



## DEAR TORAH TIDBITS FAMILY

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One of the many great things about having children is that they are often the first ones to remind you about an upcoming holiday. Two weeks before Purim, the kids are already in Adar mode. Two weeks before Pesach, they're already off from school. Before Chanukah, they're already making their *chanikiyot*. It seems to be that the school system in Israel does a great job of planning their material around these holidays and special times.

There are many challenges we experience in the period of the Three Weeks in general and Tisha B'Av in particular. These are sad times, which are something we generally try to avoid thinking about, yet we are forced to remember them in so many different ways in our lives during this period. But it is also difficult educationally for kids. Many don't have school now, and besides, what would they bring home if they did? What cute art project would we want to put up on our fridges to remember the destruction of the Beit HaMikdash?

So, our kids aren't reminding us, and the days themselves aren't quite doing this job either. Yes, there are many things we avoid.

We don't buy new clothes in the Three Weeks, or eat meat and drink wine during the Nine Days, but what tangible action do we take to actually prepare for the saddest day of the year? Is eating dairy for dinner tonight enough to feel like we are preparing for Tisha B'Av?

In addition, forcing people to feel a certain way emotionally is incredibly hard. I'd even say it is much more difficult to make someone feel sad than happy. We can spend time with a person, do fun activities or eat good food to help a person feel happy, but how do you convince someone to feel sad when they aren't sad? The prohibitions of the Three Weeks help with this, but they don't always seem enough, especially in this day and age.

Last year, OU Israel prepared an incredible video for Tisha B'Av, which received over 50,000 views. My opening line in that video was to note that we obviously have no footage of the destruction of the first and second Temples 2,000 years ago, and as a result, many find themselves connecting and talking about the loss of Europe's Jewry 80 years ago as a way to find an emotional tie to massive tragedy. (Clearly, this year we will not need to use a distant horror to inspire our tears.) I talked about how we know that the destruction of the Beit HaMikdash was a tremendous tragedy for the Jewish People, how so many died, were tortured, and Jewish religious life was completely upended, and it is important to remember this and try to feel it, even though it happened so long ago.

*Baruch Hashem*, the feedback received

In honor and in loving memory of

**Chana (Leah) Lerba a"h**

לעילוי נשמת

**חנה לאה בת שלום מאיר וצביה ע"ה**

On her 3rd Yahrzeit

Friday, August 16th 9:30am

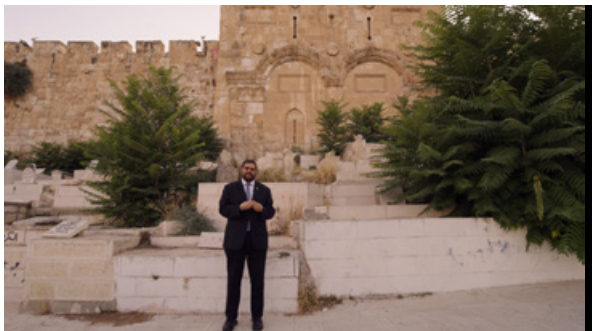
Har Hamenuhot (שער יוסף)

from last year's Tisha B'Av video was extremely heartwarming. One phone call in particular stands out in my mind, "Rav Avi, it changed my Tisha B'av and gave me a new perspective on what we're doing on that day. Thank you and the whole team for working so hard on this video because Tisha B'Av was so much more meaningful to me this year." This is what it's all about - giving new and meaningful perspective to our Jewish lives and holidays is exactly what we are trying to do in our educational programs, from our daily *shiurim* to our signature Torah Yerushalayim and Torah Modiin events.

We were not given these commemorative days just to check off a box and say we did it. It's supposed to change something inside us. A modern person watches so many videos and listens to so many podcasts. Many educators I speak to agree that these tools should be used to connect ourselves and the next generation to the Torah and Jewish ideals.

That's why this year, we once again felt it necessary to take advantage of technology in order to help people make their Three Weeks and Tisha B'av experiences more meaningful, more inspiring, and give people the ability to feel not only the loss of the Beit HaMikdash long ago, but also the impact of this past year on us.

Therefore, I want to thank Laya Bejell, our Director of Marketing, as well as Nina Broder, our Director of Social Media, and our film director, Zeev Schwartz, for working so hard to make this video – *Mashiach, We Are Ready*. They thought deeply about the messages of



the video in order to give people the most meaningful ideas for Tisha B'av taking into account the reality of this year's current events. The link to the video can be found on OU Israel's YouTube channel: [youtube.com/@theouisrael](https://youtube.com/@theouisrael), and it will go live on *erev* Tisha B'av. We want to hear from you about it. How did this video help your Tisha B'Av experience? Did it make it more meaningful?

While I'm writing these words, I'm praying to God that we will not have to release this video because we will all be celebrating the Beit HaMikdash itself in Yerushalayim. If, unfortunately, that does not happen, we hope

**Condolences to  
Daniel Fliegler and family  
on the passing of his**

**SISTER a"h**

המקום ינחם אתכם בתוך שאר אבלי ציון וירושלים

this video will help all those who watch it have a deeper and more meaningful Tisha B'Av.

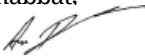
I also want to invite all of our readership to participate in our many Tisha B'Av programs. This upcoming Sunday, Torah Efrat in loving memory of David & Norma Fund z"l by their children, which we are running in partnership with Kehillat Shirat David, will help you prepare for Tisha B'Av. Torah Efrat is part of our ongoing commitment to bring OU Israel programs to more communities throughout Israel. On Tisha B'Av morning we will be having our annual Shacharit and *kinot* at the OU Israel Center, "From Pain to Promise" with Rabbi Azarya Berzon. Rabbi Berzon's *kinot* will be live broadcast on OU Israel's YouTube channel. (See ads for more details or visit [www.ouisrael.org](http://www.ouisrael.org).) These programs are part of the OU's global Tisha B'Av offerings to help Jews around the world connect to the day.

Finally, I encourage you to visit us at the Kotel for the last hour and a half of the fast. It is always an uplifting experience sitting with hundreds of NCSY Kollel summer participants who come to Israel to learn Torah for six weeks under the leadership of my friend and colleague, Rabbi Moshe Benovitz. This year, I hope that it will be with dancing and celebrating, with Mashiach. But if not, we will

be on the ground, singing meaningful songs that open our hearts and souls to *HaKadosh Baruch Hu* to show Him the yearning we have for the Beit HaMikdash. It is an honor that Mayor Moshe Lion joins us every year, sitting on the floor with us and connects to the English-speaking population that are here in Yerushalayim.

May we have the most meaningful Tisha B'Av this year. Hopefully with redemption, but if not, through meaningful videos such as ours, through song, and through our *tefillot* to *HaKadosh Baruch Hu* about how badly we need the *geulah*, now more than ever.

Wishing you all an uplifting and inspiring Shabbat.



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## Tisha B'Av Kinot

Beit HaKnesset Migdal HaShoshanim  
Pinsker

With Rabbi Chaim Ilson

Program begins 10:00 am  
Mincha Gedola 1:30 pm

Rav Ilson's remarks are based on the *Chiddushim* of HaRav Yosef Dov Soloveitchik זצ"ל with whom Rav Ilson studied for over 10 years.

Please join us in person at 22 Pinsker Street  
Jerusalem or by ZOOM  
Meeting ID: 818 0729 3842  
Password: 693872



Look for us on Facebook!  
(search Rabbi Chaim Ilson)  
For information call 054-805-0425

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