



# TORAH 4 TEENS

# BY TEENS

NCSY ISRAEL



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## Relating to Tisha B'Av

How are we supposed to mourn for events that occurred thousands of years ago? How are we supposed to relate to the loss of the Beit Hamikdash? The events that occurred during these past three weeks and the Beit Hamikdash are history, how is one supposed to connect to the past and make it relevant today?

Rabbi Yosef Dov Soloveitchik suggested three answers to this question. The first is that we are mourning the past but rather are reliving the tragedies of Tisha B'Av everyday and the fact that we haven't rebuilt the Beit Hamikdash is a reminder that we are still in a state of incompleteness.

The second answer he suggests is that on Tisha B'Av we are also praying that what happened twice should never happen again. Third, the tragic events of our history leave us in the constant question of "Eikha"

and we cannot stop asking "Why" until we have reached the point where Mashiach answers those questions. We cannot simply accept our history as happenstance but rather ask "What is the purpose of it all?"

I want to suggest one final answer and that is that while it may be hard to relate to events that happened in the past we very much can relate to at least one of the reasons we do not have a Beit Hamikdash and that reason is baseless hatred. We can all do more for our fellow Jew, whether it is a friendly smile, an encouraging word, or a helping hand.

Until we live in a state where the pain of another Jew hurts each of us personally and the joy of another Jew makes us happy we may never really know what unity means. Let us try to take upon ourselves one small act that can bring ourselves closer to each other so that Tisha B'Av can be turned into a day of Simcha for eternity. ■

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