

# Halakhot of the Three Weeks and Nine Days

## Halakhot of the Three Weeks: from the 17th of Tammuz until the 1st of Av.

*(Based on "A Summary of Halachos of the Three Weeks" by Rabbi Shimon D. Eider, Ztz"l, and based on the concise summary made by Rabbi Yermiyahu Ullman, Ohr Samayach, ohr.ed.)*

### Curtailling Rejoicing

1. Weddings should not be performed during this period.
2. Engagements may take place with a meal until the 1st of Av. From the 1st of Av until after Tisha B'Av they may take place with refreshments only.
3. Dancing and playing or listening to music is prohibited. A musician who earns his living by playing for non-Jews may do so until the 1st of Av. According to Rabbi Moshe Feinstein, Ztz"l, the prohibition against listening to music includes recorded music.
4. The custom is to refrain from reciting the blessing "Shehecheyanu" on new garments or fruit, except on Shabbat. Pregnant women or ill people who need the fruit may eat it normally. New garments that don't require this blessing may be purchased and worn until the 1st of Av.
- 5.

### Restrictions concerning Haircuts, Shaving, Cutting Nails

1. The custom is to refrain from taking a haircut, including the beard. An adult may not even give a haircut to a child.
2. Trimming the mustache is permitted if it interferes with eating. Combing and brushing the hair is permitted.
3. A person who usually shaves daily (in a permitted manner) and would suffer business or financial loss by not shaving, may do so until the 1st of Av, or at most until the Friday before Tisha B'Av. In any case, one should consult a competent rabbi.
4. A married woman may remove hair that protrudes from under her hair covering, and remove facial hair or hair of the body, including legs, that she considers unattractive.
5. Cutting the nails is permitted until the Friday before Tisha B'Av. Even then it is permitted for a woman before immersion, or for a man as well, in honor of the Shabbat (for example if Tisha B'Av is on Shabbat and postponed to Sunday, or if it is on Sunday itself).

## Halakhot of the Nine Days

*(Based on A Summary of Halachos of the Three Weeks, by Rabbi Shimon Eider, Ztz"l, and a summary by Rabbi Yirmiyahu Ullman of Ohr Sameah, Ohr.edu)*

In addition to the restrictions that apply to the entire three-week period, sent in a previous email, during the nine days between the 1st of Av until after Tisha B'Av the following restrictions on pleasure and joy also take effect:

### Activities of Pleasure and Joy

1. One should not purchase an object of joy or luxury that will be available after Tisha B'Av for the same price.
2. Building a structure not required for dwelling, such as a vacation house, should be suspended.
3. Painting, wallpapering and general home decoration should not be done.
4. Similarly, one should not plant or garden for pleasure.

## Eating Meat and Drinking Wine

1. 1. The custom is to refrain from eating meat and poultry or drinking wine and grape juice during the nine days. This also applies to children.
2. 2. The prohibition of meat includes foods cooked with meat or meat fat. However, foods cooked in a clean fleischig vessel are permissible.
3. 3. Eating meat and drinking wine is permitted for Shabbat. Even one who has ushered in the Shabbat on Friday afternoon before sunset, or extends the third meal of Shabbat into Saturday night may also eat meat and drink wine at those times.
4. 4. Similarly, one may drink the wine of Havdallah. Some have the custom to give the wine to a child of 5-6 years old, or to use beer for Havdallah.
5. 5. Meat and wine are also permitted at a meal in honor of a mitzvah like brit milah, pidyon ha-ben, and completing a tractate of Gemara or a Seder of Mishnah in the normal course of learning.
6. 6. A person who requires meat because of weakness or illness, including small children and pregnant or nursing women who have difficulty eating dairy, may eat meat. However, whenever possible poultry is preferable to meat.

## Laundering

1. 1. Laundering is prohibited even for use after Tisha B'Av. One may not even give clothing to a non-Jewish cleaner. (Although one may give it to him before the 1st of Av, even though he will wash it during the Nine Days.)
2. 2. The prohibition of laundering includes linens, tablecloths, and towels.
3. 3. A person who has no clean clothes may wash what he needs until the Shabbat before Tisha B'Av.
4. 4. Children's diapers and clothing that constantly get dirty may be washed as needed even during the week of Tisha B'Av, in private.
5. 5. Laundering for the purpose of a mitzvah is permitted.

## Wearing Freshly Laundered Clothing

1. 1. It is forbidden to wear freshly laundered clothing during the nine days. This includes all clothing except that which is worn to absorb perspiration.
2. 2. Therefore, the usual practice is to prepare before the Nine Days by wearing freshly laundered suits, pants, shirts, dresses, blouses and the like for a short time so that they may be worn during the Nine Days. Socks, undershirts and underwear need not be prepared in this way.
3. 3. The prohibition of using freshly laundered items applies to linens, tablecloths, and towels.
4. 4. One may wear freshly laundered Shabbat clothing, as well as use clean tablecloths and towels. Changing bed linen, though, is prohibited.
5. 5. Fresh garments and Shabbat clothing may be worn in honor of a mitzvah for example at a brit milah for the parents, mohel, and sandek.

## Wearing, Buying and Making New Clothes, Repairing Garments

1. 1. One may not buy new clothes or shoes during the Nine Days, even for use after Tisha B'Av, except in a case of great necessity, for example for one's wedding.
2. 2. If one forgot or was unable to buy special non-leather shoes needed for Tisha B'Av, such as sneakers or slippers, one may do so during the nine days.

3. 3. Repairing torn garments or shoes is permitted.

### Bathing and Swimming

1. 1. The custom is not to bathe for pleasure even in cold water. Bathing means full immersion in a bath. Washing hands, face and feet in cool water is permissible.
2. 2. Bathing in cold water for medical reasons or to remove dirt or perspiration is permitted. Cold water need not be street temperature: hot water may be added to cold water as long as the mixture is not comfortably warm.
3. 3. Shampooing with warm water is prohibited - unless it is required for medical reasons or to remove dirt and perspiration that will not come off otherwise.
4. 4. Swimming is prohibited except for medical reasons. Similarly, one may take a quick dip in a pool to remove dirt or sweat.
5. 5. Bathing for a mitzvah is permitted, therefore a woman who needs to bathe to prepare for her immersion in the Mikveh may do so in the normal way with hot water.
6. 6. A man who immerses in a mikva every Friday may do so in cold water this Friday. But one who omits immersing occasionally because he is too busy or because of the cold may not.
7. 7. One who bathes every Friday in honor of Shabbat with hot water, soap and shampoo may do so on the Friday before Tisha B'Av.