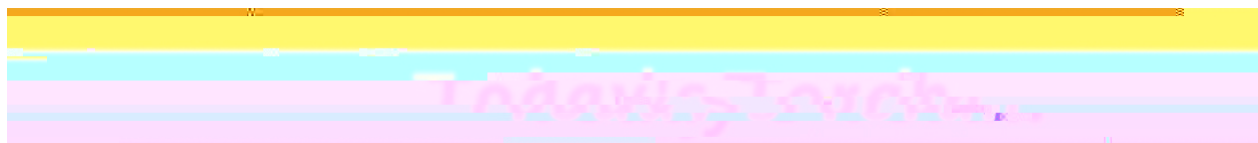
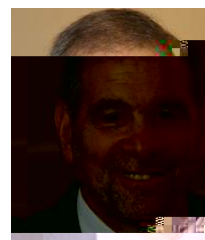


Note to Readers: In addition to providing holiday inspiration, we are pleased to offer you continuing access to a vast library of Ziegler Torah commentaries on each weekly Parashah throughout the entire Torah cycle. To delve deep, please [click here](#).



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Tisha B'av
July 30, 2020 - 9 Av 5780



By: Rabbi Dr. Michael Berenbaum
Professor of Jewish Studies
American Jewish University

The 10th of Av or What Happens Next

The Jewish Calendar does not change, we do.

As we observe Tisha B'av with fasting and lamentations this Thursday

Nine years later, I was in Kiev sitting seemingly anonymously among Soviet Jews but a fortnight after the Israeli raid on Entebbe which rescued the Jewish hostages. I was asked to chant the great poem of Yehuda Halevi, "Zion will you not ask after the welfare of your prisoners," precisely as I was in the Soviet Union, a representative of Zion asking for the fate of refuseniks, those being persecuted for their desire to join the Jewish people in Zion.

And this year we observe Tisha B'av in the midst of four crises here at home: *the pandemic*, which threatens our very lives and imprisons us at home or in public behind masks; *an economic crisis*, threatening our future and our children's ability to provide for our future; *a leadership crisis* that demoralizes us and threatens the global future; and

It will take time, much time for it is harder to rebuild than to destroy, harder but more essential!

Rabbi Dr. Michael Berenbaum, is the Director of the Sigi Ziering Institute: Exploring the Ethical and Religious Implications of the Holocaust and a Professor of Jewish Studies at the American Jewish University. The author and editor of 20 books, he was also the Executive Editor of the Second Edition of the Encyclopaedia Judaica. He was Project Director overseeing the creation of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum and the first Director of its Research Institute and later served as President and CEO of the Survivors of the Shoah Visual History Foundation, which took the testimony of 52,000 Holocaust survivor in 32 languages and 57 countries. His work in film has won Emmy Awards and Academy Awards.



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