

Tishah B'Av

Days of Sorrow - Call to Prayer!

By William Schnoebelen ©2014

**This season is a time of profound spiritual stress and prayer is vitally needed. Why?
First, let's examine some these Scriptures:**

7 And they slew the sons of Zedekiah before his eyes, and put out the eyes of Zedekiah, and bound him with fetters of brass, and carried him to Babylon.

8 And in the fifth month, on the seventh day of the month, which is the nineteenth year of king Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, came Nebuzaradan, captain of the guard, a servant of the king of Babylon, unto Jerusalem:

9 And he burnt the house of the Lord, and the king's house, and all the houses of Jerusalem, and every great man's house burnt he with fire. – 2 Kings 25:7-9

Many of you may know about the strange “occasion” that is coming up (August 5). On the Jewish calendar, it is known as ***Tishah B'Av*** (the 9th day of the month of Av). The Jewish calendar cycles differently than the Gregorian calendar (or Roman one) does. That is because the Hebraic calendar was set by **YAHUWAH**, and is based follows Yahuweh's Biblical Feasts that follow a *lunar* cycle.

Because the Hebrew calendar (which was originally set up by the Creator Himself) is lunar, every year these occasions land on different dates in the secular calendar. This year, *Tishah B'Av* begins on the evening of August 4 and goes till sundown of the 5th (In the Bible and hence in Hebrew thinking, days begin and end at sundown [see **Gen. 1:5**]).

While some of this information is not in the Bible, it IS history and it is history to which we need to attend. Biblically and historically, this date is considered the anniversary of one of the greatest tragedies in the history of Israel. It is the date that the Great Temple that King Solomon built was destroyed by King Nebuchadnezzar in 423 BC.

This temple was **THE** wonder at that time in history - partially because of its stunning size and architectural beauty, but more importantly because the **Presence** of the Living Yahuwah of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob *dwelt in the Holy of Holies* (*Kadosh Kadoshim* in Hebrew). However, beginning with its builder (Solomon) and after, Israel slid further and further into apostasy.

Even though Solomon was the wisest man of his day, he still fell into idolatry and was led astray by his MANY pagan wives. He actually built smaller temples to pagan gods like Molech and Chemosh (**1 Kings 11:1-8**). Because of this, he was told that the kingdom he inherited from his father, David, would be torn apart after his death (**1 Kings 11:9-13**). This is why after Solomon the kingdom split into the northern kingdom commonly known as Israel (made up of more or less ten of the tribes) and the southern kingdom known as Judah (made up of the tribes of Judah and Benjamin with most of the Levites as well).

Though Judah's slide into idolatry took longer than the northern kingdom's (which was conquered and dispersed by Assyria in 720 BC) it still degenerated spiritually. Prophets would come and preach revival and there would be brief periods of repentance, but the people – and even the monarchs – kept falling into sin.

Finally, the Almighty's patience wore out and judgment fell on the city of Jerusalem and the temple, and the events described in the verse above took place. The temple was destroyed on the day of *Tishah B'Av*. However, the story does not end there.

Eerie Coincidences?

We need to go back in time to the book of **Numbers 13-14**. The people of Israel had lost heart and refused to go in and claim the Promised Land. From time immemorial, Hebrew sages have taught that **this** failure took place on *Tishah B'Av*. As individual followers of Messiah, we need to remember this and not lose heart during these trying spiritual times! We need to take up the FULL ARMOUR & VICTORY GIVEN US AT CALVARY!

Fast forwarding to apostolic times, we find the historical fact that the second temple (the one in which Yahushua taught) was destroyed by the Romans – as He prophesied – on **the 9th of Av in 70 AD**. Unfortunately, most the leadership of Israel at the time did NOT recognize Yahushua as their Messiah and so apostasy resulted in the destruction of the temple a *second* time.

Because of this, it became customary (though not in the Torah) for Jews to fast on *Tisha B'Av* to mourn and commemorate the destruction of both temples.

The evil reputation of this date continued to increase during the Bar Kochba rebellion. Simon Bar Kochba (this was a title, meaning “Son of the Star”) led a revolt against the Romans in 132 AD. He claimed to be Messiah and because of this, the Messianic Believers in Israel refused to join forces with him, since they were followers of Yahushua, the **TRUE Messiah**. Bar Kochba’s revolt failed, and in 135 thousands of Jewish refugees fled to Bethar. The emperor Hadrian and his troops followed them and there was a massacre of Jews **on the 9th of Av in that year**. Every Jew was killed, and the Romans would not allow burial for dead for six long days!

Things got demonstrably worse for the Jewish people of the Roman Empire after this. The Romans plowed Jerusalem with yokes of oxen. Many Jews were sold into slavery and deported to Egypt. Jerusalem was turned into a pagan city called Aelia Capitolina and no Jewish person was allowed to live there. They were only permitted to enter the city on *Tisha B'Av* to mourn their losses.

After this, Hadrian really stepped up the persecution of both Jews and the early Christians. But he **especially reserved his ire for Torah observant Jews**, who were seriously discriminated against. He passed laws against synagogue worship, the Sabbath and Torah study. Unfortunately, many Jews assimilated and many others were martyred including the celebrated sage, Rabbi Akiva. This horrid persecution lasted until Hadrian’s death in 138.

Strangely enough, almost a thousand years later, the Jews were expelled from the nation of England on the **9th of Av in 1290**. Then, in 1492, King Ferdinand issued a decree on March 31 that all Jews had to either convert to Catholicism or leave Spain. He gave them four months to leave, which meant that the final date of expulsion was exactly *Tishah B'Av*.

Finally, many historians, both Jewish and otherwise, would tell you that the First World War and the subsequent Treaty of Versailles (which imposed extreme punitive sanctions on Germany) were the proximate cause of Hitler’s rise to power and the Holocaust. World War I began on July 28, 1914 that was the *9th of Av for that year!*

These are just TOO MANY coincidences! **No wonder most Jews view *Tishah B'Av* as a day of special ill omen!** Up to three weeks before this date, many devout Jews begin praying and afflicting their souls (**Lev. 23:27**) - working up to the 9th of Av when they fast and pray almost as severely as they do on Yom Kippur (the Day of Atonement)!

Strongholds and Batteries

Now, even the Scriptures are relatively silent about *Tishah B'Av*. But let's look through Biblical eyes to see what has happened...in some of my other teachings, I have discussed the power of **egregores**. In magick (and other spiritual genres), an egregore is a thought form. It is **an IDEA that is given power over time**. Usually this power is demonic. What we're concerned with is the Biblical word for egregore: **STRONGHOLD (2 Cor. 10:4)**. Here is how it works:

Any bad idea or form of worship starts out small; like Allah, for example. He started out as a **rock** – a stone idol of a moon el (false g-d). He was the el of Mohammed's tribe. But Mohammed started Islam as a worship of Allah and began adding thousands of followers. Today there are more two billion Muslims. Since Islam was created in the 6th century, untold *millions* have given worship to this rock. When the sin of idolatry is committed, it invites demons. More and more demons come to inhabit the object or name of evocation. Eventually, it becomes a strongman. Today, Allah and has a stronghold called Islam. This egregore is VERY powerful because billions bow down toward Mecca five times a day and pray to it, *honoring a false el with a false name*.

I believe the same thing is true of *Tisha B'Av*. Because devout Jews (most NOT Believers in Yahushua) have invested the date with these ominous associations down through the centuries, it has acquired *a power all its own*. A spirit of fear has taken residence within it. It becomes like a self-fulfilling prophecy. As Job said, *“For the thing which I greatly feared is come upon me...” (Job 3:25)* Even Believers can create egregores, but that is a discussion for another day.

The problem with an egregore is that it becomes a sort of spiritual perpetual motion machine. It just keeps running and gaining power. Others, not of the Jewish (or Messianic) faith, who recognize this principle, can tap into its power. THIS is the concern. I KNOW, for example, that Illuminati leaders in the Middle East have successfully tapped into the vast power of the egregore - or strongman - of Islam. Manipulating world events for their own purposes, they have created chaos and torment, pleasing to the enemy. Egregores can be used like spiritual batteries and charged up by worship, adulation or ceremony. Then their power can be tapped for (usually bad) purposes.

In like manner, evil people have begun harnessing the power of the stronghold of *Tishah B'Av* for working magick against the Hebrew people and the world at large.

But wait, there is an even *older* stronghold coming upon us. Many of you may have heard the expression, “Dog Days of summer.” The main origin of this odd expression is the fact that anciently, the Egyptians worshipped an el, or g-d named **Set** (with the head of a dog). This is one of the oldest cults in the history of Egypt. It probably predates the time of Moses. OTO leader¹ and occult scholar Kenneth Grant discusses the cult of Set in his books, notably in *THE MAGICAL REVIVAL* and *ALEISTER CROWLEY AND THE HIDDEN GOD*. To this day, one of the major satanic organizations in North America, second only to the Church of Satan, is called the Temple of Set.

Without going into all the details,² Set is a dark g-d – a being of ill omen indeed. He is associated with the star Sirius (Sothis in Greek). This star is the brightest visible star and is in the constellation that has been known as Canis Major (the Big Dog) for millennia. Thus, there is an association between Set

¹ The OTO (*Ordo Templi Orientis* – Order of Eastern Templars) is a ceremonial magick society of a decidedly dark, Rosicrucian, Masonic character. Aleister Crowley, the notorious 20th century occultist, was made its head for the English-speaking world. They practiced sexual magic and taught that the “Christian Aeon” was over, being replaced by the Aeon of Horus, the “Crowned and Conquering Child.”

² See my book, *MASONRY BEYOND THE LIGHT*, especially pp. 101, 156-157

and the dog. Set and Sirius came to associated with evil because when that star/constellation is in its ascendancy is around July 23, the middle of the Dog Days. In Egypt, it was a time of blistering, blasted heat when the Nile was at its lowest ebb. Note that date! July 23.

Because of these practices, many satanic groups including the Illuminati have built up a powerful association or egregore with the date of July 23. Of course, this date is smack in the middle of the three weeks preceding *Tishah B'Av*. Satanists often use this date and its surrounding *orb* (a term from astrology meaning the three days to either side of a given date) for black magical rituals.

Forming a Nexus of Evil

As of this writing, a very tense situation has broken out in the Middle East involving attacks on Israel by rockets and terrorists of Hamas from Gaza. These events are typical of the kind of spiritual backscatter you see during the Dog Days and/or *Tisha B'Av*. Decent people do not understand this, but Satanists will use ANY shedding of innocent blood (death by war, terrorism or even things like abortion) as a way to fuel the power of their egregores.

Believe it or not, just as there are what might be termed “Christian Satanists” (Satanists who couch their symbolism and ritual in perversions of the Christian or Catholic faith) there are also **Muslim** Satanists, who take the “sacred”³ things of Islam and twist them to their own occult ends. These people worship a being known as **Iblis** or **Shaytan**. When I was into the dark arts, I knew a couple of these people, and they were scary to me –*even then*.

*[Special note to prayer warriors: IF you feel led by the Holy Spirit (Ruach ha Kodesh) and **ONLY if you are led**, specifically pray against these two entities, for they are strongmen over the darkest underbelly of Islam. But caution is advised. If you are not a seasoned intercessor or are having issues in your own spiritual walk at this time, seek the counsel of your pastor.]*

People do not realize that Islam is rooted in very powerful Arabic sorcery that has been around for millennia. Islamic Satanists USE this sorcery for their own wicked ends. It would not be above such creepy folk to attack innocent people and then feed on the energy from the shedding of their blood. I suspect that many Islamic terrorists are actually being egged on by Islamic Satanists.

Forewarned is Forearmed!

So, here is what we have: Prayer warriors need to understand the USUAL level of dark, evil power generated by the **combination** of *Tishah B'Av* and the Dog Days of Sirius.

What is going on here with the 9th of Av and the Dog Days is a true **battery** of evil power! When you add the seething tensions in the Middle East to the mix, things could boil over – both spiritually and literally. Jews have understood, at some level, the realities of this for almost two thousand years. Even though most of them have rejected their Messiah, they are still the chosen people of YAHUWAH. They are still very attuned spiritually.

Down through the centuries, Jews have honored certain prayer practices that even gentiles can profit from learning about. As a true disciple of Yahushua, you would have **more power** in your prayers than would a Jew who does not accept Him as Messiah.

³ I use the word “sacred” here not because anything in the Islamic religion is sacred. It is not! It is deception. But I am using the word to distinguish what mainstream Muslims would regard as sacred things or practices from the perversions that these Islamic Satanists would perform.

For example, wearing a *Tallit* (Prayer shawl) can provide additionally spiritual “covering” while in prayer. It can be thought of as applying **the cloak of zeal (Is. 59:17)** – a little known and very powerful part of the Armor of YAHUWAH. The tallit is a symbol both of protection and of healing – read **Malachi 4:2** and realize that what is being discussed there is the *Tallit* of Messiah! The word in the verse for “wings” (Hebrew: *KANAPH*) is also used for the *Tallit*. Yahushua fulfilled the words of Malachi when He healed the woman who touched the fringe of His garment (called *tzit-tzit* in Hebrew). These blue and white fringes were and are part of the clothing of observant Jews (**Num. 15:38**) and are on prayer shawls.

Wearing the *Tallit* can be a protection for you and your family. Many Messianic Jews will pray for their wives and children on Sabbath eve and at other times by wrapping them in their prayer shawls as a symbol of the protective covering of Messiah.

Another helpful tool is understanding cycles of the year as set up by the Creator. As mentioned in the beginning of this article, Israel runs on a lunar calendar. Each month begins with the New Moon (*Rosh Chodesh*). This new beginning starts when the first sliver of the New Moon is sighted over the Temple Mount in Jerusalem.

For thousands of years, devout Jews have prayed the **Hallel Psalms** on *Rosh Chodesh* as a way of “setting” the month for good things to happen in the coming weeks. Hallel means “praise” and is the root of the familiar word, Hallelujah (Praise YAH!). It has NOTHING to do with Islamic food (the word, like many facets of Islam were taken from other religions). These Psalms are some of the most powerful praise passages in the Word: **Ps. 113-118**. Those of you who receive this and pray, **PLEASE INTERCEDE** with the Hallel Psalms on the feast of the New Moon every month, as a way of counter-acting the dark forces converging on us in the coming days! Remember, the servants of the evil one spend many hours building up their power and ritual workings for him and his will. I KNOW, I used to be one of them. But the Almighty has other plans! If we, His people, will pray and seek His Face and humble ourselves, He will hear our cries and deliver us.

If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land. - 2 Chronicles 7:14

Will Believers work and pray as hard for the truth as cultists do for a lie? It is not that praying or doing good to others saves us. We are saved by faith in the finished work of Messiah on Calvary. (**Eph. 2:8-9**) But as Wesley said, we are saved TO do good to and for others.

Right now, for so many reasons, Believers need **to pray like never before**. Beyond this tense season of *Tishah B'Av*, we have the crisis on our southern border and the looming threat of the literal plague of ebola!

The SHOFAR: If you are able to procure one and blow notes on it, a **Shofar** (ram’s horn) is another powerful tool from Israel. It is the war trumpet of the King of Kings. Many times, just sounding the shofar will pierce the soul and shatter strongholds that no other force can penetrate. Think how much more effective it would be if it were played by a Believer in Yahushua! There is so much more that could be said about the Shofar as a spiritual warfare tool, but space does not permit here. If you have a Shofar, I would recommend blowing it prayerfully every day during the days of Tisha B'Av. If you feel led to fast on the actual day and are able to do so, that would also be very helpful.

The SHEMA: Speaking of sounds, another stronghold-shattering prayer that can be used is the SHEMA. Pray this prayer out loud in the morning and at night before you go to bed (**Deut. 6:4-9**). Proclaiming it in English is good, but doing it in the actual language of the Torah – Hebrew – is better. Even if you just proclaim the two main verses, it is a powerful spiritual testimony. Here is how to say it phonetically in Hebrew:

SHAY-MAH, YIS-RAEL, YAHU-WAH AVI-NU, YAHU-WAH ECHAD!

BA-RUCH SHEM KA-VOD MAL-CHUTO LE-O-LAHM VAED.

*Hear O Israel, Yahuwah our Father, Yahuwah is One.
Blessed be the Name of His glorious Kingdom for all eternity.*

If you wish to sing it, which is better, there are many sites on YouTube and elsewhere that would give you examples of the melody. If you do not feel comfortable singing it, that is fine. Just saying it is very powerful. Why?

It is the central verse of the Torah, not in terms of placement, but in terms of importance. It is like the John 3:16 of the Hebrew Scriptures. Now, talk about an egregore – for GOOD! The SHEMA has been said or chanted by millions of Jews for thousands of years. Yahuwah (the Name of the Father) has an original plan of prayer and power, superior to the mere workings of the enemy!

But even beyond that, the SHEMA is a declaration of the absolute **UNITY** of the Creator. See, the Greek word for devil is DIABOLOS. That word is rooted in the term for two, or *division*. The devil seeks to **divide!** That is what he does. He will split up families, churches and even nations if we let him. His number is two. YAHUWAH's number is ONE.

By strongly, vibrantly proclaiming the SHEMA out loud, we are shattering the devil's strongholds of war, division and chaos in our lives, our families and our nations. We are echoing the powerful prayer of our Master, Yahushua, as spoken in John 17:21:

That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.

When we proclaim the SHEMA, we are aligning ourselves with the deepest meaning of that prayer! We move our families and ourselves closer to its fulfillment. What could shatter the darkness more than the very prayer of the Messiah to His Father?

Brothers and sisters, pray like never before. Pray for the Shalom of Jerusalem and for unity in our land (Notice how politicians have been seeking to **DIVIDE** us on the basis of race, ethnicity or money? That is *literally diabolical!*) Pray for the plans of the adversary to be shattered before the Stripes, the Blood and the Cross of Calvary and the TRUTH of Yahuwah's **D'var** (Word) revealed to the nations, and here at home. Pray that the unfruitful works of darkness be exposed (**Eph. 5:11**). We must stand together to sound the Shofar and sing the SHEMA – praising Yahuwah as the walls of the enemy fall!

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