

Tenth of Tevet

History & Insights

2 Kings 25:1

Now it came about in the ninth year of his reign, on **the tenth day of the tenth month**, that Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came, he and all his army, against Jerusalem, camped against it, and built a siege wall all around it.

Four Fasts Commemorate the Destruction of the Temple

Zechariah's List of the Four Fasts:

Zechariah 8:19

1. **17th of Tammuz** – “The fast of the **fourth** [month]...”
2. **9th of Av** – “The fast of the **fifth** [month]...”
3. **3rd of Tishrei** – “The fast of the **seventh** [month]...”
4. **10th of Tevet** – “The fast of the **tenth** [month]...”

Chronological Order of the Four Fasts:

1. **10th of Tevet** – In 423 BCE, Nebuchadnezzar begins the three-year siege of Jerusalem.
2. **17th of Tammuz** – Nebuchadnezzar's forces breach the city walls.
3. **9th of Av** – The Temple is destroyed.
4. **3rd of Tishrei** – *Tzom Gedaliah* (Fast of Gedaliah).

Jeremiah 40:16

But Gedaliah the son of Achikam said to Johochanan the son of Kareach, “Do not do this thing, for you are telling a lie about Ishmael.”

Q: Why did God allow the destruction of Jerusalem and its temple?

A: Read the book of Jeremiah

The Sins of the People

2 Chronicles 36:14-16 Furthermore, all the officials of the priests and the people were very unfaithful following all the abominations of the nations and they defiled the house of Adonai which He had sanctified in Jerusalem. And Adonai, the God of their fathers, sent word to them again and again by His messengers, because He had compassion on His people and on His dwelling place; but they continually mocked the messengers of God, despised His words and scoffed at His prophets, until the wrath of Adonai arose against His people, until there was no remedy.

Jeremiah 25:8-10

“Therefore thus says Adonai of hosts: Because you have not obeyed My words, behold, I will send for all the tribes of the north, declares Adonai, and for **Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon, My servant**, and I will bring them against this land and its inhabitants, and against all these surrounding nations. I will devote them to destruction, and make them a horror, a hissing, and an everlasting desolation.”

The Actions of Nebuchadnezzar

2 Chronicles 36:17-21 Therefore He brought up against them the king of the Chaldeans who slew their young men with the sword in the house of their sanctuary, and had no compassion on young man or virgin, old man or infirm. He gave them all into his hand. And all the articles of the house of God, great and small, and the treasures of the house of Adonai, and the treasures of the king and of his officers, he brought them all to Babylon. Then they burned the house of God, and broke down the wall of Jerusalem and burned all its fortified buildings with fire, and destroyed all its valuable articles. And those who had escaped from the sword he carried away to Babylon and they were servants to him and to his sons until the rule of the kingdom of Persia, **to fulfill the word of Adonai by the mouth of Jeremiah ...**

Zechariah 8:18-19

And the word of Adonai of hosts came to me, saying, “Thus says Adonai of hosts: The fast of the fourth month and the fast of the fifth and the fast of the seventh and the fast of the tenth shall be to the house of Judah seasons of joy and gladness and cheerful feasts. Therefore love truth and peace.”

Six Blessings for Fast Days

b. Ta'anit 15a

1. **He who answered Abraham on Mount Moriah**, He will answer you and hear the sound of your cry on this day. Blessed are You, Adonai, Redeemer of Israel. (Genesis 22:11-18)

2. **He who answered our forefathers at the Red Sea**, He will answer you and hear the sound of your cry on this day. Blessed are You, Adonai, who remembers the forgotten. (Exodus 14:15-31)

3. **He who answered Joshua at Gilgal**, when they sounded the shofar in Jericho, He will answer you and hear the sound of your cry on this day. Blessed are You, Adonai, who hears the terua. (Joshua 5:6)

4. **He who answered Samuel in Mizpah**, He will answer you and hear the sound of your cry on this day. Blessed are You, Adonai, who hears cries. (1 Samuel 7)

5. **He who answered Elijah on Mount Carmel**, He will answer you and hear the sound of your cry on this day. Blessed are You, Adonai, who hears prayer. (1 Kings 18)

6. **He who answered Jonah from within the innards of the fish**, He will answer you and hear the sound of your cry on this day. Blessed are You, Adonai, who answers in a time of trouble. (1 Kings 8:12-53)
