More Background:

### Shiva Asar B'Tammuz

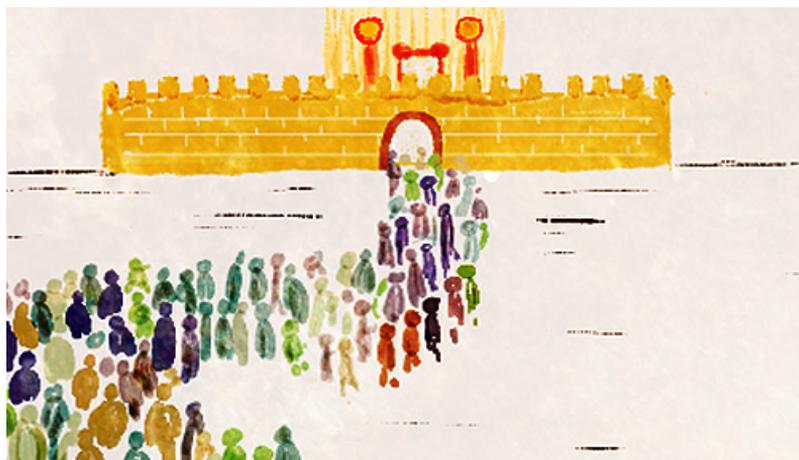
Five disasters occurred on Shiva Asar B'Tammuz:

1. Moshe descended from Mount Sinai, discovered the people worshipping the golden calf, and broke the luchot;
2. During the siege of Jerusalem before the destruction of the first Temple the daily offering, was suspended because the Kohanim (who had fortified themselves inside the Temple) could not get any more sheep for the sacrifice.
3. In the year 70, the Romans breached the walls of Jerusalem before the destruction of the second Temple;
4. Apustumus the wicked burned a Torah Scroll; and
5. The Romans set up an idol in the courtyard of the Temple.

### The Three Weeks

This period of time is known as Bein HaM'Tzarim, "between the straits", because it says in Eicha (Chapter 1, verse 3): "and her pursuers overtook her between the straits", referring to the calamitous events that befell the Jewish people between Shiva Asar B'Tammuz and Tisha B'Av. (Some of the prohibitions and customs we observe during this period are mentioned here. For specific questions contact a Rabbi.)

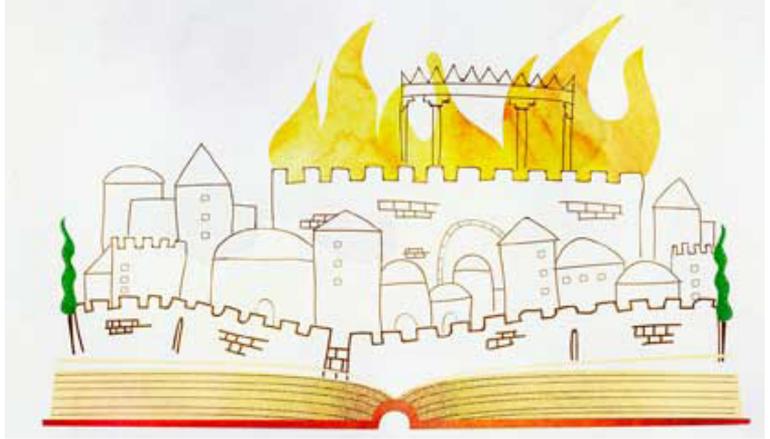
- *Visiting cinemas, theaters, concert halls or any other place where there is public entertainment is strictly prohibited.*
- *With the exception of socks and undergarments, new clothes should not be purchased.*
- *Haircuts are forbidden. According to some authorities, men who shave daily for business reasons may shave during this period.*



## The Nine Days

The intensity of the three week mourning period increases with the onset of Rosh Chodesh Menachem Av. So, in addition to those items mentioned below, during the days between Rosh Chodesh and Tisha B'Av, we are prohibited from:

- *Building or performing alterations in one's home, unless the work is important repair work. This prohibition includes painting, wall papering and other forms of home decorations.*
- *Eating meat or drinking wine, except on Shabbat.*
- *Giving clothing to or getting clothing back from the cleaners or doing laundry. Children's clothing, especially babies and infants, may be cleaned during this period. Also, this restriction doesn't apply to clothing worn directly against the body which requires frequent changing.*
- *Weaving, knitting and needle craft work, with the exception of repairing torn clothing, is prohibited during this period.*
- *Swimming and bathing for pleasure is prohibited. Taking a bath or shower for hygiene purposes is permitted. Children in camp may go swimming during the instructional swim period. Visiting a Mikveh when necessary is permitted.*
- *The Shabbat before Tisha B'Av is called Shabbat Chazon because the Haftorah that morning begins with the word Chazon.*



## Yahrzeit Plaques

Commemorate a loved one by dedicating a yahrzeit plaque in his or her memory at the Carnegie Shul. These beautiful plaques, mounted on the sanctuary walls, are lit on the loved one's yahrzeit, Yom Kippur, and days when Yizkor is recited. The names are also read aloud from the Bimah during services on the Sabbath of the yahrzeit and on Yom Kippur. To purchase a plaque, for only \$175, please email Mike Roteman at [mrmike7777@yahoo.com](mailto:mrmike7777@yahoo.com).



## Sponsor a Kiddush



Please consider sponsoring a Kiddush in honor or in memory of a loved one, for only \$36. Your sponsorship will be announced from the bimah and in the weekly Chatter. To sponsor a Kiddush, email [mrmike7777@yahoo.com](mailto:mrmike7777@yahoo.com).