

Three Weeks Leading to Tisha B' Av

Fast of the 17th of Tammuz: *On Thursday, July 9, we observe of the 17th of Tammuz. The fast begins at 4:17 AM. Shacharit will be davened privately, though we will convene over Zoom for Selichot at 8:30 AM. Mincha followed by Maariv is at 6:45 PM. The fast is over at 9:13 PM.*

Unlike Tisha B'Av, the Fast of Tammuz prohibits only eating and drinking.

Thursday marks the beginning of the three-week period between the 17th of Tammuz and the 9th of Av, during which we traditionally mourn, commemorate, and contemplate the destruction of the Temples, as well as all Jewish national tragedy. In accordance with this feeling, Jewish law restricts certain activities.

The following is a brief summary of those activities:

- 1) Getting a haircut or shaving (many permit shaving, if it is necessary for work and before Shabbat)
- 2) Getting married, as well as attending a wedding or any festive celebration (getting engaged is permitted)
- 3) Listening to live music (some prohibit recorded music as well)
- 4) Purchasing or wearing an item of particular significance, in that one would generally recite the blessing of "shehecheyanu" (e.g. a new suit, jewelry)

Beginning Wednesday, July 22, for the "Nine Days" preceding Tisha B'Av, there are several additional restrictions, as follows (customs vary for those of Sephardic origin):

- 1) Eating meat, including poultry (with the exception of Shabbat)
- 2) Drinking wine or grape juice (with the exception of Shabbat); the wine or grape juice from havdalah should be given to a child between the ages of 6-10 if one is available, and if not, an adult should drink it
- 3) Wearing freshly laundered clothing (on Shabbat this is permitted, as well as for small children)
- 4) Swimming and bathing for pleasure (one may bathe as necessary to clean one's self, preferably using colder water than usual)
- 5) Significant home improvements

Please feel free to contact Rabbi Albert with any questions or clarifications.

The three weeks conclude on **Tisha B'Av, beginning Wednesday night, July 29th and ending, Thursday, July 30th.** A full schedule for Tisha B'Av will be shared soon.

Let's hope and pray to experience the fulfillment of the Talmud's statement, "Those who properly mourn Jerusalem will merit to see her rebuilt."