

# **Dvar Torah** by **Rabbi Chanoch Yeres**

to his community at

Beit Knesset Beit Yisrael, Yemin Moshe

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## **D'varim-Chazon**

The Book of D'varim is a summary of the forty-year sojourn of the Israelites in the desert. This week's Parsha focuses largely on the event of the spies. After hearing the spies' grim report of the Land of Israel, the Israelites cried on that night (14:1). The Midrash (Bamidbar 16:20 and the Talmud (Sota 35a) teach us that that very night was the night of Tish'a b'Av. G-d said, "You have wept gratuitously, I therefore shall designate this day for crying throughout the generations."

On a larger scale, the doom of Tish'a b'Av may refer to all the terrible misfortunes that have befallen the Jewish people on this day, it has a more specific reference to the destruction of the two Temples, that happened on this day.

Rabbi E. Bulka points out that the connection here between the wrongdoing and the consequent punishment is greater than it appears on the surface. It is more than just "You cried for no reason; I'll make you cry for a reason." It is not merely about the fact that they cried but why they cried. The nationwide cry was a sign of accepting the spies' report and

thereby, rejecting the Land of Israel. The destruction of the Temple and our ensuing exile was the Land of Israel rejecting us. With the event of the spies, the Israelites showed a complete lack of appreciation of this gift of the Land of Israel. Tish'a b'Av was therefore designated as the day that would always serve as a reminder to what happens when the Land of Israel does not receive the respect it deserves.

In these days, it should not be difficult to appreciate the importance of the Land of Israel and how hard we must fight to keep it. May the joint efforts of Klal Yisrael, worldwide, help bring the Redemption to us and transform this month from EIVEL (mourning) to Yom Tov, and may we all live in our Holy Land in peace and safety, with the rebuilding of the Beit HaMikdash. 🏯