

Why
We
Weep

Why We Weep

A collection of essays from many of the greatest roshei yeshivah and rabbanim of our generation, discussing the reasons why we mourn the Beis Hamikdash and how we can help rebuild it.

Arranged for daily study throughout Bein Hametzarim.

*Introduction and translation
of select kinnos
from Harav Yisroel Belsky zt"l.*

*The laws of the Three Weeks
and Tishah B'Av, translated from the sefer
Shloshim Yom Kodem Hachag.*

*Compiled by Shlomie Dickman
Tammuz 5775*

זכות לימוד התורה בספר זה
הוקדש לעילוי נשמת אבי
ר' ברוך חיים
בן אריה ליב ז"ל דיקמאן
שחל"ח ג' שבט תשע"ט

FIRST EDITION June 2015
SECOND EDITION July 2015
THIRD EDITION May 2019

All RIGHTS RESERVED

*Please send any
comments or questions
regarding this sefer to
asdictman1@gmail.com
or call (347) 439-3294.*

*Printed by:
Machon Aleh Zayis
(732) 513-3466*

*Distributed by:
Israel Bookshop Publications
(732) 901-3009*

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Shivah Asar B' Tammuz

The Breaking of the Covenant.....3

HARAV AHARON FELDMAN SHLIT"A
ROSH YESHIVAS NER YISROEL, BALTIMORE, MD.

The Breach of the Walls.....8

HARAV YISROEL REISMAN SHLIT"A
ROSH YESHIVAS TORAH VODAATH, BROOKLYN, N.Y.

The 18th of Tammuz

Prepare to Mourn.....13

HARAV NOACH ISAAC OELBAUM SHLIT"A
RAV D'KHAL NACHLAS YITZCHOK, QUEENS, N.Y.

The 19th of Tammuz

Face Yerushalayim.....17

HARAV MATTISYAHU SALOMON SHLIT"A
MASHGLACH RUCHNI BETH MEDRASH GOVOHA, LAKEWOOD, N.J.

The 20th of Tammuz

Exalting the Degraded and Degrading the Exalted.....23

HARAV ELYA BER WACHTFOGEL SHLIT"A
ROSH YESHIVAS ZICHRON MOSHE, SOUTH FALLSBURG, N.Y.

The 21st of Tammuz

This Year's Eulogy.....29

HARAV ELYA BRUDNY SHLIT"A
ROSH YESHIVAS MIR, BROOKLYN, N.Y.

The 22nd of Tammuz

We Are Allies, Not Enemies.....34

HARAV YISSOCHER FRAND SHLIT"A
R"M YESHIVAS NER YISRAEL, BALTIMORE, MD.

The 23rd Tammuz

Feeling the Destruction..... 41

HARAV YERUCHEM OLSHIN SHLIT" A

ROSH YESHIVAS BETH MEDRASH GOVOHA, LAKEWOOD, N.J.

The 24th of Tammuz

Building the Beis Hamikdash within Ourselves..... 46

HARAV PAYSACH KROHN SHLIT" A

AUTHOR "THE MAGGID" SERIES, QUEENS, N.Y.

The 25th of Tammuz

The Divine Presence in Exile..... 53

HARAV GAMLIEL RABINOWITZ SHLIT" A

R" M YESHIVAS SHAAR HASHAMAYIM, YERUSHALAYIM

The 26th of Tammuz

Anticipating Mashiach..... 58

HARAV DOVID YOSEF SHLIT" A

ROSH YESHIVAS YACHAVAH DAAS, YERUSHALAYIM

The 27th of Tammuz

**The Role of the Beis Hamikdash
and the Sins That Caused Its Destruction..... 62**

HARAV DOVID COHEN SHLIT" A

ROSH YESHIVAS CHEVRON, YERUSHALAYIM

The 28th of Tammuz

The Beis Hamikdash That Dovid Hamelech Built..... 66

HARAV YISROEL REISMAN SHLIT" A

ROSH YESHIVAS TORAH VODAATH, BROOKLYN, N.Y.

The 29th of Tammuz

The Sin of the Meraglim and How to Rectify It.....72

HARAV YITZCHAK BERKOVITS SHLIT" A
ROSH KOLLELIM LINAS TZEDEK, YERUSHALAYIM

Rosh Chodesh Av

The Month of Av — The Influence of Aharon Hakohen.....76

HARAV TZVI MEIR ZILBERBERG SHLIT" A
ROSH CHABURAS NACHLAS YAAKOV, YERUSHALAYIM

The 2nd of Av

Klal Yisrael's Desire to Do Teshuvah..... 80

HARAV FEIVEL COHEN SHLIT" A
AUTHOR "BADAI HASHULCHAN" SERIES, LAKEWOOD, N.J.

The 3rd of Av

The Beis Hamikdash — A Jew's Lifeline..... 85

HARAV YAAKOV LANDAU SHLIT" A
R" M YESHIVAS TORAH TEMIMAH, BROOKLYN, N.Y.

The 4th of Av

Connecting to Hashem..... 91

HARAV AVROHOM AUSBAND SHLIT" A
ROSH YESHIVAS TELSHE ALUMNI, RIVERDALE, N.Y.

The 5th of Av

Call upon the Lamenters and They Shall Come.....98

HARAV ASHER ARIELI SHLIT" A
R" M YESHIVAS MIR, YERUSHALAYIM

The 6th of Av

Finding Hashem.....104

HARAV MORDECHAI SILVER SHLIT" A
STITCHIN REBBE, BROOKLYN, N.Y.

The 7th of Av

Learning Hilchos Lashon Hara.....111

HARAV YITZCHOK SCHEINER SHLIT" A
ROSH YESHIVAS KAMINETZ, YERUSHALAYIM

Yerushalayim Within Us.....113

HARAV MATTISYAHU SALOMON SHLIT" A
MASHGIACH RUCHNI BETH MEDRASH GOVOHA, LAKEWOOD, N.J.

The 8th of Av

Like a Dead Body.....117

HARAV ASHER DOVID MAY SHLIT" A
ROSH KOLLEL D'KHAL BETH TEFILLAH, MONSEY, N.Y.

Tzipisa L'yeshuah — Waiting for Mashiach.....125

HARAV DOVID GOLDWASSER SHLIT" A
RAV D'KHAL BNEI YITZCHAK, BROOKLYN, N.Y.

Tishah B'Av

The Essence of Tishah B'Av.....129

HARAV ZEV LEFF SHLIT" A
RAV D'MOSHAV MATITYAHU, ERETZ YISRAEL

Tishah B'av after Chatzos

The Beginning of the Redemption.....142

HARAV TZVI MEIR ZILBERBERG SHLIT" A
ROSH CHABURAS NACHLAS YAAKOV, YERUSHALAYIM

The 10th of Av

Mourning the Churban throughout the Year.....147

HARAV ZEV SMITH SHLIT" A
MAGGID SHIUR IRGUN SHIUREI TORAH, BROOKLYN, N.Y.

Shabbos Nachamu

The Birth of Our Mashiach.....157

HARAV MORDECHAI SILVER SHLIT" A
STITCHIN REBBE, BROOKLYN, N.Y.

Understanding Suffering and Salvation.....159

HARAV YITZCHOK SOROTZKIN SHLIT" A
ROSH YESHIVAS LAKEWOOD MESIVTA, LAKEWOOD, N.J.

A Double Comfort.....164

HARAV ZEV LEFF SHLIT" A
RAV MOSHAV MATITYAHU, ERETZ YISRAEL

Asarah B' Teves

When the Lights Were Darkened.....169

HARAV ARYEH MALKIEL KOTLER SHLIT" A
ROSH YESHIVAS BETH MEDRASH GOVOHA, LAKEWOOD, N.J.



Introduction and Translation of Kinnos.....175

HARAV YISROEL BELSKY ZT" L
ROSH YESHIVAS TORAH VODAATH, BROOKLYN, N.Y.



HALACHOS OF PUBLIC FAST DAYS.....269

HALACHOS OF THE THREE WEEKS.....279

HALACHOS OF THE NINE DAYS.....283

HALACHOS OF EREV TISHAH B'AV.....296

HALACHOS OF TISHAH B'AV.....301

HALACHOS OF THE NIGHT AFTER TISHAH B'AV.....314

HALACHOS OF MOURNING THE BEIS HAMIKDASH ALL YEAR...315



MATERIAL AND PRODUCTION CREDITS

Why We Weep

Shivah Asar
B'Tammuz

THE BREAKING OF THE COVENANT

HARAV AHARON FELDMAN

Chazal tell us that five calamities transpired on Shivah Asar B'Tammuz — the seventeenth day of Tammuz.

1. When Moshe Rabbeinu descended from Mount Sinai with the first *Luchos* in his hands and he found the Jewish People worshiping the Golden Calf, he threw the *Luchos* to the ground — breaking them.

2. Toward the end of the era of the Second Beis Hamikdash, a Greek general named Apostomos publicly burnt a *sefer Torah*. [Some commentaries say that he burned the special Torah that was written by Ezra Hasofer, which had been used to verify the accuracy of all other *sifrei Torah*.]

3. The Gentile armies that controlled Yerushalayim prevented the daily sacrifice (*Korban Tamid*) from being brought again. [There is a dispute among the commentators when this took place. Some say it was toward the end of the First Beis Hamikdash, while others believe it was toward the end of the Second Beis Hamikdash.]

4. An idol was erected in the Beis Hamikdash. [There is a dispute if this refers to the idol erected by the evil Jewish king, Menasheh, who lived during the era of the First Beis Hamikdash, or if it refers to an idol erected by Apostomos.]

5. The walls of Yerushalayim were breached, leading to the destruction of the Second Beis Hamikdash.

The Covenant

Hashem formed a *bris* (covenant) between Himself and the Jewish People. The concept of a *bris* means that two disparate parties become a single entity. At the *Bris Bein Habesarim* (*Bereishis* 15:10-17), Avram walked between two rows of animals cut in half to symbolize that he and Hashem are two halves of one whole. The *bris* between Hashem and the Jewish People meant the beginning of a relationship in which Hashem undertook to be close to us and to maintain us as a nation forever, and in which the Jewish People undertook to devote themselves totally to the service of Hashem.

For this *bris* to be effective, three components are necessary:

1. There must be a desire by Hashem to bestow His goodness upon His people.

2. The Jewish People must reach out to Hashem in a yearning to come closer to Him.

3. There must be a connecting element between Hashem and His people. The expression of these three components is effected by the following:

The Torah is the way through which Hashem's goodness is brought down to the Jewish People. The Torah is the revelation of Hashem's will to the world, and Hashem relates to the world to the extent that there is Torah in the world.

As for the second component, the Jewish People's yearning to come close to Hashem is expressed through their devotion to His service, in particular through the *avodah* of the *korbanos* in the Beis Hamikdash.

Finally, the place where the bonding between Hashem and His people takes place is the Beis Hamikdash. Through the Beis Hamikdash, the wisdom of the Torah (the first

component) flows down to the Jewish People, and they are enabled to understand it to its fullest extent. As the *navi* tells us (*Eichah* 2:9) מְלָכָה וְשָׂרֵיהָ בְּגוֹיִם אֵין תּוֹרָה — *her kings and rulers are among the nations, there is no torah*, when the Beis Hamikdash is destroyed and the Jewish People are dispersed, there is no Torah. Conversely, when there is a Beis Hamikdash, there is Torah in its full force.

The second component of the *bris*, namely *avodah*, is most obviously affected by the loss of the Beis Hamikdash. Our *avodah* is seriously compromised when we can no longer offer the sacrifices that drew us close to Hashem.

Thus, by the destruction of the Beis Hamikdash, the three components of Torah, *avodah*, and the Beis Hamikdash became impaired, and our *bris* with Hashem became weakened.

The Weakening of the Bris

The five calamities of the seventeenth of Tammuz represent the breakdown of these three components. Torah, the first component, became weakened first by the breaking of the *Luchos* (the first calamity) because of which we were no longer deserving of Hashem's teaching us His Torah. Also, on that day Apostomos publicly burned the *sefer Torah* (the second calamity), which indicated as well that Hashem did not desire to bestow His Torah upon us.

The second component of the covenant, *avodah*, became weakened as well on the seventeenth of Tammuz when the daily sacrifice of the *Tamid*, the principal part of our *avodah* in the Beis Hamikdash, was suspended (the third calamity). Without this sacrifice, we could no longer fully express our yearning to come close to Hashem. Furthermore, we were no longer able to perform our *avodah* in the Beis Hamikdash because of the idol which was placed there (the