

PHILOTORAH

לה"י

יהי רצון מלפניך ה' אלהינו וא'להי אבותינו שתשלח מהרה רפואה שלמה מן השמים, רפואת הנפש ורפואת הגוף לפצועי המלחמה, ולנפגעי מעשי טרור ואנטישמיות בישראל ובכל מקום שהם - עם שאר חולי ישראל. אמן.

May HaShem protect our soldiers; may He send Refu'ah Sh'leima to the many injured; may He console the bereaved families and all of Israel; may He end these wars with total success and peace for Medinat Yisrael and Klal Yisrael wherever we are.



YERUSHALAYIM in/out times for **BALAK**

י"ב תמוז ה'תשפ"ו • June 26-27, '26

 **7:14PM** Plag **6:20PM**  **8:31PM** R' Tam **9:01PM**

Use the Z'MANIM link for other locales



Kiddush L'vana

Last opportunity for KL this month is Monday night (a.k.a. Leil Sh'lishi), June 29th, the eve of the 15th of Tamuz - until 1:50am (of June 30th).

Shiv'a Asar b'Tamuz

The fast of Shiv'a Asar b'Tamuz is on Thursday, July 2nd, this year.

It begins at ALOT HASHACHAR, dawn - In Jerusalem, 4:10am and ends at TZEIT HAKOCHAVIM, stars-out, 8:20pm.

(You might see different times on different calendars; these times are from the CHAZON SHAMAYIM calendar, which PhiloTorah uses and considers to be the most accurate. Also, the dawn time is based on 72 minutes before sunrise rather than 90 minutes that some calendars use.)

The mishna in Masechet Taanit (4:6) tells us that five calamities occurred to our ancestors on the 17th of Tamuz and five on Tish'a b'Av.

On 17 Tamuz, the (first) Luchot were broken (i.e. the sin of the golden calf), the daily korbanot (morning and afternoon lambs) ceased (prior to the first Churban), the city (Jerusalem) was breached (prior to the destruc-

tion of the second Beit HaMikdash; the breach of Jerusalem the first time was on 9 Tamuz), Apostimus burned the Torah (no certainty who he was or what year this happened), and an idol was placed in the Heichal (main sanctuary of the Beit HaMikdash).

Interesting - and important - to note that of the five calamities listed for Shiv'a Asar b'Tamuz, four of them are related to Churban Beit HaMikdash in some way, and the first - is an event that occurred in the time of Dor HaMidbar, when Bnei Yisrael had just left Egypt.

Doubly interesting is that we can say the same thing about the five calamities associated with Tish'a b'Av - four are connected to the Churban and the first on the list - the Sin of the Spies - belongs to Dor HaMidbar.

While the Three Weeks (a.k.a. Bein HaMeitzarim) is the mourning period for the destructions of the Batei Mikdash, we need also to focus on the 'foundation' calamities which opened the door, so to speak, for other calamities to occur.

It can be said that a building - any building, but especially The Building - that has a flawed foundation, cannot last forever.

Cheit HaEigel and Cheit HaMeraglim indicated the existence of flaws in us - the People of Israel. The only way to

guarantee that the next Beit HaMikdash will be part of the Geula Sh'leima, is to perfect ourselves.

Shiv'a Asar b'Tamuz (and the other fast days) is not just for not eating and drinking.

It is a day for serious introspection and T'shuva. We are promised by HKBH, via the Navi Zechariya, that the fast days associated with the Churban will become Yamim Tovim - as Rabbi Sprecher z"l like to say, with the addition of the letter "e", the fast days will become feast days.

It is up to each of us to do our share in repairing and erasing the causes of the Churban, by the aforementioned T'shuva and the spread of Torah and Mitzvot and Chesed throughout the Jewish World.

Having mentioned Rabbi Sprecher z"l, let me add an insightful point I heard from him.

The fact that with the building of the Third Beit HaMikdash, we will stop fasting and mourning on the four fast days - 17 Tamuz, Tish'a b'Av, Tzom Gedaliya, and Asara b'Tevet, makes sense. But why will those sad, mournful days become Yamim Tovim?

Imagine what would have happened had there not been the sin of the golden calf. Following the great day of Revelation at Sinai, Moshe Rabeinu ascended Har Sinai to spend forty

days and forty nights receiving all of the Torah - what was to be Written and the Oral explanations. Meanwhile, the People of Israel eagerly awaited his return. And when Moshe came down the mountain with the Aseret HaDibrot, imagine the joy the people would have felt. Z'man Matan Torateinu, part two. That day - the 17th of Tamuz - would have been a festive day. The beginning of a life of Torah and Mitzvot.

That is the Yom Tov that will become of Shiv'a Asar b'Tamuz with the building of the Beit HaMikdash, BIMHEIRA V'YAMEINU - AMEIN!

So too for the 9th of Av. Imagine the meraglim returning with glowing reports and speaking enthusiastically of the next step in G-d's plan for us - entry into Eretz Yisrael.

That is the Yom Tov that will become of Tish'a b'Av with the Geula Sh'leima, BIMHEIRA V'YAMEINU - AMEIN!