

IT MIGHT BE TODAY

Tish b'Av 2013

We like every week to bring what we call a Prophecy Update. We show how news and trends in the world are corroborating centuries-old prophecies found in the Bible.

One key prophetic event is the rebuilding of the Temple on the Temple Mount in Jerusalem. We know that the Jewish Temple will be rebuilt because Jesus, John, and Paul all make reference to it (Matthew 24:15; Revelation 11:1, 2; 2Thessalonians 2:4). We also know that a future Temple will be desecrated by the coming world leader when he sets himself up to be worshiped (2Thessalonians 2:3-4).

We might not be thinking too much about the rebuilding of the Temple, but Jews in Israel, and all over the world, are thinking about it - especially today.

The Hebrew month of Av begins Sunday night, July 7th, and Jews will mourn through the final nine days of The Three Weeks of grief that began with the Fast of Tammuz and end with Tisha b'Av - the day commemorating the destruction of the Jewish temples.

All public transportation will be silenced, all restaurants will remain closed in Jerusalem the evening of July 15th as the sun sets. The Hebrew day of great tragedies, Tisha b'Av, will begin at sundown.

In remembrance of the destruction of both the First and Second Temple on the 9th of Av hundreds of years apart, tens of thousands of Jews will gather at the Western Wall to pray and petition the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel. Jewish hearts around the world will long in unison for the future Temple, the one to be established when the Messiah comes.

<http://www.khouse.org/enews/2013-07-02/#1>

As far as dates go, Tish b'Av has been one for Jewish tragedies. According to Jewish scholars, 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.
2. The First Temple built by King Solomon and the Kingdom of Judah was destroyed by the Babylonians.
3. The Second Temple built by Ezra and Nehemiah was destroyed by the Romans.
4. The Romans crushed Bar Kokhba's revolt and destroyed the city of Betar, killing over 100,000 Jews, in 132AD.
5. Following the Bar Kokhba revolt, Roman commander Turnus Rufus plowed the site of the Temple and the surrounding area, in 133AD.

Other calamities have been associated with the date:

1. The First Crusade officially commenced on August 15, 1096AD (Av 9 on the Jewish calendar), killing 10,000 Jews in its first month and destroying Jewish communities in France and the Rhineland. A total of 1.2 million Jews were killed by this crusade.

2. The Jews were expelled from England on Tish b'Av 1290AD.
3. The Jews were expelled from France on Tish b'Av 1306AD.
4. The Jews were expelled from Spain on Tish b'Av 1492AD.
5. On August 2, 1941, (Av 9) SS commander Heinrich Himmler formally received approval from the Nazi Party for "The Final Solution." Almost 50% of the Jews on the face of the earth were captured and killed at that time.
6. On the 9th of Av in 1942 the mass deportation began of Jews from the Warsaw Ghetto, en route to Treblinka.

Some prophecy scholars and students speculate that it will be Tish b'Av when the antichrist comes, in the very middle of the Great Tribulation, to defile the rebuilt Temple, declaring that he is god and demanding to be worshipped.

To that I'd say "we'll see," except that we won't see; at least, not from the earth. Jesus promised to return for His church, to resurrect the dead in Christ and to rapture the believers alive at His coming, prior to any portion of the Great Tribulation.

If we see these events at all, it will be from Heaven.

Let's get ready, stay ready, and keep looking up. ***Ready or not, Jesus is coming!***