

1) Zecharia 7 (1

In the fourth year of King Darius, on the fourth day of the ninth month, Kislev, the word of the LORD came to Zechariah— (2) when Bethel-sharezer and Regem-melech and his men sent to entreat the favor of the LORD, (3) [and] to address this inquiry to the priests of the House of the LORD and to the prophets: "Shall I weep and practice abstinence in the fifth month, as I have been doing all these years?" (4) Thereupon the word of the LORD of Hosts came to me: (5) Say to all the people of the land and to the priests: When you fasted and lamented in the fifth and seventh months all these seventy years, did you fast for my benefit? (6) And when you eat and drink, who but you does the eating, and who but you does the drinking?

(א) וַיְהִי בִּשְׁנְת אַרְבַּׁע לְדְרְיָוֻשׁ הַמֶּלֶּהְ הָיָּה דְבַר־ה' אֶל־זְכַרְיָה בְּאַרְבָּעָה לַתִּדֶשׁ הַתְּשָׁעִי בְּכִּסְלֵו: (ב) וַיִּשְׁלַח בְּית־אֵל שַׁר־אֶׁצֶר וְרֶגֶם מֶלֶהְ וְאֲנָשִׁיו לְחַלָּוֹת אֶת־פְּנֵי ה': (ג) לֵאמֹר אֶל־ הַלְּבִיאָים לֵאמֵר הָאֶבְכֶּה בַּתְּדֶשׁ הַחְמִשִּׁי הִנָּזֶר כִּאֲשֶׁר עָשִׁיתִי זֶה כַּמֶּה הַחְמִשִּׁי הִנָּזֶר כִּאֲשֶׁר עָשִׁיתִי זֶה כַּמֶּה שָׁלֵים: (פ) (ד) וַיְהֵי דְּבַר־ה' צְּבָאוֹת הַאָּלִי לֵאמְר: (ה) אֱמֹר אֶל־כְּל־עַם הַשְׁרָים וְאָלֶה הַצְּוֹמִ אֲנָים הָאָכְלִים וְאַתֶּם הַשְּׁתִים: :

2) Zechariah 8 (2

(1) The word of the LORD of Hosts came [to me]: (2) Thus said the LORD of Hosts: I am very jealous for Zion, I am fiercely jealous for her. (3) Thus said the LORD: I have returned to Zion, and I will dwell in Jerusalem. Jerusalem will be called the City of Faithfulness, and the mount of the LORD of Hosts the Holy Mount. (4) Thus said the LORD of Hosts: There shall yet be old men and women in the squares of Jerusalem, each with staff in hand because of their great age. (5) And the squares of the city shall be crowded with boys and girls playing in the squares. (6) Thus said the LORD of Hosts: Though it will seem impossible to the remnant of this people in those days, shall it also be impossible to Me? declares the LORD of Hosts. (7) Thus said the LORD of Hosts: I will rescue My people from the lands of the east and from the lands of the west, (8) and I will bring them home to dwell in Jerusalem. They shall be My people, and I will be their God—in truth and sincerity. (9) Thus said the LORD of Hosts: Take courage, you who now hear these words which the prophets spoke when the foundations were laid for the rebuilding of the Temple, the House of the LORD of Hosts. (10) For before that time, the earnings of men were nil, and profits from beasts were nothing. It was not safe to go about one's business on account of enemies; and I set all men against one another. (11) But now I will not treat the remnant of this people as before—declares the LORD of Hosts— (12) but what it sows shall prosper: The vine shall produce its fruit, the ground shall produce its yield, and the skies shall provide their moisture. I will bestow all these things upon the remnant of this people. (13) And just as you were a curse among the nations. O House of Judah and House of Israel, so, when I vindicate you, you shall become a

(א) וַיִּהֶי דְּבַר־ה' צְבָאוֹת לֵאמְׂר: (ב) כָּה אָמַר ה' צָבָאוֹת קְנֵּאתִי לְצִיָּוֹן קְנְאֶה גִדוֹלֶה וָחֶמֶה גִדוֹלָה קְנֵּאתִי לָהּ: (ג) כָּה אָמֵר ה' שַּבְתִּי אֱל־צִּיּוֹן וְשָׁכַנְתִּי בָּתְוֹךְ יִרְוּשָׁלֶם וְנָקְרָאָה יִרוּשָׁלֵּם עִיר־ הָאֵמֶת וָהַר־ה' צָבָאוֹת הַר הַקֹּדֵשׁ: (ס) (ד) כָּה אַמַר ה' צָבַאות עִד יֵשְבוּ זְקַנֵים וּזְקֵנֹוֹת בָּרְחֹבְוֹת יִרוּשָׁלָם וְאֵישׁ מִשְעַנְתֵּוֹ בְּיָדִוֹ מֵרְב יָמֵים: (ה) וּרְחֹבָוֹת ָּהָעִיר יִמֶּלְאוּ יִלָדָים וֵילַדָוֹת מְשַּׁחֲקִים בַּרְחָבֹתֵיהָ: (ס) (ו) כָּה אָמַר ה' צְבָאוֹת ּכֵּי יִפָּלֵא בָּעִינֵי שָׁאֵרִית ֹ הָעָם הַלֵּה 'בַּיַמִים הָהָם גַּם־בַּעִינַיֹּ יִפָּלֵא נָאָם ה צָבָאְוֹת: (פ) (ז) כָּה אָמֵר ה' צָבָאׁוֹת הָנְנֵי מוֹשֵׁיעַ אֶת־עַמָּי מֵאֱרֵץ מִזְרֶח וּמַאַרַץ מַבוֹא הַשָּׁמַשׁ: (ח) וַהַבַאתַי אֹתָם וִשָּׁכְנוּ בַּתִוֹךְ יִרוּשָׁלָם וְהָיוּ־לֵי לְעָׁם וַאֲנִיּ אֶהְיֶה לָהֶםׂ לֵאלֹקִים בָּאֱמֶת וּבָצְדָקָה: (ס) (ט) כָּה־אָמַר ๊ה' צְבָאוֹת בֹּ תַחַזַקנָה יָדֵילֶם הַשָּׁמְעִים בַּיָּמֵים ָּסָאֵלֵה אַת הַדְּבָרֵים הָאֵלֵה מִפְּי 'הַנָּבִיאִים אֱשֶׁר בָּיוֹם יֻסַּד בֵּית־ה צָבָאֶוֹת הַהֵּיכֶל לְהִבָּנְוֹת: (י) כִּי לִפְנֵי ֹהַיָּמֵים הָהֵٰם שְׁכֵר הֶאָדָם ֹלְאׁ נַהְיָּה וּשַׂכַר הַבָּהָמָה אֵינֵנָה וְלַיּוֹצֵּא וְלַבְּא אין־שַׁלוֹם מו־הצַּר ואשׁלַּח את־כַּל־ ָהָאָדָם אֵישׁ בָּרֵעֲהוּ: (יא) וְעַתָּה לְא





blessing. Have no fear; take courage! (14) For thus said the LORD of Hosts: Just as I planned to afflict you and did not relent when your fathers provoked Me to anger—said the LORD of Hosts— (15) so, at this time, I have turned and planned to do good to Jerusalem and to the House of Judah. Have no fear! (16) These are the things you are to do: Speak the truth to one another, render true and perfect justice in your gates. (17) And do not contrive evil against one another, and do not love perjury, because all those are things that I hate—declares the LORD. (18) And the word of the LORD of Hosts came to me, saying, (19) Thus said the LORD of Hosts: The fast of the fourth month, the fast of the fifth month, the fast of the seventh month, and the fast of the tenth month shall become occasions for joy and gladness, happy festivals for the House of Judah; but you must love honesty and integrity. (20) Thus said the LORD of Hosts: Peoples and the inhabitants of many cities shall yet come— (21) the inhabitants of one shall go to the other and say, "Let us go and entreat the favor of the LORD, let us seek the LORD of Hosts; I will go, too." (22) The many peoples and the multitude of nations shall come to seek the LORD of Hosts in Jerusalem and to entreat the favor of the LORD. (23) Thus said the LORD of Hosts: In those days, ten men from nations of every tongue will take hold—they will take hold of every Jew by a corner of his cloak and say, "Let us go with you, for we have heard that God is with you."

כַיָּמֵים הָרָאשׁנִיםׂ אֵנִּי לִשְּאֵרָית הָעֶם ֹהַזֵּה נָאָם ה' צָּבָאִוֹת: (יב) כֵּי־זֵרַע ַהַשָּלוֹם הַגָּפֵן תִּתֵּן פְּרִיָהֹ וְהָאָרֵץ תִּתַן אַת־יִבוּלָהּ וְהַשָּׁמֵיִם יִתְּנוּ טַלָּם וָהָנָחַלְתִּׁי אֵת־שָּאֵרֵית הָעָם הַזָּה אֵת־ כַּל־אַלַּה: (יג) וְהַיַּה כַּאַשֵּׁר הַיִּיתַּם קַלְלָה בַּגוּוֹם בַּית יְהוּדָה וּבֵית יִשְׁרָאֶל ַכָּן אוֹשֵׁיעַ אֶתְכֶּם וְהִיִיתֵם בִּרָכָה אַל־ תִּירָאוּ תַּחַזַקנָה יִדִיכָם: (ס) (יד) כִּי ַלָה אָמַר ה' צָבָאוֹת בָּאֵשֶׁר זָמַמְתִּי לְהָרַע לָכֶּם בְּהַקְצֵיף אֲבְתֵיכֶם אֹתִי אָמַר ה' צָבָאָות וְלָא נָחַמְתִּי: (טו) כֵּן שבתי זממתי ביַמים הַאֹּלָה להיטיב אַת־יִרוּשָׁלַם וְאֵת־בֵּית יִהוּדֶה אַל־ תִּירַאוּ: (טז) אֱלָה הַדְּבַרִים אֲשֵׁר תַּעֲשָׂוּ דַּבַּרוּ אֲמֵת ֹאֵישׁ אַת־רֵעֶהוּ צַמַת וּמִשָּׁפֵּט שַׁלוֹם שָׁפָטוּ בַּשַּערֵיכֵם: יז) וָאֵישׁ וּ אֵת־רָעַת רֻעָּהוּ אֵל־ (יז) תַּחִשָּׁבוֹ בִּלְבַבְכֶּם וּשָּׁבֵעַת שֵׁקֵר אֵל־ תַאַהָבוּ כֵּי אַת־כָּל־אֵלֵה אַשֵּׁר שָּׁנָאתִי ָנָאָם־ה': (ס) (יח) וַיָּהֶי דְּבַר־ה' צְּבָאְוֹת אַלֵי לֵאמַר: (יט) כָּה־אַמַּר ה' צָבַאוֹת צוֹם הַרבִיעִי וצוֹם הַחַמִּישִׁי וצוֹם ַהַשָּׁבִיעִּי וְצְוֹם הָעֲשִּירִי יִהְיֶה לְבֵית־ יָהוּדָה לְשָּׁשִוֹן וּלְשָׁמְחָה וּלְמֹעֲדִים טוֹבֵים וָהָאֱמֵת וְהַשָּׁלְוֹם אֲהָבוּ: (פ) (כ) ּכָּה אָמַר ה' צָבָאות עַד אַשֵּר יָבָאוּ עַמִּים וִיֹשָׁבֵי עָרֵים רַבִּוֹת: (כא) וָהָלְכֿוּ ישָׁבֵי אַחַּת אֱל־אַחַת לֵאמֹר נַלְכָה ָּבָלוֹךְ לְחַלּוֹת אֱת־פָּנֵי ה' וּלְבַקֵּשׁ אֱת־ ה' צְבָאַוֹת אֵלְכָה גַּם־אָנִי: (כב) וּבָּאוּ עמֵים רַבִּים וְגוֹיֵם עֲצוּמִים לבַקּשׁ אֶת־ ה' צָבָאוֹת בִּירוּשָׁלָם וּלְחַלְּוֹת אֶת־פְּנֵי ה': (ס) (כג) כָּה אָמַר ๊ה' צָבָאוֹת בַּיָּמֵים הָהֶּמָּה אֲשֵׁר יַחַזְּיקוּ עֲשָׂרָה אַנָשִּׁים מִכָּל לְשׁנְוֹת הַגּוֹיֵם וְהֶחֱזִּיקוּ בַּכְנַף אָישׁ יָהוּדִי לֵאמֹר נֵלְכָהֹ עַמַּכֶּם (ס) :כֵּי שָׁמַענוּ אֱלֹקֵים עִמָּכֵם

Rosh Hashanah 18a-b

MISHNA: In six months of the year the messengers go out from the court in Jerusalem to report throughout Eretz Yisrael and the Diaspora which day was established as the New Moon, the thirtieth or the thirty-first day since the previous New Moon. They go out in the month of Nisan, due to Passover, so that people will know on which day to celebrate it; in the month of Av, due to the fast of the Ninth of Av; in Elul, due to Rosh HaShana, which begins thirty days after the New Moon of Elul; in Tishrei, due to the need to establish the correct dates on which to celebrate the Festivals

ראש השנה י״ח א-ב מתני׳ על ששה חדשים השלוחין יוצאין על ניסן מפני הפסח על אב מפני התענית על אלול מפני ר"ה על תשרי מפני תקנת המועדות על כסליו מפני חנוכה ועל אדר מפני הפורים



Rabbi Leon A. Morris
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David Einhorn

9 Av 5779

of Tishrei, i.e., Yom Kippur and Sukkot, in Kislev, due to	וכשהיה בהמ"ק קיים יוצאין אף על
Hanukkah; and in Adar, due to Purim. And when the Temple	אייר מפני פסח קטן
was standing, messengers would also go out in the month of	
Iyyar due to small Passover	
GEMARA: The Gemara asks: And if they go out for the month of Av due to the fast, let them go out also in the months of Tammuz and Tevet, as they too contain public fast days. As Rav Ḥana bar Bizna said that Rabbi Shimon Ḥasida said: What is the meaning of that which is written: "Thus said the Lord of hosts: The fast of the fourth month, and the fast of the fifth, and fast of the seventh, and the fast of the tenth, shall become times of joy and gladness, and cheerful seasons, to the house of Judah" (Zechariah 8:19). It calls them days of "fast" and it calls them "times of joy and gladness." How so? When there is peace in the world, they will be times of joy and gladness, on which eulogies and fasting are forbidden; but when there is no peace, they are days of fasting. In a time when there is no peace, why are messengers not sent out also for the fourth and tenth months, so that people can know when to observe the fasts?	גמ׳ וליפקו נמי אתמוז וטבת דאמר רב חנא בר ביזנא אמר ר"ש חסידא מאי דכתיב (זכריה ח, יט) כה אמר ה' צבאות צום הרביעי וצום החמישי וצום השביעי וצום העשירי יהיה לבית יהודה לששון ולשמחה קרי להו צום וקרי להו ששון ושמחה בזמן שיש שלום יהיו לששון ולשמחה אין שלום צום

Rav Pappa said that this is what it is saying: When there is peace in the world and the Temple is standing, these days will be times of joy and gladness; when there is persecution and troubles for the Jewish people, they are days of fasting; and when there is no persecution but still no peace, neither particular troubles nor consolation for Israel, the *halakha* is as follows: If people wish, they fast, and if they wish, they do not fast. Since there is no absolute obligation to fast, messengers are not sent out for these months.

אמר רב פפא הכי קאמר בזמן שיש שלום יהיו לששון ולשמחה יש גזרת המלכות צום אין גזרת המלכות ואין שלום רצו מתענין רצו אין מתענין

The Gemara asks: If so, the Ninth of Av should also be like the other fast days, that sometimes it is observed and sometimes not, depending upon the wishes of the community at the time. Why does the mishna state that messengers go out for the month of Av? Rav Pappa said: The Ninth of Av is different, since the calamities that occurred on that day were multiplied. As the Master said: On the Ninth of Av the Temple was destroyed, both the first one and the second one; on this day the city of Beitar was captured; and on this day the city of Jerusalem was plowed over by the enemies of the Jewish people, as a sign that it would never be rebuilt. Consequently, the fast of the Ninth of Av is obligatory, and not optional like the other fasts. Messengers are consequently sent out so that people will know when to fast.

אי הכי ט"ב נמי אמר רב פפא שאני ט' באב הואיל והוכפלו בו צרות דאמר מר בט' באב חרב הבית בראשונה ובשניה ונלכדה ביתר ונחרשה העיר

Rashi on Rosh Hashanah 18b:1:2



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When there is peace - when the nations of the world have no	רש"י על ראש השנה י״ח ב:ג׳:א׳
dominion over Israel.	שיש שלום - שאין יד העובדי כוכבים תקיפה על ישראל::
Rashba on Rosh Hashanah 18b:1	רשב״א על ראש השנה י״ח ב:א׳
When there is peace they will be days of joy and	בזמן שיש שלום יהיו לששון
gladness. The interpretation of "when there is peace" is when	ולשמחה. פירוש בזמן שיש שלום,
Israel is settled upon its land.	שישראל שרוין על אדמתן
Sefer HaEshkol, Rabbeinu Hai Gaon	ספר האשכול (אלבק) הלכות תשעה
The answer of the Gaon [Rabbeinu Hai Gaon], may his memory be	באב דף רטו עמוד א
for a blessing, is that the fasts spoken about in the verse "Thus	באב דך דסו ענווד א ובתשובה לגאון [רבינו האי גאון] ז"ל,
said the LORD of hosts: The fast of the fourth month, and the fast	צומות האמורים בפסוק זה כה אמר
of the fifth, and the fast of the seventh, and the fast of the tenth," all	ה' צום הרביעי וצום החמישי וצום
are cancelled save for the 9th of Av, as it is said, "in times when	השביעי וצום העשירי כולן בטלו חוץ
there are neither persecution nor shalom" so in these times "people	י י ן מת"ב דקאמרי' אין שמד ואין שלום
may fast or not, as they see fit." And the position is challenged, "If	י י הוא בזמן הזה רצו מתענין <רצו אין
that is so, then the 9th of Av also!" This is different, for on the 9th of	מתענין>. ומקשי' אי הכי ת"ב נמי,
Av many misfortunes occurred. From here we learn that only on the	שני ת"ב הואיל והוכפלו בו צרות.
9th of Av it is mandatory; on the other days, people may fast or not,	מיכן שת"ב בלבד הוא דאיתיה
as they see fit.	חובה] ואותן האחרים רצו מתענין
	[רצו אין מתענין].
Chidushei HaRitva	
The time of shalom is when Israel is dwelling in their land and the	חידושי הריטב"א מסכת ראש השנה
temple is standing, these will be a time for joy and gladness. If	רף יח עמוד ב
there is no shalom, meaning that the Temple is destroyed and	בזמן שיש שלום כלומר שישראל
Israel is persecuted, there are two diminutions and there should be	שרויין על אדמתם ובית המקדש קיים
a complete fast as decreed by the early prophets. If there is not	היו לששון ולשמחה, ואם אין שלום
shalom, and there is not persecution, the thing is dependent on the	שביהמ"ק חרב ויש שמד על ישראל
desire of Israel. If the Bet Din (Jewish court) desires, there should	ראיכא תרתי לגריעותא שיהו צום
be a fast. If the Bet Din does not desire, there should be no fast at	גמור מגזירת נביאים הראשונים, ואם גיי שלים וכם אין שמד ובור בדבר
all.	אין שלום וגם אין שמד יהיה הדבר תלוי ברצון ישראל רצו ב"ד מתענין
	ומדי בו צון ישו אי דצו ב ד מונענין לא רצו אין מתענין כלל
Torat Ha-Adam, The Gate of Mourning – "old mourning"	תורת האדם שער האבל – ענין
And now they have already shown their disposition to fast and	אבלות ישנה ד"ה (שם) קרי
they have accepted it upon themselves. Therefore it is forbidden	



Rabbi Leon A. Morris Tisha b"Av as a Day of Hope and Celebration? From the Prophet Zecharia to David Einhorn 9 Av 5779

for an individual to "break through our fence," even more so in these generations when due to our multitudinous sins, there is persecution upon Israel and there is no shalom. Therefore everyone is required to fast due to the received tradition and to the decree of the prophets.

... ועכשיו כבר רצו ונהגו להתענות בהם וקבלום עליהם, לפיכך אסור ליחיד לפרוץ גדרן, וכל שכן בדורות הללו שהרי בעונותינו שרבו יש שמד בישראל ואין שלום, הילכך חייבין הכל להתענות מדברי קבלה ותקנת נביאים.

Mishneh Torah, Fasts 5:4-5

- (4) These four fast days are distinctly mentioned in the prophetic books: "The fast of the fourth month, the fast of the fifth, the fast of the seventh, and the fast of the tenth" (Zechariah 8:19). The fast of the fourth month is the seventeenth of *Tammuz*, which is in the fourth month; the fast of the fifth is *Tish'ah b'Av*, which is in the fifth month; the fast of the seventh is the third of *Tishri*, which is in the seventh month; and the fast of the tenth is the tenth of *Teveth*, which is in the tenth month.
- (5) All the Jewish people are accustomed nowadays to fast.

משנה תורה, הלכות תעניות ה׳:ד׳-ה׳ (ד) וְאַרְבָּעָה יְמֵי הַצּוֹמוֹת הָאֵלּוּ הָרֵי הֵן מְפֹּרְשִׁין בַּקְבָּלָה (זכריה ח יט) "צוֹם הָרְבִיעִי וְצוֹם הַחֲמִישִׁי" וְגוֹ'. צוֹם הָרְבִיעִי זֶה שָׁבְעָה עָשֶׁר בְּתַמּוּז שֶׁהוּא בַּחֹדֶשׁ הַרְבִיעִי. וְצוֹם הַחֲמִישִׁי זֶה תְּשְׁעָה בְּאָב שֶׁהוּא בַּחֹדֶשׁ הַחֲמִישִׁי. וְצוֹם הַשְּבִיעִי זֶה שְׁלֹשֶׁה בְּתִשְׁרֵי שָׁהוּא בַּחֹדֶשׁ הַשְּבִיעִי. וְצוֹם הָעֲשִׂירִי זָה עֲשָׂרָה בְּטֵבֵת שֶׁהוּא בַּחֹדֶשׁ

(ה) וְנָהָגוּ כָּל יִשְׂרָאֵל בִּזְמַנִּים אֵלּוּ להתענוֹת...

Shulchan Arukh, Oreh Hayyim 549:1

It is required to fast on the 9th of Av, the 17th of Tammuz, the 3rd of Tishrei, and the 10th of Tevet, because of the bad things that happened on these days.

Oreh Hayyim 550:1

Everyone is required to observe these four fasts and it is forbidden to "break the fence".

שולחן ערוך אורח חיים סימן תקמט:א

חייבים להתענות בתשעה באב ובי"ז בתמוז ובג' בתשרי ובעשרה בטבת, מפני דברים הרעים שאירעו בהם. שולחן ערוך אורח חיים סימן תקנ:א הכל חייבים להתענות ארבע צומות הללו ואסור לפרוץ גדר

Classic Siddur (Ashkenaz), Nachem

נחם ה' אלהינו את אבלי ציון ואת אבלי ירושלים, ואת העיר האבלה והחֱרבה והבזויה והשוממה. האבלה מבלי בניה, והחריבה ממעונותיה, והבזויה מכבודה, והשוממה מאין יושב. והיא יושבת וראשה חפוי כאישה עקרה שלא ילדה. ויבלעוה ליגיונות, ויירשוה עובדי זרים (נוסח אחר: עובדי פסילים), ויטילו את עמך ישראל לחרב, ויהרגו בזדון חסידי עליון. על כן ציון בְּמֵר תבכה וירושלים תתן קולה. לבי לבי על חלליהם, מעי מעי על חלליהם, כי אתה ה' באש הצתה ובאש אתה עתיד לבנותה. כאמור: ואני אהיה לה נאם ה' חומת אש סביב ולכבוד אהיה בתוכה. ברוך אתה ה', מנחם ציון ובונה ירושלים.תפילת נחם או תפילת רחם היא קטע תפילה שנהוג להוסיפו בברכת ירושלים בתפילת שמונה עשרה בתשעה באב, על פי חלק מהמנהגים בכל שלוש התפילות ועל פי מנהגים אחרים בתפילת מנחה בלבד. שמה של תוספת זו נגזר ממילת הפתיחה שלה, לפי רוב נוסחיה.





Tisha b"Av as a Day of Hope and Celebration? From the Prophet Zecharia to **David Einhorn** 9 Av 5779

Console, O Lord our God, the mourners of Zion and the mourners of Jerusalem, and the city that is in sorrow, laid waste, scorned and desolate; that grieves for the loss of its children, that is laid waste of its dwellings, robbed of its glory, desolate without inhabitants. She sits with her head covered like a barren childless woman. Legions have devoured her; idolaters have taken possession of her; they have put Your people Israel to the sword and delibrately killed the devoted followers of the Most High. Therefore Zion weeps bitterly, and Jerusalem raises her voice. My heart, my heart grieves for those they killed; I am in anguish, I am in anguish for those they killed. For You, O Lord, consumed it with fire and with fire You will rebuild it in the future, as is said, 'And I myself will be a wall of fire around it, says the Lord, and I will be its glory within.' Blessed are You, Lord, who consoles Zion and rebuilds Jerusalem. (Translation from The Koren Siddur)

Ephraim Urbach's version of Nachem:

ַרַחֶם ה' אֱ־לֹהֶינוּ בָּרַחֶמֶיךְ הָרַבִּים וּבְחַסָּדֵיךְ הַנֵּאֵמָנִים ָעֶלֵינוּ וְעַל עַמְּךְ יִשְׂרָאֵל, ועל ירושלים עירך, הַנָבנית מחרבּנַה, הַמַקוֹמֵמַת מַהַרִיסוֹתֵיהַ וְהַמִישָׁבַת מַשּׁוֹמַמוּתַהּ. על חַסִּידֵי עֶלְיוֹן שֶׁנֶּהֶרְגוּ בְּזָדוֹן, ָוְעַל עַמְּךְ יִשְׂרָאֵל שֶׁהַטַּל לֶחָרֶב, ּוְעַל בָּנֵיהָ אֲשֵׁר מָסָרוּ נַפָּשָׁם וְשָׁפָכוּ דָמָם עָלֵיהָ, צִיוֹן בַּמַר תִּבְכֶּה, וִירוּשָׁלַיִם תִּתֵּן קוֹלָה: "לָבִּי לָבִּי עַל חַלְלֵיהֶם, מֵעַי מֵעַי עַל חַלְלֵיהֶם". וָהַעִיר אֲשֶׁר פָּדִיתַ מִיַּד עַרִיצִים וּלְגִיוֹנוֹת, – וּלְיִשְׂרָאֵל עַמָּךְ נָתַתָּה נַחֲלָה וּלְזֵרַע יִשֶּׁרוּן יִרוּשָׁה הוֹרַשְׁתָּה ָנְטֵה עָלֵיהָ סֻכַּת שָׁלוֹמְךְ כְּנָהָר שָׁלוֹם, 'לקיַם מַה שַׁנַאַמַר (זכריה ב ט): "וַאַנִי אַהַיַה לַהּ נַאָם ה חוֹמַת אֵשׁ סָבִיב וּלְכָבוֹד אֵהֵיֵה בִּתוֹכָהּ.' בָּרוּך אַתָּה ה', מִנַחֶם צִיוֹן וּבוֹנֵה יִרוּשָׁלַיִם.

Be merciful, Lord our God, with your expansive mercy and faithful love,

to us and Your people Israel.

to Jerusalem Your city, rebuilt from its razing,

raised from its ruination, resettled from its abandonment.

To those devoted to the Transcendent killed in debasement.

to Your people Israel flung to the sword,

to Your children, who gave their lives and spilt their blood before You.

Zion, who cries out bitterly; Jerusalem, who gives forth her voice:

"My heart, my heart, for the slain. My insides, my insides, for the slain."

And the city, which You redeemed from the grasp of tyrants and troops,

and Israel, to whom You gave a legacy, and the descendants of Yeshurun, to whom you bestowed an inheritance -

like a peaceful river, spread over them Your shelter of peace,

fulfill what was said, "Surrounding her, says the Lord,

I will be a wall of fire, within her, I will be dignity." (Zech. 2:9)

You are blessed, Lord, Comforter of Zion, Jerusalem's Rebuilder.trans. joshua schwartz, 8/6/19





Rabbi Alex Israel's FB post, August 2019

We move through the 3 weeks into the 9 days.

Halakha deepens the practices of mourning.

Now, instead of no shaving, no weddings, we add no meat, no wine, no laundering, no bathing.

The moment of the Hurban gets closer.

But there is a dissonance.

I go to work in Jerusalem. I get stuck in the traffic.

I ask myself: דרכי ציון אבילות? Really?

Hoards of Jews giving a living pulse to this city. Malls filled with shoppers, cafes with happy people, grandmothers and grandchildren, business meetings and all, children playing in the city parks, a happy food festival outside the very walls of the Old City, (in Gei Ben Hinnom! - see Jer 19:6.)

And I ask myself: איכה ישבה בדד העיר רבתי עם?

I sit at Pardes and listen to my friend, Rabbi Dr. Sharon Shalom, depict his Aliya from Ethiopia, as I sit with Jews from the US, France, UK, Switzerland, Australia, Brazil, and other places.

And I ask myself: גלתה יהודה? היא ישבה בגויים?

Indeed the Nine Days are different in 2018 than in 1918 and in 1492, and in every decade and century since the Hurban. We have so much. For that, I said this morning in Hallel: אבן מאסו הבונים היתה לראש פנה.

So what do I think about this Av?

Why am I happy that I carry this 3 weeks beard? Why do I embrace the strictures of the 9 days?

Because it reminds me of the Hurban.

Of the אין and not the יש

Of how far we need to go as a nation, as a society.

And if you are in doubt, just open the newspapers of last week.

Murder over a parking spot!

The scenes of that hotel in Cyprus!

Overcrowded hospital wards. Ongoing violence at our borders.

There is no shortage of improvements, of rebuilding, that we need to set our minds to. ציון במשפט תפדה ושביה בצדקה

We need to create a more just, gentle society. We need to raise our nation to a level of refinement and holiness. We need to expunge murder from our streets. We yearn for Jewish unity, for a more palpable connection with God (the Mikdash).

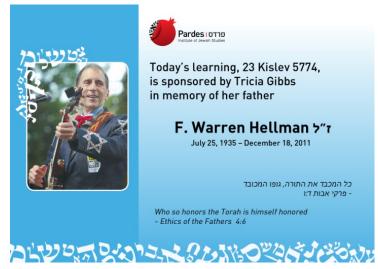
We are thankful for what we have. We don't forget that for one moment.

The Nine Days is meant to draw our glance away from our achievements and remind how much is still broken. And to yow to fix it.





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