



Association of
Gulf Jewish Communities
איגוד הקהילות היהודיות במפרץ
رابطة المجتمعات اليهودية الخليجية

AGJC - COMMEMORATION OF TISH'A B'AB – 9TH OF AB

Tish'a B'Ab is not mentioned explicitly in the Torah, as it mostly commemorates events that occurred centuries and millennia after the Torah was written.

The Talmud mentions that Five Tragedies occurred to our ancestors on the the 9th day of Ab throughout the ages.

1. **The Israelites were decreed not to enter the Land of Israel** — The Israelites (Jewish people) were destined to enter the Land of Israel shortly after leaving Egypt and receiving the Torah. Instead, they wandered the desert for forty years until the entire generation that left Egypt perished, and a new generation was born. Their destiny was changed because, when sending the Spies to check out the Land, they believed their slanderous reports and refused to enter the Land. They doubted G-d's promise, therefore G-d decreed that they will not enter the land. That occurred on the 9th of Ab.
2. **First Temple in Jerusalem was destroyed** — The Babylonians in the year 586 B.C.E., entered the Sanctuary. They ate and drank in it and desecrated it through immoral behavior. On the 9th day of Ab, close to evening, they set it ablaze and it continued to burn through the entire 10th day.
3. **Second Temple in Jerusalem was destroyed** — The Romans, under Titus kept siege on Jerusalem for three years and on the 9th of Ab of the year 68 C.E., they entered the Temple and burned it and destroyed it. Together with the destruction of the Temple came the destruction of thousands of Jewish communities in Israel and the loss of Jewish Sovereignty in the Land of Israel; millions of Jews were killed by the Romans.
4. **Betar Was Captured and destroyed**— After the destruction of the Second Temple, thousands of Jews remained in Israel with Roman authorization living in the city of Betar. The leader of the Jews, Bar Kokhba led the Jewish revolt (132-136-C.E.) against the Romans and almost succeeded in restoring Jewish sovereignty to Israel. Unfortunately, Bar Kokhba was killed; the revolt collapsed, the city of Beitar was decimated, and the corpses of its slaughtered inhabitants were not permitted to be buried for a period of two years. The fall of Bar Kokhba effectively ended all Jewish hopes for a return to our homeland for thousands of years.
5. **Jerusalem Plowed Over** - Turnus Rufus, a Roman general, plowed up the Temple Mount and its environs and left it as a plowed field, piled high with boulders, in fulfillment of the words of the Prophet Micah.



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Laws Concerning the Shabbat Ereb Tish'a B'Ab

This year the fast of the 9th of Ab falls on a Sunday, therefore the Shabbat preceding it, one may conduct him/herself as if it were any other Shabbat of the year. Wine and meat are permitted at every meal. No sign of mourning is observed on Shabbat. Seuda Mafseket (Seuda Shelishit) consists of a regular Shabbat meal and zimun (Bircat Hamazon with 3 or more people) is recited. Food is no longer permitted at sunset. Say "Barukh Hamabdil ben kodesh lehol" at nightfall. Change into non-leather shoes. Habdalah is not recited until after the fast, although "Ata Honantanu" is recited Saturday night in Arbit prayer.

Laws of Tisha B'Ab: Anniversary of the Destruction of the first and second Temples
The fast begins Saturday night July 17 at sunset and end on Sunday, July 18 at nightfall.

One must abstain from the following activities beginning at sunset.

1. Showering
2. Using perfumes or ointments for pleasure
3. Learning Torah (it is customary to study "Ekha" (Book of Lamentations), the book of Job and topics dealing with the destruction of the Temple instead)
4. Wearing leather shoes
5. Marital relations

Eating and drinking is prohibited sunset on.

The following people are not obligated to fast:

- Boys under 13, girls under 12 (they must fast a few hours if they understand the reason for the fast).
- Nursing women
- Persons who are sick
- Smoking is permitted, but not recommended.
- Those not fasting should however, not indulge in food.

Washing of hands permitted only for the following purposes:

- Morning "Netilat Yadaim" upon waking up
- Before every prayer
- If they are clearly very dirty
- After using the restroom
- Washing hands is to the knuckle only unless the dirt extends beyond.
- Washing dishes or food for cooking is permitted
- Upon waking one may wash his eyes



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- One may not rinse or brush teeth
- If a person is in great discomfort, he/she may rinse mouth with a little water being careful not to swallow any

Working:

- Permitted, but is not recommended
- Taking a pleasure trip is forbidden

Miscellaneous:

- One may not greet a friend in the usual manner, but one may say “*Tizke benehamat Sion*” (May you merit the consolation of Zion) and the other replies “*Tizke Bebinyana*” (May you merit its rebuilding)
- After the fast is over everything that is prohibited becomes immediately permissible.

May G-D, as he promised the Prophets, turn these days of sadness and mourning into days of happiness and rejoicing.