

# PTDT

PhiloTorah D'var Torah

## Sedra & Calendar Confluence 3!

Three weeks, for Parshat Pinchas, I wrote about the irony of reading about the mitzva of the twice daily T'midim on the very date - 17 of Tamuz - that the T'midim ceased, leading up to the destruction of the Beit HaMikdash.

This is not just irony, but also it shows us the two vastly different directions that we, Bnei Yisrael, can go.

We can just keep fasting on 17th of Tamuz and its sister fasts - or - we can work towards the Geula, that will restore the Beit HaMikdash, the T'midim, and everything else that goes with it.

How? More Mitzvot. More Chesed. Better attitude towards Torah and Mitzvot. Spreading Torah & Chesed to our less observant fellow Jews in a pleasant way that will resonate with them. By increasing Aliya and K'lita. That's how (at least partially).

Last week, I started to write - but did not finish on time (it became my Shabbat morning D'var Torah in my Quadra Outdoor Minyan (yes, we still davewn outside).

I pointed out the irony of reading in Parshat Mas'ei, about the mitzva to live

in Eretz Yisrael, on the day following "As Av enters, we diminish joy". The rule of the Mishna was born back in the Midbar when 10 of 12 spies panicked the adult male population and the people lamented their having been taken out of Egypt to be killed in the Midbar. When HaShem said, I want you to go into Eretz Yisrael, and the people said they'd prefer the Midbar or return to Egypt. And the decree barring all adult males who came out of Mitzrayim - except for Kalev and Yehoshua, from entering the Land where G-d wants all Jews to be.

Which brings us to this Shabbat - D'varim-Chazon. In the sedra, Moshe Rabeinu is beginning his 37-day farewell address to the people.

It is almost as if he says to the people - I want to dwell upon one particular episode in the 40 year history of Am Yisrael. One that occurred on the 9th of Av. And even though we are at the beginning of Sh'vat in our 40th year of wandering, this weekly sedra which I am presenting to you now, will be read in the future right before or actually on, the 9th of Av.

Obviously, Moshe didn't say that to the people, but...

In Parshat D'varim, we find Moshe's detailed account of the first calamity associated with Tish'a b'Av - CHEIT HAMERAGLIM. But we also find the Torah's oft-repeated expression of R'TZOM HASHEM - His Will and Desire - to live in Eretz Yisrael. Choose wisely.