

Devarim 5786

Mishnah Taanit 4:6

The Mishna discusses the five major communal fast days. Five calamitous matters occurred to our forefathers on the seventeenth of Tammuz, and five other disasters happened on the Ninth of Av. On the seventeenth of Tammuz the tablets were broken by Moses when he saw that the Jews had made the golden calf; the daily offering was nullified by the Roman authorities and was never sacrificed again; the city walls of Jerusalem were breached; the general Apostemos publicly burned a Torah scroll; and Manasseh placed an idol in the Sanctuary. On the Ninth of Av it was decreed upon our ancestors that they would all die in the wilderness and not enter Eretz Yisrael; and the Temple was destroyed the first time, in the days of Nebuchadnezzar, and the second time, by the Romans; and Beitar was captured; and the city of Jerusalem was plowed, as a sign that it would never be rebuilt. Not only does one fast on the Ninth of Av, but from when the month of Av begins, one decreases acts of rejoicing.

Ramban on Numbers 12:3

AND WHY DOTHTHE ETERNAL BRING US UNTO THIS LAND, TO FALL BY THE SWORD? OUR WIVES AND OUR LITTLE ONES WILL BE A PREY. They did not mention the false report [of the spies] about the Land, saying that *the Land miscarrieth* and is bad, because the people hid this statement [of the spies] from Moses, since the delegates themselves had not said so when they brought back word to him and to all the congregation, for Moses and Aaron would have testified against them that they spoke falsely. The spies themselves hid this from Moses, fully realizing that he knew the nature of the Land from Egypt and Midian which are near to it, as I have explained. Therefore the spies [only] told the people this evil report in their tents, in a secretive manner.

Rashi on Deuteronomy 2:9

AND DO NOT CONTEND WITH THEM [IN WAR] — As regards Moab He forbade them (the Israelites) only war against them, but they may frighten them, appearing before them when equipped for war; therefore it is written, (Numbers 22:3) "And Moab was afraid because of the people", because they took plunder and loot from them. But about the children of Ammon it is said, (v. 19) "Do not contend with them" — no provocation of any kind, — as a reward for the modesty shown by their ancestress, Lot's younger daughter, who did not publicly divulge regarding her father's conduct, as his elder

daughter did, who called her son's name "Moab" (i.e. born of the father) (Bava Kamma 38b; see Rashi on Genesis 19:37).

Seder Olam Rabbah 8

"And the Lord spake unto Moses in the wilderness of Sinai, in the tabernacle of the congregation, on the first day of the second month, in the second year..." (Numbers 1:1). "Take ye the sum of all the congregation..." (Numbers 1:2). "From twenty years old and upward..." (Numbers 1:3). "And with you there shall be a man of every tribe..." (Numbers 1:4). After that [it says] "And the Lord spake unto Moses, saying, Command the children of Israel, that they put out of the camp every leper, and every one that hath an issue, and whosoever is defiled by the dead: Both male and female shall ye put out..." (Numbers 5:1-3). After that "...take the sum of the sons of Kohath..." (Numbers 4:2). After that "...Take the sum of the sons of Gershon..." (Numbers 4:22). After that "...Number the sons of) Merari..." (Numbers 4:29). After that "...On the commandment of the Lord they were numbered by the hand of Moses..." (Numbers 4:49).

On the 14th of Iyar those ritually impure by [contact with] a corpse slaughtered the Passover sacrifice, as it is written "And there were certain men, who were defiled..." (Numbers 9:6)... "And the Lord spake unto Moses, saying..." "If any man of you..." (Numbers 9:9-11). "And it came to pass in the second year, in the second month, on the twentieth day of the month, that the cloud was taken up..." (Numbers 10:11). It follows that they dwelled in the Wilderness of Sinai [for] twelve months less ten days. And it says "And Moses wrote their goings out..." (Numbers 33:2). They went out from the wilderness of Sinai and came to the Graves of Lust, and dwelled there thirty days, as it is written "And the Lord said unto Moses, Behold..." (Numbers 11:19-20). They journeyed from the Graves of Lust and came to Hazeroth, and dwelled there seven days, as it is written "And Miriam was shut up..." (Numbers 12:15). They went out from Hazeroth and came to the Wilderness of Paran. On the 28th of Sivan, Moses sent out the spies, as it is written "And the time was..." (Numbers 13:20). "And they returned from searching...forty days" (Numbers 13:25), that was the ninth of Av. So it turns out saying: On the Ninth of Av it was decreed...that they would not enter the Land.