

2025-08-02 Tisha B'av Shabbat

Tomorrow is a special day on the Jewish calendar Tisha B'Av

The words simply mean the 9<sup>th</sup> of the month of Av

It's not a date of celebration

But a date when **terrible** calamities happened in Jewish history

Either caused by our people turning away from God

Or we were conspired against & attacked

What terrible things happened? 3 disasters recorded in Bible happened this day

1. Just after leaving Egypt Moses went up on Mt. Sinai to be with God

He was gone 40 days & people sinned greatly by making an idol

He returned with the 10 Commandments in his hands

To find them worshipping the idol

Moses was so angry he smashed the tablets of stone

God brought judgment on the people of Israel & many died

Happened on the 9<sup>th</sup> of Av

2. About year later God led Israelites to Kadesh Barnea on border of Promised Land

He told them to go in and take the land of Canaan

Moses sent 12 spies to scout the land, spies returned after 40 days

10 spies said inhabitants were too strong for Israelites to conquer

Even though they had just seen the mighty miracles God did

So our forefathers refused to go up and take the Promised Land

God was very angry at their lack of trust & brought judgment on Israel

They spent 40 years in wilderness

Until every adult male of that generation had died

Happened on the 9<sup>th</sup> of Av

3. Temple built by Solomon was destroyed on the 9<sup>th</sup> of Av, 585 BCE

By Babylonians, led to 70 years of exile in Babylon

What caused this calamity?

*(TLV) 2 Kings 24:3 Surely at the command of Adonai this happened to Judah, to banish them from His presence, because of all the sins of (King) Manasseh and all that he had committed,*

*4 and also because of the innocent blood that he had shed—for he had filled Jerusalem with innocent blood that Adonai was not willing to pardon.*

So, this calamity was also judgment for Israel's sins

11 other post-Biblical terrible events in Jewish history happened same day

1. On Tisha b'Av, 2<sup>nd</sup> Temple built by exiles returning from Babylon

& renovated by Herod was destroyed by the Romans in 70 CE

Non-Messianic Rabbis teach this judgment came upon Israel

Because of murder, incest & shedding of innocent blood

It is clear to Messianic believers that included the blood

Of the innocent Messiah Yeshua shed 37 years earlier

This judgment led to expulsion of the Jewish people from the land

& the current Diaspora or scattering among all the nations

In preparation for 9<sup>th</sup> of Av this past week Israelis marched

Around the Temple Mount praying for the Temple to be re-built

2. Betar, the last fortress to hold out against the Romans

During the Bar Kochba revolt in the year 135, fell on 9<sup>th</sup> of Av

3. One year after fall of Betar, Temple area was plowed by Romans

& they set up an idol in courtyard of Temple on Tisha b'Av

These 2 calamities were part of the judgment that started with

The destruction of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Temple

4. The declaration of the Crusades by Pope Urban II in 1095 issued on 9<sup>th</sup> of Av

It resulted in the Crusaders killing many Jewish people

On their way to the Holy Land

& then killing Jewish people living in Jerusalem

5. In 1290 the edict by King Edward I expelling all Jews from England

Was signed on Tisha B'Av

6. In 1492 the Alhambra decree was put into effect on the 9th of Av

Leading to the expulsion of all Jews from Spain

In modern times

7. On Tisha B'Av in 1914 First World War started, which led to the Holocaust

8. In 1942 on 9<sup>th</sup> of Av Jews from the Warsaw Ghetto were sent to

Treblinka extermination camp

10. On Tisha B'Av in 1994 a Jewish community center

Was bombed by Arab terrorists in Buenos Aires, Argentina

Killing 86 and wounding more than 120.

11. In 2005 on the 9<sup>th</sup> of Av Israel began withdrawing from Gaza Strip

Leading to thousands of rockets being fired into Israel since then

These 8 catastrophes were different in that innocent Jewish people

Were attacked, perhaps due to our people's sin

But we don't have Biblical evidence of that, we'll explore the causes later

So, we need to be praying for the Jewish people as this day approaches

That another calamity does not happen tomorrow

Tomorrow in Israel starts at 1:30pm here

We'll have a prayer meeting at 8pm tonight, after start of Tisha B'Av here

It's an important Tisha B'Av because right now Israel is in great danger

Especially needed since we Jewish people are facing many dangers

Anti-Semitism has been rapidly increasing all around the world

Since the 10/7 attack by Hamas

Amazingly world has turned against the victim & supports the terrorists

& even after being struck by Israel & US

Iran is still attempting to develop nuclear weapons

US support for Israel has greatly strengthened with this administration

But worldwide opposition has also greatly strengthened through deception

UK & France threatening to recognize a Palestinian state in September

Handing a victory to Hamas for attacking Israel & taking hostages

Much of the world would like to add to the Tisha B'Av catastrophes

In US only 32% of Americans now support Israel in its war with Hamas

8% approval among Democrats, 76% among Republicans

These low support numbers have been caused by deceptive media bias

Only 12% of the food shipped into Gaza actually reaches the residents

The rest is hijacked by Hamas

Strongest supporters of Israel today are Bible believing Christians

But anti-Semitism, is being fueled by deceptions even among believers

Israel is being accused of persecuting Christians

Yet Israel is the only nation in Middle East with freedom to be a Christian

There are anti-missionaries among the Orthodox who oppose Messianic Judaism

Not any worse now than in the past & they are a very small minority

Messianic Jewish community in Israel is rapidly growing

Others are claiming Jews control US foreign policy

Certainly didn't happen during the Biden administration

Good news from Ben Shapiro— we are in the dark before the dawn for 4 reasons

1. Large majority Israelis now oppose a 2 state solution

2. Israel has learned that deterrence doesn't work

Every potential threat must be eliminated rather than tolerated

With the expectation that it won't occur because of deterrence

3. Israel has learned it must manufacture its own weapons

They can't depend on buying them from others

4. Israeli public has embraced conservative values

Concerning defense, immigration, economics

Traditionally on Tisha b'Av Orthodox Jews shut down businesses

Pay all bills before this day

Traditionally it is a day of mourning & fasting

Starts at sundown tonight & goes to sundown on Sunday

So, we are following that tradition & having a Kiddush after service

& we are gathering for prayer after sundown today

History of Tisha B'Av raises 5 important & difficult questions

1<sup>st</sup> Why do calamities happen at all?

2<sup>nd</sup> Why have so many calamities happened to Jewish people in particular?

3<sup>rd</sup> Why did so many calamities happen to the Jewish people on the same day?

4<sup>th</sup> How have Jewish people been able to survive so many calamities?

5<sup>th</sup> What does this understanding teach each of us about

How to view the world and personally?

**1<sup>st</sup> why do calamities happen at all?**

*(CJB) James 1:17 Every good act of giving and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father who made the heavenly lights; with him there is neither variation nor darkness caused by turning.*

So God does not do evil, Yeshua also says God is good in Mark 10:18

Some believe calamities come from satan & God either can't or won't stop him

Which means God is either weak or evil, i.e. He is not good

*Isaiah 45:7 (TLV) I form light and create darkness. I make shalom and create calamity. I, Adonai, do all these things.*

Some think God brings evil, but that contradicts

What Bible says in other places, like we just read in James

Reconciliation of this seeming contradiction -God brings calamity in **judgment**

When there is a calamity there is destruction & people are injured & die

Therefore, those who are injured or perish in calamities

Are experiencing judgment, **or** God is taking them home

If they have turned to Him & there is no more growth or fruit for them

Their time on Earth is over & God calls them to be with Him in next life

If they have **not** turned to Him & they perish

It's because He knows they will never turn to Him

& He brings them to judgment

& they receive the punishment they deserve

Here's what Messianic Rabbi Glenn Blank of Beit Simcha in Lehigh Valley, PA wrote

"Calamity appears evil to those who suffer. Yet when God causes calamity, it still has **good** purposes, such as **justice**, or bringing about reformation and renewal...Death and darkness are frightening (calamities) to people who don't know or trust in God. But to those who know and trust in God, especially those who know Him intimately, and know the Good News revealed in His word, death has no sting."

So, the calamities our Jewish people have experienced

Have a redeeming value we **may not** always be able to see

Because of our limited vision, understanding

But, God brings them because of that redeeming value

Example: destruction of 1<sup>st</sup> Temple & Babylonian exile

Brought great repentance & revival to Israel

So, God causes calamities in judgment even though it is sometimes

Not clear to us what behavior is being judged

Story of my questioning God about His judgments

His saying I am the judge who knows all the evidence

You are judging Me

## 2<sup>nd</sup> question why have all these calamities happened to Jewish people?

Some think they happen to us because we Jewish people are cursed

Because our religious leaders conspired to have Yeshua executed

& have since been closed to receiving the Good News

So some have taught Christians should help bring calamities on us

Prior to the coming of Messiah our role in God's plan

Was to create a nation living in obedience to His Torah

A nation in which a person could live a life without disobedience, sin

This was necessary because the Messiah had to be without sin

So He could be an unblemished offering for all sin, all people, all time

Therefore, He had to live in a land where He could obey all God's laws

*(TLV) Galatians 4:4 But when the fullness of time came, God sent out His Son, born of a woman and born under law*

Those laws included worshipping at the Temple

Being in Jerusalem 3X/year to celebrate the pilgrimage Moadim

Being circumcised the 8<sup>th</sup> day, keeping Shabbat, eating kosher food

Which could only happen in nation that was attempting to obey all God's laws

1<sup>st</sup> century Israel had that culture

Even though the people didn't always go along with it

Out of 1 specific family line in this nation God planned to bring forth Messiah

To open the way for people of all nations

To know God personally & be set apart for Him

But, there is a being, satan, a spirit who opposes God's will, opposes His plan

Because he studies Bible, he knows when God's plan is completed

He, satan, will be fully defeated & destroyed

So, satan tried several times to destroy the Jewish people &

That particular family line, to prevent Messiah from ever being born

He did this by inciting evil men to destroy Israel

Some are recorded in the Bible: Pharaoh, Amalekites, Amorites

Moabites, Kings of Canaan, Haman, Herod

Another is recorded in history of Chanukah – Antiochus Epiphanes

God gave human beings the gift of free will

& these people chose to give in to satan's temptation

To persecute, attack, attempt to destroy the Jewish people

In most of those I just mentioned God rescued the Jewish people

Satan also worked very hard to tempt **the Jewish people** to sin

Like in the incident in Numbers when Balaam advised King of Moab

To send Moabite women into the camp of Israel

To tempt, seduce Israelite men to fornication and idolatry

Because satan knew if he could tempt the Israelites into sin

They would bring judgement, calamities, **on themselves**

& it worked for Balaam, causing a plague in which thousands perished

But, all these efforts of satan failed to stop the fulfillment of God's plan

And Messiah Yeshua did come

& He accomplished all God had planned for Him

He lived a sinless life, obeying all God's commands in Torah

Taught the Word, performed miracles, died a sacrificial death

Rose from the dead, sent Ruach Ha Kodesh to His followers

But, that wasn't the end of the story

Satan then opposed & continues to oppose to this day

Messiah's followers who were commissioned to take His message

Of freedom & love to all nations of the world

History records periods of great persecution when followers of Yeshua  
Were crucified, fed to the lions, jailed, churches bombed

This is still going on today in many parts of the world  
But, what many people don't realize, is that satan also opposed  
& opposes to this day, the people of Israel

**Including** those who **haven't trusted** in Messiah

Because we still have a role to play in God's plan in the last days

Before Messiah returns to complete God's plan

What role did the Jewish people play? Bible prophecies tell us  
Israel had to become nation after almost 2k years of being scattered - It did  
Israel would defeat powerful armies that came to destroy it – it did  
Israel's land would be restored & become exceedingly fruitful—it has  
Jews from all around the world would return to Israel – they have  
Gentile believers would help Jews return to Israel – they have  
What role do the Jewish people have yet to play? Bible prophecies tell us  
Israel will rebuild the Temple in Jerusalem– hasn't happened yet  
Israel will be attacked by all nations & Messiah will defend it – not yet  
Jewish people will all come to believe in Messiah – not yet  
Also the continued existence of the Jewish people & God's promises to us  
Being fulfilled, like the establishment of Israel

In spite of all the persecutions & these calamities & more

Is definitive evidence for the existence of the God of Israel

& His faithfulness to His promises

& therefore of truth of Bible & the evil of satan & coming destruction

Satan has opposed God's plan by inciting hatred of the Jewish people

That has resulted in a tragic history of persecution going on even to today

&, we Jewish people have opened the door

For satan to incite these attacks against us

By our turning away from God & His commandments

By assimilating, worshipping gods of legalism, wealth, power, prestige

By failing to seek the Lord with all our hearts

Praise the Lord for those of us who have sought Him have found Messiah

*(CJB) Luke 12:48... From him who has been given much, much will be demanded – from someone to whom people entrust much, they ask still more.*

We Jewish people have been given much & been entrusted with much by God

So, God asks & demands much of us

Because we have this role in God's plan, satan sends strong temptations

We bring judgment on ourselves because the temptations are so strong

But we don't have any excuse for giving in to those temptations

We're still responsible for our behavior before God

Satan also continues to incite great prejudice & hatred against us

Those of you who are not ethnically Jewish, who are hearing this

If you have put your trust in Yeshua, the Jewish Messiah

You have been grafted into God's Olive Tree, described in Romans 11

Which consists Jews and Gentiles who trust in Yeshua

You are citizens of Commonwealth of Israel according to Ephesians 2:11-12

And according to

*(CJB) Ephesians 3:6 ...in union with the Messiah and through the Good News the Gentiles were to be joint heirs, a joint body and joint sharers with the Jews in what God has promised.*

You are joint heirs with believing Israel

Joint members of God's Messianic family

& joint sharers of God's promises to Israel

But, you also share in the dangers, the opposition we Jews face  
 Like the calamities that have come upon us  
 So, don't think of tomorrow, 9<sup>th</sup> of Av, as a day to pray for "those" people  
 Over there in Israel, or in Brooklyn

**You** are those people, those people are you

Now that we understand why calamities happen  
 & why they happen to Jewish people

### **3<sup>rd</sup> Why did so many calamities happen to the Jewish people on same day?**

Probability all these terrible events would happen on the same day  
 All happening to people of Israel by chance is incredibly small  
 It can't be just coincidence, must be some significance, some message in this  
 We understand these calamities were either

The result of judgments on the people of Israel for our sin

Caused by satan's extra efforts to tempt us

Or satan inciting other people to hate us & attack us

Because we have a role in God's end time plan

But, God, who is the God of time, caused all 14 of them to happen

On the same day, tomorrow, the 9<sup>th</sup> of Av

Why? So that people, especially Jewish people

Would be amazed at this incredible fact of history

& their amazement would cause them to seek the God of time

Those who grasp that He is the God of time & justice

Would turn to Him & worship & serve Him

So, God, knowing these calamities had to come

Due to us Jews giving in to satan's temptations to sin

& knowing that other people would give in

To satan's temptation to persecute us

Ordered time so they happened on the same day

To send us a message to help us to see

That we are in a spiritual battle & to turn us to him

& take up our spiritual armor & weapons & do spiritual warfare

### **4<sup>th</sup> - how have the Jewish people been able to survive all these calamities?**

God has chosen the Jewish people to have a part in fulfilling His plans

By choosing us for a specific role in His plan for this world

He is not saying we're better than other people

In fact, He tells us just the opposite

*Deuteronomy 7:6 For you are a holy people to Adonai your God—from all the peoples on the face of the earth, Adonai your God has chosen you to be His treasured people.*

We & you Gentiles who have joined with us

Are chosen to be His treasured people. Why?

*7 "It is not because you are more numerous than all the peoples that Adonai set His love on you and chose you—for you are the least of all peoples.*

He set His love on us, His love is resting on us

Not because of our great number, because when He chose us

When He called Abraham, we were just 1 family

But God chose us for His purposes & He is faithful to fulfill His purposes

That's why we have survived

*Deuteronomy 7:8 Rather, because of His love for you and His keeping the oath He swore to your fathers, Adonai brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the house of slavery, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt.*

God rescued us from slavery because He loved us, set His love on us

Chose us as His own treasured people

Even though when Moses wrote this

Israel had turned away many times from following & obeying Lord

He delivered us because He swore an oath

To our ancestors to bless us

He also speaks of this when He discusses giving us land of Canaan

*Deuteronomy 9:5 It is not by your righteousness or the uprightness of your heart that you are going in to possess their land. Rather, because of the wickedness of these nations, Adonai your God is driving them out from before you, and in order to keep the word Adonai swore to your fathers—to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.*

The word, promise being kept is “you shall possess the land of Canaan”

*6 So you should understand that it is not because of your righteousness that Adonai your God is giving you this good land to possess—for you are a stiff-necked people.*

So, God has chosen the Jewish people to be His own treasured people

To set His love on us, to love us

To deliver us from bondage in Egypt, to give us the land of Israel

Not because we were numerous or righteous & in spite of our being stiffnecked

Why then? For sake of oath He swore to bless us to our ancestors

Avraham Yitzakh & Ya’akov

& to play a role in the fulfillment His end time plan for this world

Someone had to play that role

& to demonstrate to the whole world that His love

Does not depend on our faithfulness to Him or our worthiness

& to demonstrate to whole world that He is faithful to His promises

Even when we are not faithful to Him

& that He is faithful to fulfill the predictions of His prophets

His continued blessing on us in fulfillment of His promises to the Patriarchs

Is our strongest evidence that God will keep the promises

He made to those who follow Yeshua

God knew all these attacks would happen yet He miraculously enabled

The Jewish people to survive every one of these calamities

Because in spite of all these calamities caused by our turning away from Him

Am Yisrael Khai – the people of Israel live by the grace of God

& those who grasp from the judgments, their timing & our survival

That He is the God of justice, time & faithfulness

Would see Him as the God of love, enduring, unfailing, undeserved love

Gentiles who are grafted into Israel are included in that love

**5<sup>th</sup> What does this understanding tell each of us, how we see the world and personally?**

Jewish people are always under attack from persecutors, temptations from satan

So, whether you are Jewish or Gentile your attitude toward

Jewish people should be one of grace, compassion, tolerance

Because the attacks on us are ferocious

& whether you are Jewish or Gentile you must stand with us

As many Gentile believers have, because we need you

How will this knowledge effect you personally?

Be aware that there will be attacks on you as you do stand with us

There will be greater temptations as you do

But, there will also be greater rewards

Prayer - Protection today for Israel & Jewish people everywhere

Uncovering of terrorist plots & acts of anti-Semitism  
Your direction for our government in dealing with Iran  
Thank you that You are omniscient  
    & know all the evidence in every case & Your judgments are just  
Thanks for choosing Israel to have a big part in Your plan for this planet  
Thank you for preserving us even though we have fallen  
    To many temptations of satan  
        & have brought judgment on ourselves  
& thank you for preserving us in spite of the many attacks  
    satan has incited against us  
Thank you for the Gentiles who have stood and are standing with us  
    Bless them as You promised Abraham you would  
Strengthen them to stand in faith against satan's attacks  
Reveal your power & reality to the people here through this history  
    Your just nature, mastery over time, faithfulness & love  
    May this understanding strengthen our faith that You will keep Your promises concerning salvation, heaven,  
    healing, deliverance, RHK in us  
Continue to preserve us to fulfill Your plan for this world  
Give us Your grace, & give us grace in the eyes of those around us