



Jewish Community Center of Paramus
Congregation Beth Tikvah
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A Shabbat Message from Rabbi Arthur Weiner

Friday August 5, 2022 ~ Parsha: Devarim
Shabbat Chazon

Dear JCCP/CBT family,

Tisha B'Av: The Saddest Day of the Jewish Year

This Saturday night we will begin the observance of *Tisha B'Av*, the fast of the 9th of the Hebrew month of Av. We will gather on Zoom for the *Ma'ariv* service at 9:15 PM.

Tisha B'Av is the saddest day of the Jewish year. On this day, we commemorate the destruction of the First Temple by the Babylonians in 586 BCE and the Second Temple by the Romans in 70 CE.

The *Mishnah* (*Ta'anit* 4:6) explains that five terrible events occurred on this day in Jewish history:

- The decree that the Israelites would wander in the desert for 40 years
- Betar, the fortress headquarters of Simon bar Kochba fell to the Romans in 135 CE, ending the last resistance to the Romans in the post Second Temple era.
- The Roman ruler Hadrian established a pagan temple and rebuilt Jerusalem as a pagan city in 136 CE.
- The Edict of Expulsion of the Jews from England was signed by King Edward I in 1290
- The Jews were expelled from Spain in 1492.

With the emergence of the state of Israel, many have questioned the relevance or even need for this observance, and especially fasting on this day. I am among those who maintain that despite our gratitude for Israel and the rebuilding of Jerusalem, *Tisha B'Av* remains vital, necessary, and relevant. It teaches us our responsibility to learn from the past. It reminds us that we, like so many generations before us, are responsible to build the Jewish future. And it links us to past generations who suffered, yet carried on and bequeathed the Jewish tradition to us.

I hope you will make every effort to be with us for this observance.

The Fast begins Saturday Night August 6 at 8:06 PM

The Fast concludes Sunday Night August 7 at 8:43 PM

Shabbat Shalom, Rabbi Arthur Weiner