



Menachem Av Agenda

Very difficult writing at the beginning of the Nine Days about post-Tish'a b'Av issues, which will hit the stands before 9 AV with most people not seeing it until after.

Keep in mind (one of) the custom to call the month Av until after noon of the 10th and then call it Menachem Av - hence, the title of this piece.

The period of Aveilut HaChurban has passed (or is about to pass) into the mode of Nechama. We said Nacheim at mincha of Tish'a b'Av and we are soon to 'celebrate' Shabbat Nachamu. This Shabbat we read the first of seven haftarot of Nechama.

What does that really mean? Are we done thinking about Churban Beit HaMikdash? No, we are not. Mourning the Destruction does not end until the Beit HaMikdash is rebuilt and everything that goes with it is in place. So what does it mean that the Aveilut transits into Nechama?

There is a psychological benefit to having a fixed period of the year to mourn the Churban. But noon on the

10th of Av is not just 'now we're done'. It is time now - if you haven't done it much during the Three Weeks and Nine Days - to ponder the future.

And that future includes the Beit HaMikdash, the loss of which we have mourned for almost 2000 years.

Mourning is kind of hollow if there is no real longing for and anticipating of the Geula and everything that comes with it.

This is no easy task. We have been without the Beit HaMikdash for so long and we have been very successful in building Jewish communities around the world and in Israel - without it as a reality, only as a picture on the wall, and repeated prayers - that some of us don't really mean.

Do you want the Beit HaMikdash, Korbanot, Sanhedrin, punishments... korbanot to come back? You know that you should. We all pray for it every single day. But do you really want it?

That's the Menachem Av Agenda. We need to work on it.

Helpful hint (maybe): For the last hundred years or so, our homes have been lit by electric lights. They provide light far better than gas or oil lamps. Yet we still light Shabbat candles. Primitive? No. Real hands on, direct lighting.

Keep doing mitzvot, davening, etc. but Beit HaMikdash - accept no substitutes.

The picture to the right was in the D'varim PP, in which the name Barnea occurs 3 times (as a place name). His name was in M&M and will be in Eikev, too. Speaking of people and places, Barnea is a great, experienced guide. 050-752-6888 selavan@gmail.com



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