

Fast of 17th of Tammuz starts tomorrow, July 8, 2020

Fast starts: 5:18AM

Fast ends: 8:55PM

One should only fast if one is healthy and in good physical condition.

Five tragedies befell the Jewish people on the 17th of Tammuz

1. First tablets containing the ten commandments were broken by Moshe Rabbeinu as he descended from Mount Sinai by the sin of the golden calf.
2. The Korban Tamid, the two daily sacrifices were suspended during the time of the first temple.
3. The Romans broke down the walls of Jerusalem which eventually led to the destruction of the second temple.
4. The wicked Apostomos, who was a Greek general, burned every Sefer Torah he could find.
5. An idol was placed in the holy temple by king Menashe.

Halachos of the Three weeks

1. It is the custom not to shave or take haircuts.
2. One is not allowed to listen to music, whether it is live or recorded.
3. One should not bring upon oneself a requirement to say the brocha of shehecheyanu during the “three weeks.” Therefore, one should not buy items which would require the recitation of this blessing. Items of expensive clothing which require alteration may be purchased since the brocha of shehecheyanu is not recited until they are worn. However, they should not be worn for the first time during the “three weeks.”
4. Some halachic authorities allow the blessing of shehecheyanu to be recited on Shabbos during the “three weeks.”
5. It is permitted to buy new shirts, shoes, pants, etc. up until the period of the “nine days” since the brocha of shehecheyanu is not recited on these items.

**General Halachos pertaining to the period of the nine days that starts Rosh
Chodesh Av, Tuesday night, July 21, 2020**

1. One is not allowed to wash or iron clothing during the 9 days even if it is done by a non-Jew.
2. It is forbidden to wear new or freshly laundered garments during the 9 days (except underwear and socks). In case of need, one may rely on the opinion that permits changing shirts.
3. If one's clothing becomes soiled and one has no more clean clothing to wear, washing may be done during the week preceding Tisha B'Av.
4. It is permitted to wash all children's clothing during the week preceding Tisha B'Av.
5. It is forbidden to purchase any new clothing, including underwear and socks, during the "9 days" even if you only are going to wear them after Tisha B'Av! if one needs sneakers for Tisha B'av, one can buy them during the "9 days."
6. Linens (Except for a guest) and tablecloths should not be changed during the "9 Days." Freshly laundered tablecloths may be used on Shabbat.
7. One should not buy expensive items (e.g. furniture, silver, gold, jewelry, etc.) during the "9 days."
8. One should not weave, sew, or make alterations to new clothing. Fixing a minor tear or sewing back a button is ok, if needed.
9. One may not eat meat or chicken during the "9 days" except for Shabbos or a seudas mitzvah (e.g. bris milah, bar mitzvah, or finishing a tractate of the Talmud etc.).
10. It is forbidden to drink wine or grape Juice during the "9 Days," except on Shabbos. However, by Havdalah the wine should be given to a child who is older than five but younger than 9 years of age. If a child is not able to drink it, then an adult may drink it himself.
11. It is forbidden to shower or bathe for one's enjoyment or refreshment. Swimming is also not allowed. If one is sweaty, it is permitted to take a quick lukewarm shower.
12. A woman preparing for the mikva may wash with hot water in the usual manner.