

Tisha B'Av: Date with Destiny

Rich Jacobs, M.D.

Tisha B'Av (תשעה באב)

- Means the 9th of Av, Av being the 5th month in the Jewish ecclesiastical calendar, corresponding to July/August in our current calendar
- Commemorates the destructions of the Jewish Temple
- A time of mourning and remembrance that begins with the month of Tammuz (June/July) - no weddings or festive celebrations
- Observant Jews do not cut their hair or wear new clothing. No wine or meat is eaten.
- Final meal before Tisha B'Av is called the “mourner’s meal” and consists of “round foods”. like hard-boiled eggs, lentils, rolls, and bagels, said to be symbolic of eternity.
- The day of Tisha B'Av is a day of fasting from all food and drink. It is forbidden to wear shoes, bathe, wear perfume, shave, wash cloths, or exchanged greetings. Mirrors are covered and people sit on the ground or on low stools as one would when mourning the loss of a loved one.
- Synagogue worship takes place in relative darkness and the embroidered curtain over the ark is removed to symbolize the destruction of the Holy of Holies. The mood is somber. The entire scroll of Lamentations is read aloud.

Prophecy and History

About 1400 B.C.

All the nations will ask: “Why has the LORD done this to this land? Why this fierce, burning anger?” And the answer will be: “It is because this people abandoned the covenant of the LORD, the God of their fathers, the covenant he made with them when he brought them out of Egypt. They went off and worshiped other gods and bowed down to them, gods they did not know, gods he had not given them. Therefore the LORD’S anger burned against this land, so that he brought on it all the curses written in this book. In furious anger and in great wrath the LORD uprooted them from their land and thrust them into another land, as it is now.” Deuteronomy 29:24-28, NIV

About 950 B.C.

“But if you or your sons turn away from me and do not observe the commands and decrees I have given you and go off to serve other gods and worship them, then I will cut off Israel from the land I have given them and will reject this temple I have consecrated for my Name. Israel will then become a byword and an object of ridicule among all peoples. And though this temple is now imposing, all who pass by will be appalled and will scoff and say, ‘Why has the LORD done such a thing to this land and to this temple?’ People will answer, ‘Because they have forsaken the LORD their God, who brought their fathers out of Egypt, and have embraced other gods, worshiping and serving them—that is why the LORD brought all this disaster on them.’” 1 Kings 9:6-9, NIV

About 630 B.C.

“I will forsake my house, abandon my inheritance; I will give the one I love into the hands of her enemies. It will be made a wasteland, parched and desolate before me; the whole land will be laid waste because there is no one who cares.” Jeremiah 12:7, 11, NIV

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The First Temple (“Solomon’s Temple”) - destroyed by the Babylonians on Tisha B’Av (the 9th of Av) in 586 B.C.

- Solomon’s Temple was destroyed by the Babylonians under Nebuchadnezzar
- Many Jews were slaughtered and many more were deported to Babylon
- Israel and her Temple ceased to exist for over 70 years until God’s Word regarding the rebuilding of the Temple was fulfilled under the Persian King, Cyrus.

Prophecy Spoken About 750 B.C., Fulfilled by Cyrus about 515 B.C.

“This is what the LORD says— your Redeemer, who formed you in the womb: I am the LORD, who has made all things, who alone stretched out the heavens, who spread out the earth by myself ... who says of Cyrus, ‘He is my shepherd and will accomplish all that I please; he will say of Jerusalem, “Let it be rebuilt,” and of the temple, “Let its foundations be laid.” ’ Isaiah 44:24, 28, NIV

Israel soon fell back into sin and unbelief during the Second Temple period. Jesus found the Temple to be “a den of robbers.” He prophesied the destruction of the Second Temple.

Palm Sunday, about 30 or 32 A.D.

When He approached Jerusalem, He saw the city and wept over it, saying, “If you had known in this day, even you, the things which make for peace! But now they have been hidden from your eyes. For the days will come upon you when your enemies will throw up a barricade against you, and surround you and hem you in on every side, and they will level you to the ground and your children within you, and they will not leave in you one stone upon another, because you did not recognize the time of your visitation.” Luke 19:41-44, NASB

As he was leaving the temple, one of his disciples said to him, “Look, Teacher! What massive stones! What magnificent buildings!” “Do you see all these great buildings?” replied Jesus. “Not one stone here will be left on another; every one will be thrown down. Mark 13:1, 2, NIV

“O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing. Look, your house is left to you desolate. For I tell you, you will not see me again until you say, ‘Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.’” Matthew 23:37-39, NIV

The Second Temple (expanded and remodel by Herod - destroyed by the Romans on Tisha B’Av, 70 A.D.

- General Titus and his legions besieged Jerusalem for many months.
- Rampaging soldiers burned the Temple and tore its stones down.
- Many thousands of Jews starved to death, were slaughtered, or deported as slaves into the far reaches of the Roman Empire.

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Monument to the Roman victory over Israel and the looting of the Jewish Second Temple in 70 A.D.

🕒 Roman Emperor, Hadrian, gave permission to the Jews to rebuild their Temple, but changed his mind. Israel rebelled under the leadership of Simon bar Kokhba (a false messiah), who captured Jerusalem from the Romans in 132 A.D., and began construction of a third Temple. Roman legions defeated the Jewish rebels in Jerusalem and obliterated the construction project on Tisha B'Av 135 A.D., before it could materialize.

- All subsequent attempts to rebuild the Temple have failed
- All Jews expelled from England for being Jewish on Tisha B'Av, 1290 A.D.
- All Jews forced to convert to Catholicism or be executed by the Inquisition in Spain on Tisha B'Av, 1492 A.D.



Coin issued during the bar Kokhba revolt from 135 A.D., when Israel tried to rebuild the Temple. Coin features a rebuilt Temple.

Future Third Temple

🕒 Scripture suggests the Temple must be rebuilt a third time, but will become occupied by Antichrist until he is defeated by Christ in the final battle.

He will confirm a covenant with many for one 'seven.' In the middle of the 'seven' he will put an end to sacrifice and offering. And on a wing [of the temple] he will set up an abomination that causes desolation, until the end that is decreed is poured out on him.'
Daniel 9:27-NIV

Don't let anyone deceive you in any way, for [that day will not come] until the rebellion occurs and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the man doomed to destruction. He will oppose and will exalt himself over everything that is called God or is worshiped, so that he sets himself up in God's temple, proclaiming himself to be God. 2 Thessalonians 2:3,4 - NIV

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- **The Third Temple will become damaged during the Antichrist's battle with Christ, in the end-times (See Zechariah 14:1-10; Revelation 11:13)**
- **The Future Third Temple repaired by Christ to become the capital of the Messianic World.**

Tell him this is what the LORD Almighty says: "Here is the man whose name is the Branch, and he will branch out from his place and build the temple of the LORD. It is he who will build the temple of the LORD, and he will be clothed with majesty and will sit and rule on his throne. And he will be a priest on his throne. And there will be harmony between the two." **Zechariah 6:12, 13 - NIV**

I will make a covenant of peace with them; it will be an everlasting covenant. I will establish them and increase their numbers, and I will put my sanctuary among them forever. My dwelling place will be with them; I will be their God, and they will be my people. Then the nations will know that I the LORD make Israel holy, when my sanctuary is among them forever. **Ezekiel 37:26-28, NIV**

Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days." The Jews replied, "It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and you are going to raise it in three days?" **John 2:19, 20 - NIV** (Also, see **Matthew 26:61; 27:40; Mark 15:29**)

- **See Ezekiel 40:5-43:10 for a very specific, detailed description of a future Temple that does not match the First or Second Temple.**

*This is what the LORD Almighty says: "The fasts of the fourth, **fifth**, seventh and tenth months will become joyful and glad occasions and happy festivals for Judah. Therefore love truth and peace."* **Zechariah 8:19 - NIV**

● Speculation

- Although the Bible clearly teaches that the "Temple" symbolizes the Church, by Body of Christ, or even the body of an individual believe (as the dwelling place of the Holy Spirit), it also suggests that there will be a future Temple where Christ and His Church will reign during a Messianic Millennium
- Will Christ Himself repair the Third Temple that was destroyed during His battle with Antichrist? Will He do this in three literal days? Will he do this on Tisha B'Av, thus changing the Fifth month from a day of mourning into a day of "joyful and glad occasions and happy festivals for Judah"?

- **In 1995, Israel's courts approved Tisha B'Av as the one day of the year that Jews may pray on the Temple Mount. To date, they have not been allowed to do that because of Muslim opposition, resulting in international pressure and domestic political turmoil.**

Reference: Howard, Kevin. Rosenthal, Marvin. *The Feasts of the Lord*, Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, Inc. 1997. Print.