



# The Feasts of Israel

## 11. Tisha B'Av- Fast of the Fifth Month

### *Introduction to Tisha B'Av*



Abraham was chosen by God, to be the person through whom the Messiah would come and through whom God would create a nation. Abraham was called from Ur of the Chaldeans, where Iraq is located.<sup>1</sup> Later Abraham's descendants, Jacob (Israel)<sup>2</sup> and his 12 sons would migrate to Egypt and be delivered by Moses after 400-years. Joshua would then lead the nation into the land of Palestine or Canaan, still later the nation would be established as a nation under king Saul and then David.

In this process of time, God established a way his people should approach Him. First it was at the Tabernacle, literally a mobile Temple, until God chose the location where a permanent Temple location would be established. Eventually during the time of David, God chose the hill of Moriah in Jerusalem, there the son of David, Solomon completed construction of the

Temple of God. This is the only location; the Jews can offer sacrifice to atone for their sins. God blessed its completion in I Kings 8 when Solomon completed construction in 960 B.C.



1Ki 9:1-9 ESV

(1) As soon as Solomon had finished building the house of the LORD and the king's house and all that Solomon desired to build,

(2) the LORD appeared to Solomon a second time, as he had appeared to him at Gibeon.

(7) **then I will cut off Israel from the land that I have given them, and the house that I have consecrated for my name I will cast out of my sight,** and Israel will become a proverb and a byword among all peoples.

(8) And this house will become a heap of ruins. Everyone passing by it will be astonished and will hiss, and they will say, 'Why has the LORD done thus to this land and to this house?'

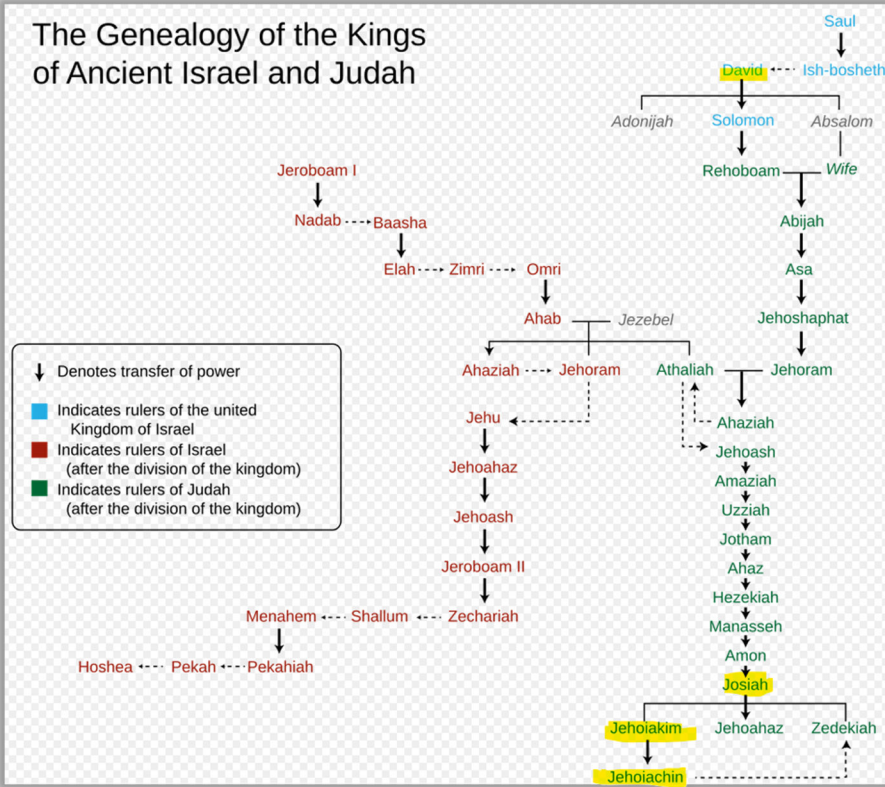
(9) Then they will say, 'Because they abandoned the LORD their God who brought their fathers out of the land of

<sup>1</sup> Genesis 11:31, Genesis 12 Abraham's father was Terah and the family traveled to Haran Syria from Ur. It was in Ur, that God called Abraham to travel to Moriah, (Jerusalem), there God promised his blessings on Abraham and his descendants (Genesis 13-22).

<sup>2</sup> Jacob was renamed Israel by God at the river Peniel, meaning one who struggles with God. (Genesis 32:28)

Egypt and laid hold on other gods and worshiped them and served them. Therefore the LORD has brought all this disaster on them.”

### The Genealogy of the Kings of Ancient Israel and Judah



falls  
10<sup>th</sup> of Av.

on a Sabbath, the fast is held on the

The Temple Solomon completed in 960 BC was destroyed by the Babylonians on 9<sup>th</sup> Day of the fifth month, or the month of Av. Tisha B’Av means the 9<sup>th</sup> day of Av, when the First Temple was destroyed in 586 BC. The Temple was reconstructed during the reign of the Persians (Iran), but was destroyed again in AD 70, also on the 9<sup>th</sup> Day of Av or Tisha B’Av. So, the First and Second Temple were both destroyed on the same day, over 650 years apart. Therefore, observant Jews fast on this day to remember the destruction of the First and Second Temples. The Jewish month of Av corresponds with July or August on our solar calendar. If the day

### The Record of Tisha B’Av



God established the Temple as the way He chose to meet with His people, but the Temple and the people in land were conditional on their obedience to God’s Word. If the people of Israel rebelled and worshipped other gods God promised to destroy the Temple and cast the children of Israel out of the land of Israel (I Kings 9:7).

The tragic story of Tisha B’Av is that was fulfilling his promise of judgment for disobedience by allowing the Temple to be destroyed and the Jewish people scattered to the nations.

The books of Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel and Daniel give us a very vivid account of Israel/Judah’s<sup>3</sup> apostasy leading to the First Temple’s destruction. Judah’s last good king was Josiah, his sons would be last kings of Judah, descended from the line of David. One of his sons was Jehoiakim, succeeded him, after his father was killed Pharaoh Neco of Egypt at Megiddo in 608 BC (2 Kings 23:30). After 3 years, Babylon attacked Judah, making Judah a vassal of

<sup>3</sup> Israel was the name of the nation, after the name given to Jacob, his 12 sons descendants would later be names of the 12 tribes of Israel. After David, the kingdom of Israel was divided into to kingdoms, Israel in the north consisted of 10 tribes, while Judah in the south consisted of two tribes. Israel was scattered by Assyria in 722 BC, and later Judah would be scattered by Babylon in 586 BC.



Babylon. Hostages were taken, including Daniel and his three friends (Daniel 1), they were descendants of David's royal line.

MONTH	LENGTH	DATE	HOLIDAY
1. Nisan	30 days	Nisan 14 Nisan 15-21 Nisan 16	Passover Unleavened Bread Firstfruits
2. Iyar	29 days		
3. Sivan	30 days	Sivan 6	Shavuot (Weeks)
4. Tammuz	29 days		
5. Av	30 days	Av 9	Tisha B'Av
6. Elul	29 days		
7. Tishri	30 days	Tishri 1 Tishri 10 Tishri 15-21	Rosh Hashanah Yom Kippur Sukkot (Tabernacles)
8. Heshvan	29 or 30 days		
9. Kislev	29 or 30 days	Kislev 25- Tevet 2/3	Hanukkah
10. Tevet	29 days		
11. Shevat	30 days		
12. Adar	29 days (30 in leap year)	Adar 14	Purim

During this period, God sent the prophet Jeremiah to warn the nation of their sin and the judgment that would follow if they refused to repent. Jeremiah was a priest who was persecuted by the kings and the authorities for his firm stand against idolatry. The scribe Baruch accompanied Jeremiah, as he confronted Jehoiakim with his sin. Jehoiakim burned the words of Jeremiah, cutting them with a knife and tossing them into the fire (Jeremiah 36). An outright rejection of God's Word. Babylon was God's judgment for sin, Jeremiah even calls Nebuchadnezzar the pagan king, a servant of God. Jeremiah urged the kings to accept God's judgment and live.

**Jr 7:30-34 ESV**

(30) "For the sons of Judah have done evil in my sight, declares the LORD. They have set their detestable things in the house that is called by my name, to defile it.(31) And they have built the high places of Topheth, which is in the Valley of the Son of Hinnom, to burn their sons and their daughters in the fire, which I did not command, nor did it come into my mind.

(32) Therefore, behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when it will no more be called Topheth, or the Valley of the Son of Hinnom, but the Valley of Slaughter; for they will bury in Topheth, because there is no room elsewhere.

(33) And the dead bodies of this people will be food for the birds of the air, and for the beasts of the earth, and none will frighten them away. (34) And I will silence in the cities of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem the voice of mirth and the voice of

gladness, the voice of the bridegroom and the voice of the bride, for the land shall become a waste.

Jehoiakim rebelled against Babylon, and was killed, his son Jehoiachin was installed in his place in 597 BC, but he was taken to Babylon. Jehoiachin was part of a group of 10,000 captives taken, including the prophet, Ezekiel. Ezekiel later testifies about the sins taking place in Jerusalem. Zedekiah, Jehoiakim's uncle, Josiah third son, replaced him, Jeremiah urged him to not rebel against Babylon, to repent and accept the Lord's judgment. But he was weak, and listened to his advisors and rebelled, looking to Egypt for help, rejecting Jeremiah.

**Eze 8:14-18 ESV**

(14) Then he brought me to the entrance of the north gate of the house of the LORD, and behold, there sat women weeping for Tammuz.

(15) Then he said to me, "Have you seen this, O son of man? You will see still greater abominations than these."

(16) And he brought me into the inner court of the house of the LORD. And behold, at the entrance of the temple of the LORD, between the porch and the altar, were about twenty-five men, with their backs to the temple of the LORD, and their faces toward the east, worshiping the sun toward the east.

(17) Then he said to me, "Have you seen this, O son of man? Is it too light a thing for the house of Judah to commit the abominations that they commit here, that they should fill the land with violence and provoke me still further to anger? Behold, they put the branch to their nose.

(18) Therefore I will act in wrath. My eye will not spare, nor will I have pity. And though they cry in my ears with a loud voice, I will not hear them."

The Babylonian army returned for the third time in 586 BC, they besieged the city, and it fell on the 9<sup>th</sup> of Av. The Babylonians killed the sons of Zedekiah before him, then Zedekiah was blinded and marched off to Babylon. The Temple was destroyed and stripped of its treasure; the people were slaughtered with some escaping into Egypt. Jeremiah had prophesied this captivity would last seventy years (Jeremiah 25:12).

2Ki 25:8 ESV

(8) In the fifth month, on the seventh day of the month—that was the nineteenth year of King Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon—Nebuzaradan, the captain of the bodyguard, a servant of the king of Babylon, came to Jerusalem.

Jeremiah wrote the book of Lamentations, he recorded the pain of the event, but in a final act of rebellion, he was taken to Egypt along with the rebels who rejected his words of warning (Jeremiah 43). Zechariah a prophet of the Second Temple period, noted that the fast in the fifth month, involving mourning and weeping was a national day of mourning (Zechariah 8:19, 7:3,5)

Lam 1:1-2 ESV

(1) How lonely sits the city that was full of people! How like a widow has she become, she who was great among the nations! She who was a princess among the provinces has become a slave.

(2) She weeps bitterly in the night, with tears on her cheeks; among all her lovers she has none to comfort her; all her friends have dealt treacherously with her; they have become her enemies.

## The Second Temple

The Jews were in Babylon, which was later defeated by Persia under the reign of Cyrus the



Great, he allowed them to return to Jerusalem and rebuild the Second Temple (516 BC). As Jeremiah prophesied, this took place seventy years after the First Temple was destroyed. When Israel rejected Jesus as Messiah, as prophesied by the Daniel the prophet (Daniel 9:26)<sup>4</sup>, the Second Temple was destroyed by the Romans on the 9<sup>th</sup> of Av, AD 70. Jesus warned this day was coming.

Mat 23:37-39, Mat 24:1-2 ESV

(37) “O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often would I have gathered your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing!

(38) See, your house is left to you desolate.

(39) For I tell you, you will not see me again, until you say, ‘Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.’”

(1) Jesus left the temple and was going away, when his disciples came to point out to him the buildings of the temple.

(2) But he answered them, “You see all these, do you not? Truly, I say to you, there will not be left here one stone upon another that will not be thrown down.”

Josephus was an eyewitness to the Roman destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple, he was a Jewish general who was captured by Rome, he gives a very detailed account known as *The Jewish War*<sup>5</sup>. The Romans also commemorate the destruction of the Second Temple with the Arch of Titus.



## Other Calamities

The destruction of the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Temples are not the only events that occurred on Tisha B’Av, several other national tragedies have also happened making it a National Day of Remembrance.

In A.D. 135, the Romans under the Emperor Hadrian crushed the Jewish rebellion at Betar, over 580,000 Jews were killed. In A.D.

<sup>4</sup> Dan 9:26 MKJV (26) And after sixty-two weeks Messiah shall be cut off, but not for Himself. And the people of the ruler who shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary. And the end of it shall be with the flood, and ruins are determined, until the end shall be war.

<sup>5</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The\\_Jewish\\_War](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Jewish_War)

1290<sup>6</sup> all the Jews were expelled from England on Tisha B'Av under the reign of Edward I. In A.D. 1492, Ferdinand and Isabella, the Catholic monarchs of Spain forced the Jews to convert to Catholicism or to be burned at the stake.

This again fulfills prophecy regarding the Jewish people, two times they were scattered as a nation, first in 586 BC under Babylon and then in AD 70 by the Romans. God ultimately promises a day of restoration in Deuteronomy 30:1-10.

Deu 28:64-65 ESV

(64) "And the LORD will scatter you among all peoples, from one end of the earth to the other, and there you shall serve other gods of wood and stone, which neither you nor your fathers have known.(65) And among these nations you shall find no respite, and there shall be no resting place for the sole of your foot, but the LORD will give you there a trembling heart and failing eyes and a languishing soul.



### A Time of Mourning

This day is remembered as somber day, like the mourning of the death of a loved one with similar customs. The national grieving begins in the month of Tammuz, the month the Babylonian forces crossed the walls of Jerusalem (2 Kings 25:4). This period is called "*Three Weeks or Between the Straits*" taken from Lamentations 1:3, during this period no weddings or festive celebrations are held. For the more serious, no weddings or celebrations are held.

On the first day of the month of Av, mourning becomes intense, wine and meat are not consumed because they are viewed as foods of celebration, dairy is consumed instead. The final meal before the "Fast" of Tisha B'Av is round shaped foods, because they symbolize eternity, such as eggs, lentils, rolls and bagels, foods traditionally eaten after a funeral.

According to Kevin Howard, author of *The Feasts of the Lord*<sup>7</sup>, he writes.

"Since Tisha B'Av is a major fast day, all food and drink is banned. On this day it is also forbidden to wear shoes, bathe, wear perfume, shave, wash clothes or exchange greetings. Mirrors are traditionally covered, and mourners sit on the ground or a low stool just as one would do when mourning the loss of a loved one....Synagogue lights are dimmed, and only a few candles are lit to symbolize the great darkness Israel suffered when the Temple was destroyed...Worshippers sit on low benches or on the floor and remove their shoes as a sign of mourning. Worshippers sometimes also sprinkle ashes on their heads and on Torah scrolls.

The mood for the synagogue service is somber. Prayers and Scripture readings are changed in hushed, melancholy tones. The assigned scripture reading from the Prophets is Jeremiah 8:13-9:23 where the prophet is overcome by agony and grief at the sin of the people. The entire scroll of the Lamentations is also read during the service. Worshippers listen with aching hearts to the intense distress of Jeremiah"

<sup>6</sup> In 1290, King Edward I expelled all Jews from England, making England the first European country to do so. The expulsion was ordered by the Edict of Expulsion, which was issued on July 18, 1290

<sup>7</sup> *The Feasts of the Lord*, Kevin Howard, Marvin Rosenthal, Thomas Nelson, 1997, Pgs. 155-156



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## 'Walking as free people': Jews flock to Temple Mount for Tisha B'Av prayers

The numerous Jewish ascents since the early morning hours proceeded with almost no friction, with Jews singing the national anthem and holding Israeli flags.

By Hanan Greenwood — Published on 08-12-2024 21:30 — Last modified: 08-13-2024 17:58



*Israel*

The Dome of The Rock, the Third Most Holy site in Islam sits on the location of the First and Second Temples. Israel took possession of the Temple Mount in 1967, as a result the Six Day War<sup>8</sup>, in 1995 the Israeli courts approved Tisha B'Av as the one day Jews may pray on the Temple Mount.

*Future Fulfillment*

The mourning for the Temples' destruction is temporary, the punishment for turning from the Lord's Word and the rejection of Messiah (Daniel 9:24-27). The day

is coming when Israel will rejoice on that day, Zechariah prophesies it will be a day of rejoicing, it will happen when Isreal recognizes their Messiah.

Zec 8:19 ESV  
(19) "Thus says the LORD of hosts: The fast of the fourth month and the fast of the fifth and the fast of the seventh and the fast of the tenth shall be to the house of Judah seasons of joy and gladness and cheerful feasts. Therefore love truth and peace.

Ultimately in the Millennium, Jesus will build the Temple, it will be the capital of the earth and Israel will receive all the blessings of obedience promised to them for being an obedient nation.

Zec 6:12 ESV  
(12) And say to him, 'Thus says the LORD of hosts, "Behold, the man whose name is the Branch: for he shall branch out from his place, and he shall build the temple of the LORD.



Zec 8:1-23 ESV  
(1) And the word of the LORD of hosts came, saying,  
(2) "Thus says the LORD of hosts: I am jealous for Zion with great jealousy, and I am jealous for her with great wrath.  
(3) Thus says the LORD: I have returned to Zion and will dwell in the midst of Jerusalem, and Jerusalem shall be called the faithful city, and the mountain of the LORD of hosts, the holy mountain.  
(4) Thus says the LORD of hosts: Old men and old women shall again sit in the streets of Jerusalem, each with staff in hand because of great age.  
(5) And the streets of the city shall be full of boys and girls playing in its streets.  
(6) Thus says the LORD of hosts: If it is marvelous in the sight of the remnant of this people in those days, should it also be marvelous in my sight, declares the

LORD of hosts?  
(7) Thus says the LORD of hosts: Behold, I will save my people from the east country and from the west country,

<sup>8</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Six-Day\\_War](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Six-Day_War)

- (8) and I will bring them to dwell in the midst of Jerusalem. And they shall be my people, and I will be their God, in faithfulness and in righteousness.”
- (9) Thus says the LORD of hosts: “Let your hands be strong, you who in these days have been hearing these words from the mouth of the prophets who were present on the day that the foundation of the house of the LORD of hosts was laid, that the temple might be built.
- (10) For before those days there was no wage for man or any wage for beast, neither was there any safety from the foe for him who went out or came in, for I set every man against his neighbor.
- (11) But now I will not deal with the remnant of this people as in the former days, declares the LORD of hosts.
- (12) For there shall be a sowing of peace. The vine shall give its fruit, and the ground shall give its produce, and the heavens shall give their dew. And I will cause the remnant of this people to possess all these things.
- (13) And as you have been a byword of cursing among the nations, O house of Judah and house of Israel, so will I save you, and you shall be a blessing. Fear not, but let your hands be strong.”
- (14) For thus says the LORD of hosts: “As I purposed to bring disaster to you when your fathers provoked me to wrath, and I did not relent, says the LORD of hosts,
- (15) so again have I purposed in these days to bring good to Jerusalem and to the house of Judah; fear not.
- (16) These are the things that you shall do: Speak the truth to one another; render in your gates judgments that are true and make for peace;
- (17) do not devise evil in your hearts against one another, and love no false oath, for all these things I hate, declares the LORD.”
- (18) And the word of the LORD of hosts came to me, saying,
- (19) “Thus says the LORD of hosts: The fast of the fourth month and the fast of the fifth and the fast of the seventh and the fast of the tenth shall be to the house of Judah seasons of joy and gladness and cheerful feasts. Therefore love truth and peace.
- (20) “Thus says the LORD of hosts: Peoples shall yet come, even the inhabitants of many cities.
- (21) The inhabitants of one city shall go to another, saying, ‘Let us go at once to entreat the favor of the LORD and to seek the LORD of hosts; I myself am going.’
- (22) Many peoples and strong nations shall come to seek the LORD of hosts in Jerusalem and to entreat the favor of the LORD.
- (23) Thus says the LORD of hosts: In those days ten men from the nations of every tongue shall take hold of the robe of a Jew, saying, ‘Let us go with you, for we have heard that God is with you.’”