

The Nine Days: Some Quick Bullet Points

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During the period from the 17th of Tammuz until the 9th of Av, we practice several customs to display mourning for the Bet Hamikdash. During these weeks, some of the most tragic events in our history took place. In the period of the second Bet Hamikdash, it took the Romans three weeks from the time their army breached the walls of Yerushalayim until they burned and destroyed the Bet Hamikdash on the 9th of Av. During the massive destruction and pillaging of our holiest city, thousands of our people were tortured and killed.

Our practices of mourning are increased as we enter the month of Av and become even more intensified in the week of Tisha Be'av.

This year, Rosh Chodesh Av is Monday, **August 5th, 2024**. The Nine Days begins right after Rosh Chodesh.

The week of Tisha Be'av begins right after Shabbat Hazon, beginning **Motze Shabbat August 10th 2024**.

The fast of Tisha Be'av will be observed on **Tuesday, August 13th 2024**.

Customs of the Three Weeks:

According to the Mashadi custom, the following already began starting on the 17th of Tammuz:

Music: It is customary to refrain from listening to music for leisure purposes during the three weeks.

Shehechyanu: It is customary to refrain from purchasing new clothing for which one would say

Shehechyanu, such as suits, jewelry or luxury items being bought for personal joy. If an item is currently on sale and will be substantially more expensive later, it may be purchased but may not be worn until after the Tisha Be'av.

Haircuts and Shaving: Many families have the custom to refrain from getting haircuts during the three weeks, while other families continue to get haircuts until the week of Tisha Be'av.

Shaving is permitted until the week of Tisha Be'av.

Weddings and Engagements: It is customary not to have weddings during the three weeks. Engagements may be celebrated without music until Rosh Chodesh Av.

Customs of the Nine Days:

The Mishna (Ta'anit 4:6) says *Mishenichnas Av, Memaatim Besimcha* – "Once the month of Av begins, we minimize our happiness." This year, Rosh Chodesh Av is Monday, August 5th.

Eating Meat: Our tradition is to refrain from eating meat from after Rosh Chodesh Av until the day after Tisha Be'av. We may eat meat on the day of Rosh Chodesh itself, as well as on Shabbat during the Nine Days. The restriction on having meat includes refraining from having chicken during the Nine Days.

Drinking wine: Our tradition is to refrain from drinking wine from after Rosh Chodesh until the day after Tisha Be'av. Drinking wine for Kiddush or Havdala is permitted.

New House: It is customary not to close on or move into a new house during the Nine Days. If possible, a closing should be pushed off until after Tisha

Be'av, unless doing so will result in significant financial loss.

Building and Construction for Pleasure: During this time, we refrain from any unnecessary construction or renovations which are done for personal enjoyment. Time-sensitive and necessary renovations may be done, such as to repair an area where there is a physical risk if it remains unfixed.

Engaging in Merriment: From the beginning of Av, we minimize our engaging in merriment. In general, we try to avoid social outings for personal pleasure or leisure. For example, our tradition is to refrain from going to a public movie theater or to sporting events such as baseball games during the Nine Days. Many families have the custom not to go to the pool or ocean during the Nine Days, while other families do not go to the pool or ocean only during the week of Tisha Be'av. We are not strict on the children in this regard, and it is ok to take children to the pool during the Nine Days. Many women have the custom not to get manicures or pedicures during the Nine Days, or while some only do not get manicures or pedicures during the week of Tisha Be'av.

Doing Laundry: Some families have the custom not to do laundry or send in dry cleaning during the Nine Days. Other families keep this restriction only during the week of Tisha Be'av.

Showering: According to Sephardic custom, it is permitted to shower during the Nine Days up until the week of Tisha Be'av. This year, a shower may be taken up until Friday August 9th before Shabbat.

Litigation: One who has litigation with a non-Jew in the month of Av should try and best to postpone his court date until after Tisha Be'av.