

Erev Tisha B'Av- Shabbos July 17, 2021

- On Shabbos afternoon we will be davening Mincha at 6:00PM to allow everyone to then go home and partake of *seudah shlishis* before the fast. The *seudah hamafsekes* (special pre-fast meal consisting of plain bread and an egg) usually eaten on Erev Tisha B'Av is omitted this year. Instead, *seudah shlishis* is eaten and may include even meat and wine.
- The fast begins at 8:13PM (even though Shabbos is not yet over).
- Shabbos ends at 8:58PM, no Havdalah is recited on Motzei Shabbos (Sat. night). We do however say “*Baruch HaMavdil Bein Kodesh L'chol*” (blessed is He Who distinguishes between the sanctified and the mundane), before doing any *melachah*, and we recite the *berachah* of *borei me'orei ha'eish* over fire. We change into our weekday clothing and Tisha B'av shoes and then return to shul for Maariv at 9:15PM followed by Eichah.
- [An adult who is not fasting due to health concerns should recite havdalah over tea or coffee or beer before eating or drinking. They should recite just the blessing over the drink (i.e., *shehakol*) and the last blessing of Havdalah (*hamavdil*).]

Laws of Tisha B'Av – July 17-18, 2021

- The fast of Tisha B'Av is unique in that it begins at sunset of the previous day, (like Yom Kippur) unlike the other fast days which begins at sunrise.
- It is forbidden to wear leather shoes (ornamental strips of leather are permitted). Other leather items may be worn.
- One is not allowed to wash any part of one's body, even with cold water. Upon rising in the morning, after using the restroom, or before davening one ritually washes just their fingers, rather than the entire hand.
- If one becomes soiled, they may wash that area as necessary to remove the dirt.
- We do not “anoint” for pleasure, and therefore do not put on moisturizing cream, oil, perfume or cologne. Ointments that address ailments may be put on. Deodorant too may be put on.
- Marital relations are forbidden on Tisha B'av. If a woman is supposed to go to the Mikvah on Tisha B'av night, she postpones it until after the fast.
- It is customary to curtail comfort when sleeping on Tisha B'av (unless one is infirm, etc.). For example, one who normally sleeps with two pillows should sleep with one.

- We do not sit on a regular chair on Tisha B'Av (unless one is infirm, etc.) until after Chatzos (midday) Sunday July 18 1:27PM. One may, however, ride in a car.
- We refrain from greeting one another or giving gifts on Tisha B'Av. One who is greeted by another may return the greeting in a subdued tone.
- We do not engage in business or other distracting labors (unless it will result in a substantial loss), at least until midday (1:27PM).
- Tallis and Tefillin are not worn at Shacharis but are worn at Mincha. The Tallis Katan is worn all day without a berachah.
- It is forbidden to study most areas of Torah on Tisha B'Av. The laws of mourning, Tisha B'av, and topics in the Talmud and Midrash pertaining to the destruction of our Temple are permitted (e.g., the Book of Eichah, Iyov, the third Perek of Moed Katan, Gittin 55b-58a, Sanhedrin 104, etc.).

Sunday Night

- Havdalah is recited Sunday night after Tisha B'Av. Only the blessing of wine and *hamavdil* are said.
- Some mourning customs continue until midday of the 10th of Av (because the burning of the Temple continued through the 10th of Av), including restrictions on haircuts, meat and wine, and laundry.

כל המתאבל על ירושלים זוכה ורואה בשמחתה (תענית דף ל ע"ב)

All those who mourn for Jerusalem will merit to witness her joy (Taanis 30b)