

# Community on Columbia

## Fast of Tammuz

The only specific reference to the Fast of Tammuz (Tammuz is the name of the month) is Zechariah 8:19. However, from many references in the Talmud, we have a lot of information on how this fast was celebrated during the first century.

During the time of Christ, the Fast was celebrated locally by all faithful Jews. There is no doubt that Jesus celebrated the Fast with his disciples. The Fast of Tammuz is intimately connected with the Fast of Ab twenty-one days later. This period of the year is primarily concerned with the destruction of all idolatry. Several misfortunes happened to our spiritual forefathers on this date:

- 1) Moses broke the tables of the law when he saw the golden calf on the 17th of Tammuz (Exodus 32:9).
- 2) In 586 B.C. Nebuchadnezzar broke through the walls of Jerusalem on the 17th of Tammuz. Twenty-one days later the Temple was destroyed on the Fast of Ab.
- 3) The offerings ceased in the first temple when the wall of Jerusalem was breached on the 17th of Tammuz.
- 4) In 70 A.D. the Roman General Titus broke through the wall of Jerusalem on the 17th of Tammuz. The Temple was destroyed twenty-one days later during Ab.
- 5) At the end of the Bar Kokhbah rebellion, on the Fast of Tammuz in 135 A.D., Hadrian's Roman armies destroyed the possibility of ever rebuilding the Temple again.
- 6) During the Bar Kokhbah rebellion a centurion named Apostamos took a Torah scroll and completely wrapped one of the main Rabbis in the scroll and then set it on fire. It broke the people's spirit when they saw the desecration of the Torah and the murder of a prominent Rabbi.
- 7) Also on the Fast of Tammuz, an idol was set up in the Temple in the Holy Place. The Rabbis say it was the abomination of desolation (Daniel 9:27) prophesied by Daniel, but it does not say when it happened; it is not pinned down to a set time.
- 8) David's first son died on the 17th of Tammuz

The period of time between the Fast of Tammuz and the Fast of Ab is called "between the straits."

“. . . All her persecutors overtook her between the straits” (Lamentations 1:3). This is the time to fast from being under the control of anything; during this period God can destroy all the molten and graven images within you. The hole in the wall described in Ezekiel 8:7-18 allows you to look in and see the idolatry that has controlled you.

## READINGS

Exodus 32:19-35  
Exodus 34:1-17  
Numbers 30:1-16  
II Samuel 12:13-23  
II Samuel 22:1 - 23:7  
Isaiah 43

Isaiah 55:6 - 56:12  
Jeremiah 31 - 40  
Ezekiel 13 & 18  
Daniel 9 & 10  
Bell & The Dragon  
Suzanna