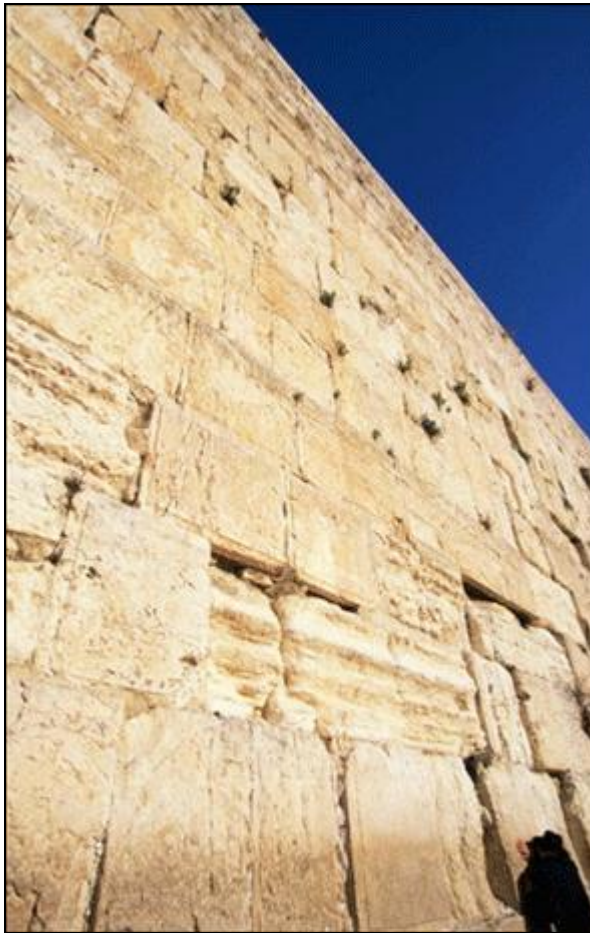


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| To:



***"Pray for the peace
of Jerusalem.***

***May those who love
you prosper.***

***May peace be within
your walls ..."***

(Psalms 122)



Home for the
Wondering Jew.™

THE CHICAGO TORAH NETWORK SHABBAT FAX[©]

A WEEKLY PRESENTATION OF JEWISH THOUGHT PUBLISHED IN MEMORY OF RAE DANIEL

VOLUME 15, ISSUE 39 FRIDAY, AUGUST 8, 2008 / 7 AV 5768 CANDLE LIGHTING: 7:40 P.M. SHABBAT ENDS: 8:48 (CHICAGO)

Hang in there - Shabbos is coming!

TORAH PORTION: DEVARIM (DEUTERONOMY 1:1-3:22)

*This Week's CTN Shabbat Fax is
sponsored by Lynne and Fred Brody,
in memory of their parents z"l.*

This Saturday Night and Sunday is the Fast of Tisha b'Av

Tisha b'Av: Background

The ninth day of the Jewish month of Av. The saddest day on the Jewish calendar.

According to Jewish tradition, it was destined to be a tragic day. And history has proven that tradition correct.

The destruction of both Temples in Jerusalem took place on Tisha b'Av. As did the expulsion of Jews from England in 1290. And from Spain in 1492. World War I began on Tisha b'Av, 1914. And in many ways, it was the event that led to World War II and the Holocaust.

1. Jewish tradition has a lot of celebrations. Shabbat. Passo ver. Chanukah. Purim.

And the celebrations help keep the Jewish People alive.

But we also have Tisha b'Av.

One day. To focus on Jewish suffering. To feel the pain of Jews throughout history.

... Tisha b'Av is also a day to think about what the world could look like.

If we were able to live up to our mission. And truly be a "light unto the nations".

Here's what a great Rabbi wrote as a Tisha b'Av message in the middle of the nineteenth century.

"Think about the telegraph. Are the messages it delivers mostly about peace and joy?

Or the goods which the locomotive carries. Do they spread well-being and peace?

And science. The great triumph of the human mind. Has it discovered the formula for happiness?" (Rabbi S.R. Hirsch)

... And that was a hundred and fifty years ago.

Today?

It's everything from nuclear power to space shuttles. Silicon chips to the Internet. And much more.

... So much has changed. But the questions are the same:

Has man achieved happiness?

Is there universal peace? And the end of suffering?

Tisha b'Av is a time to look forward to that.

... And to commit ourselves to make it happen.

FROM THE TALMUD

It was a few years after the destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple. A group of Rabbis, including the famed Rabbi Akiva, were walking up to Jerusalem.

As they approached and saw the site of the destroyed Temple, they tore their garments in mourning. And then they got closer. And suddenly they noticed a fox run out from the spot where the Holy of Holies had stood. And that was just too much. The other rabbis began to cry. But Rabbi Akiva laughed.

They couldn't understand. "How can you laugh? "

"And you? Why are you crying?"

"How can we not cry? The terrible prophecies of Jeremiah have become true – holiest place on earth has become a den of foxes – of course we cry!"

Said Rabbi Akiva: "That's exactly why I laugh.

Because when we see the prophecies about Jerusalem's destruction being fulfilled, we know without any doubt that the prophecies of her future consolation shall also be fulfilled.

I laugh with joy when I remember the verses (Zachariah 8:4-5), 'Old men and old women will once again sit in the streets of Jerusalem, each with his staff in his hand because of advanced age; and the streets of the city will be filled with boys and girls playing in its streets.'

And his colleagues told him, "Akiva, you have comforted us, Akiva, you have comforted us."

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

The Talmud tells us why the Temple was destroyed. Because Jews hated other Jews for no reason. Which means that the Temple won't be rebuilt until we fix that problem.

Until we learn how to love other Jews no matter what.

Even when we have no reason to. (Rabbi Abraham Isaac Kook)

TISHA B'AV SERVICES

This Saturday evening at 9:15, CTN will be joining our neighbors at Congregation Shaarei Tzedek (right here at 2832 West Touhy) for *Tisha b'Av* services. It should take about an hour.

We'll do it the way Jews have done it for centuries. Sitting on the floor. The lights dimmed. And reading the 2500-year-old Hebrew Book of Lamentations (translations will be available.)

... We invite you to join us for this powerful and very meaningful way to connect to our heritage and history. If you can, please let us know if you are coming. That way we will be able to take care of you, and help make the experience as meaningful as possible. Call 773.761.0400 x201 or email rabbikatz@torahnetwork.org

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Shabbat Shalom and best wishes for a meaningful Tisha b'Av and a wonderful week.

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Shabbat Shalom and have a great week!



Rabbi Moshe Katz



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