

# FESTIVAL INFO

FESTIVAL.COM

## TISHA B'AV

**Tisha B'Av** (**Hebrew:** תשעה באב <sup>[a]</sup> *Tīš'ā Bə'āḇ*; IPA: [\[tiʃa be'ʔav\]](#) ([listen](#)), lit. "the ninth of Av") is an annual [fast day](#) in [Judaism](#), on which a number of disasters in [Jewish history](#) occurred, primarily the destruction of both [Solomon's Temple](#) by the [Neo-Babylonian Empire](#) and the [Second Temple](#) by the [Roman Empire](#) in [Jerusalem](#).

Tisha B'Av marks the end of the [three weeks between dire straits](#) and is regarded as the saddest day in the [Jewish calendar](#), and it is thus believed to be a day which is destined for tragedy.<sup>[2][3]</sup> *Tisha B'Av* falls in

July or August in the [Gregorian calendar](#).

The observance of the day includes [five prohibitions](#), most notable of which is a 25-hour fast. The [Book of Lamentations](#), which mourns the destruction of Jerusalem is read in the synagogue, followed by the recitation of *kinnot*, liturgical [dirges](#) that lament the loss of the Temples and Jerusalem. As the day has become associated with remembrance of other major calamities which have befallen the Jewish people, some *kinnot* also recall events such as the murder of the [Ten Martyrs](#) by the Romans, [expulsions from England](#), [Spain](#) and

## CONTENT

- ABOUT THIS EVENT
- HISTORY

elsewhere, [massacres of numerous medieval Jewish communities](#) during the [Crusades](#), and [the Holocaust](#).

## HISTORY

### Five calamities<sup>[edit]</sup>

According to the [Mishnah](#) ([Ta'anit](#) 4:6), five specific events occurred on the ninth of Av that warrant fasting:

1. The [Twelve Spies](#) sent by [Moses](#) to observe the land of [Canaan](#) returned from their mission. Only two of the spies, [Joshua](#) and [Caleb](#)

, brought a positive report, while the others spoke disparagingly about the land. The majority report caused the [Children of Israel](#) to cry, panic and despair of ever entering the "[Promised Land](#)". For this, they were punished by [God](#) that their generation would not enter the land.<sup>[4]</sup> The [midrash](#) quotes God as saying about this event, "You cried before me pointlessly, I will fix for you [this day as a day of] crying for

- the generations",<sup>[5]</sup> alluding to the future misfortunes which occurred on the same date.
2. The [First Temple](#) built by [King Solomon](#) was [destroyed by Nebuchadnezzar](#) in 586 BCE, and the population of the [Kingdom of Judah](#) was sent into the [Babylonian exile](#).<sup>[6]</sup> According to the Bible, the First Temple's destruction began on the 7th of Av (2 Kings 25:8) and continued until the

10th (Jeremiah 52:12). According to the [Talmud](#),<sup>[7]</sup> the actual destruction of the Temple began on the Ninth of Av, and it continued to burn throughout the Tenth of Av.

3. The [Second Temple](#) built by [Ezra](#) and [Nehemiah](#) was [destroyed by the Romans](#) in 70 CE,<sup>[8]</sup> scattering the people of [Judea](#) and commencing the [Jewish exile](#) from the Holy Land.<sup>[6]</sup>
4. The Romans subsequently crushed [Bar Kokhba's revolt](#) and destroyed the city of [Betar](#), killing over 500,000 Jewish civilians (approximately 580,000) on August 4, 135 CE.<sup>[9]</sup>
5. Following the Bar Kokhba revolt, Roman commander Turnus Rufus plowed the site of the Temple in Jerusalem and the surrounding area, in 135 CE.<sup>[10]</sup>

## Other calamities<sup>[edit]</sup>

Over time, Tisha B'Av has come to be a Jewish day of mourning, not only for these events, but also for later tragedies which occurred on or near the 9th of Av. References to some of these events appear in liturgy composed for Tisha B'Av (see below).

- The [First Crusade](#) officially commenced on August 15,

1096 (Av 24, AM 4856), [killing 10,000 Jews](#) in its first month and destroying Jewish communities in [France](#) and the [Rhineland](#).<sup>[9][11]</sup>

- The Jews were [expelled](#) from [England](#) on July 18, 1290 (Av 9, AM 5050).<sup>[9]</sup>
- The Jews were expelled from France on July 22, 1306 (Av 10, AM 5066).<sup>[12]</sup>
- The Jews were [expelled](#) from [Spain](#) on July 31, 1492 (Av 7, AM 5252).<sup>[10]</sup>
- Germany entered [World War I](#) on August 1–2, 1914 (Av 9–10, AM 5674), which caused massive upheaval in European Jewry and whose aftermath led to [the Holocaust](#).<sup>[9]</sup>
- On August 2, 1941 (Av 9, AM 5701), SS commander [Heinrich Himmler](#) formally received approval from the Nazi Party for "[The Final Solution](#)." As a result, the [Holocaust](#) began during which almost one third of the world's Jewish population perished.<sup>[13]</sup>
- On July 23, 1942 (Av 9, AM 5702), began the mass deportation of Jews from the [Warsaw Ghetto](#), en route to [Treblinka](#).<sup>[13]</sup>
- The [AMIA bombing](#), of the Jewish community center in Buenos Aires, killed 85 and injured 300 on July 18, 1994 (10 Av, AM 5754).<sup>[14]</sup>
- The 2005 [Israeli disengagement from Gaza](#).<sup>[15][16]</sup>

While the [Holocaust](#) spanned a number of years, most religious

communities use Tisha B'Av to mourn its 6,000,000 Jewish victims, in addition to or instead of the secular [Holocaust Memorial Days](#). On Tisha B'Av, communities which otherwise do not modify the traditional prayer liturgy have added the recitation of special [kinnot](#) related to the Holocaust.

## Related observances<sup>[edit]</sup>

In connection with the fall of [Jerusalem](#), three other fast-days were established at the same time as the Ninth Day of Av: these were the [Tenth of Tevet](#), when the siege of Jerusalem by the Babylonians began; the [Seventeenth of Tammuz](#), when the first breach was made in the wall by the Romans; and the Third of Tishrei, known as the [Fast of Gedaliah](#), the day when [Gedaliah](#) was assassinated in the time of the Babylonians following the destruction of the First Temple.<sup>[17]</sup> The three weeks leading up to Tisha B'Av are known as [The Three Weeks](#), while the nine days leading up to Tisha B'Av are known as [The Nine Days](#).

