

Journey Through Genesis
Bereisheit / Genesis 45

Uncontrolled Weeping

By Dr. Akiva Gamliel Belk

As we G-d Willing continue our Journey Through Genesis we offer this discussion of Ha Torah in the loving memory of Don ben Sarah, Martha bat Sarah Steven Ben Martha, Channah bat Sarah, Michael ben Sarah, Yochanan ben Chavah Ethel bat Channah, Gabor ben Idah, Will ben Chavah, Ida bat Chavah, Don ben Ether Channah, Gabor ben Ethel Channah and Carry bat Brachah Rivkah may their memory be for good and may they be elevated in the HaShaMiym and those that contributed in their behalf be bless beyond measure.

Dear Ones on the afternoon before Tisha B'Av, the Chasam Sofer would neither study Ha Torah nor write Torah Discussions. He closed himself in his room. On an occasion his disciple Reb Moshe, quietly opened the door to his room. He saw the Chasam Sofer weeping over the destruction of the Temple. His tears fall into a glass. At the meal prior to fasting on Tisha B'Av the Chasam Sofer drank from the tears collected in the glass.

Our Sages Say, this action fulfilled the Verse, *You fed them with the bread of tears, and gave them tears to drink in great measure*, Tehilim / Psalms 80:6.

R. Eleazar said: prayer is more efficacious even than good deeds, for there was no-one greater in good deeds than Moses our Master, and yet he was answered only after prayer...

R. Eleazar also said: Fasting is more efficacious than charity. What is the reason? One is performed with a man's money, the other with his body...

R. Eleazar also said: prayer is more efficacious than offerings, as it says, *To what purpose is the multitude of your sacrifices unto Me*, Isaiah 1.11

R. Eleazar also said: From the day on which the Temple was destroyed the gates of prayer have been closed, as it says, *Yea, when I cry and call for help He shuts out my prayer. Though the gates of prayer are closed, the gates of weeping are not closed, as it says, Hear my prayer, O Lord, and give ear unto my cry; keep not silence at my tears*, Tehilim 13.13 / Psalms 13.12

I waited patiently for the Lord; and he inclined unto me, and heard my cry. He brought me up also out of an horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a rock, and established my goings. And he hath put a new song in my mouth, even praise unto our God: many shall see it, and fear, and shall trust in the Lord.

Tisha B'Av, the Fast of the Ninth of Av, At B'nai Noach Torah Institute we call this day The Fast of Chodesh Ha Chamishi the fifth month the ninth day. We mourning to remember the many tragedies that have befallen B'nai Yisroel / the Jewish People. Tisha B'Av means the ninth (day) of Av. It usually occurs during August however this year it is in July. It was on this day that both the First and Second Temples were destroyed. The first Temple was destroyed by the Babylonians in 3338 FC {From Creation} or 586 BCE. The Temple was Destroyed by the Romans in 3830 F C {From Creation} or 70 CE.

I have written more extensively about The Fast of Chodesh Ha Chamish at the following link. <http://www.jewishpath.org/hdtishabave.html>

The primarily meaning is to remember the destruction of the Temple, however it is appropriate to remember many other tragedies like the expulsion of the Jews from Spain in 1492.

So now we remember the writings of Shlomo Ha Meleck,

To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven; A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted; A time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; A time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing; A time to seek, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away; A time to rend, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak; A time to love, and a time to hate; a time of war, and a time of peace.

This is the time to weep... to mourn... to rend... to refrain from embracing...

א וְלֹא־יָכַל יוֹסֵף לְהִתְאַפֵּק לְכָל הַנִּצָּבִים עָלָיו
וַיִּקְרָא הוֹצִיאוּ כָל־אִישׁ מֵעָלָי וְלֹא־עָמַד אִישׁ אֹתוֹ
בְּהִתְוַדַּע יוֹסֵף אֶל־אָחָיו:

And he, Yoseif could not control all his emotions from all those {spiritually} above him. And he cried to all men go out from me and no man stood with him when Yoseif made himself known to his brothers.

ב וַיִּתֵּן אֶת־קִלּוֹ בְּבִכּוֹ וַיִּשְׁמְעוּ מִצְרַיִם וַיִּשְׁמַע
בֵּית פַּרְעֹה:

And he, Yoseif gave out everything from Aleph to Tav of a call in weeping and the Mitzrim heard and the house of Pharaoh heard.

ג וַיֹּאמֶר יוֹסֵף אֶל־אָחָיו אֲנִי יוֹסֵף הֲעוֹד אָבִי חַי
וְלֹא־יָכְלוּ אָחָיו לַעֲנוֹת אֹתוֹ כִּי נִבְהָלוּ מִפְּנָיו:

And He, Yoseif Said to his brothers, I am Yoseif is The bind to father lives and they his brothers could not answer him, For they were confused before him.

וַיֹּאמֶר יוֹסֵף אֶל־אָחָיו גִּשׁוּ־נָא אֵלַי וַיִּגָּשׁוּ וַיֹּאמֶר
אֲנִי יוֹסֵף אַחֵיכֶם אֲשֶׁר־מָכַרְתֶּם אֹתִי מִצְרַיִמָּה:

And He, Yoseif Said to his brothers, come close to me please. And they came close. And he said, I am Yoseif your brother that you sold me into slavery in Mitzriam.

May Hashem Bless each individual as we enter this time of fasting and weeping....

Blessings and peace,

Dr. Akiva Gamliel and Rebbetzin Revi