

Note to Readers: In addition to providing holiday inspiration, we are pleased to offer you continuing access to a vast library of Ziegler Torah commentaries on each weekly Parashah throughout the entire Torah cycle. To delve deep, please click here.



>Yk g\ Uj Y'Uk Ung VYYb'UWta a i b]miXfUk b'hc[Yh Yf Vmij]fhi Y'cZHcfUA "Bc'a UHYf'k\ YfY'nci a UmivYzk Y'k YWta Y'nci 'hc'h Y'NjY['Yf'Wta a i b]mih fci [\ 'HcXUmig'HcfUA 'Yla Uj"

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H Y'GYj Ybh'YbH 'cZHJa a i n**

The fast of the Seventeenth of Tammuz, this year falling on July 9, 2020, is one of four fasts connected to the destruction of the First Temple in 586 B.C.E. and/or the Second Temple in 70 C.E. The first is the tenth of Tevet, usually occurring in January, when the Babylonian general Nebuchadnezzar began the siege of Jerusalem in 587 B.C.E (2 Kings 25:1-25). Eighteen months later, on the seventeenth of Tammuz, he broke through the walls of Jerusalem, culminating in the destruction of the First Temple on the Ninth of Av, three weeks later. The fast of Gedaliah, on the third of Tishre (the day after Rosh Hashanah) commemorates the assassination of Gedaliah, the governor of Judea whom Nebuchadnezzar appointed and under whom Jews were beginning to reestablish a Jewish presence there after the destruction of the First Temple (2 Kings 25-26; Jeremiah 41), followed by the remaining Jews there fleeing to Egypt, thus marking the end of Jews living in Israel until allowed to return there by Cyrus, emperor of Persia, in 539 B.C.E.

Of these four facts, only T



Committee on Jewish Law and Standards. Author of over 200 articles and 14 books on Jewish thought, law, and ethics, and editor of 14 more books on those topics, his most recent books are For the Love of God and People: A Philosophy of Jewish Law and Modern Conservative Judaism: Evolving Thought and Practice.



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