

Tu B'Av – Prophetic Correlations

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TU B'AV is considered one of the happiest days of the year on the Jewish calendar. Though it is not a prophetic “festival of the Lord” (Lev. 23), it is a holiday brimming with eschatological themes:

FULL MOON

Since Tu B'Av occurs in the middle of the biblical month, on Av 15, it always lands on a full moon. The full moon is symbolic of the Bride, or Church, in a state of fullness, or completion. It is also when the “goodman,” a picture of Jesus, returns: “The goodman is ... gone on a long journey: He has taken a bag of money with him; He will come home at the full moon” (Prov. 7:19, 20; Rev. 22:12).

WEDDINGS

Similar to our Valentine's Day, Tu B'Av is a day of courtship and marriage in Israel. In biblical times, on the full moon of Av, virgins would dress in white and dance in the vineyards to attract husbands. Another connection to weddings is that Tu B'Av is when two historical bans on intertribal marriage were lifted, allowing the Israelites to intermarry with other tribes. One ban pertained to the tribe of Benjamin, who was excommunicated for its behavior in the incident of the concubine at Givah (Judges 19–21). The other ban, which had to do with land inheritance (see Daughters of Zelophehad), was lifted after the conquest and division of the Promised Land.

ENTERING THE LAND

After 40 years of wandering the wilderness, Tu B'Av is when the Israelites realized that they were about to enter the Promised Land. They were previously banned from the Land on the 9th of Av (Tisha B'Av), when they believed the spies' bad report, and God decreed that the entire generation would die wandering the wilderness (Num. 13:31–33; 14:1–4). When the 40 years had passed, Tu B'Av is the date on which the Children of Israel realized that the last of the banned generation had died off, and that a new generation stood ready to enter the Holy Land.

GRAPE HARVEST

Tu B'Av in July–August coincides with the grape harvest in Israel. In Song of Songs, tender grapes are the last agricultural sign mentioned before the Shepherd comes to gather and spirit away his beloved Gentile maid:

“The winter is past, the rain is over and gone; the flowers appear on the earth; the time of the singing of birds is come, and the voice of the turtle is heard in our land; the fig tree puts forth her green figs, and the vines with the tender grape give a good smell. Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away” (Song 2:11–13).

NEW WINE

The grape harvest around Tu B'Av is when new wine is made. At Jesus' final Passover, He told the disciples that He would not drink wine again until He drinks it “new” at His return: “I tell you—I will not drink wine again until the day I drink it new with you in my Father's Kingdom” (Matt. 26:29).

Besides the above eschatological themes, Tu B'Av this year marks a number of significant anniversaries:

REBUILDING JERUSALEM

Tu B'Av this year corresponds to August 19, the date on which a 1970 press report announced the approval of a “master plan” to rebuild the Old City of Jerusalem. That the rebuilding of Jerusalem was formally announced on August 19, 1970, is significant because in Daniel's Weeks Prophecy, the rebuilding of Jerusalem initiates a count of “seven weeks,” or one Jubilee period, to Messiah the Prince (Dan. 9:25).

Another coincidence is that the Av 1970 plan to rebuild Jerusalem was announced 1,900 years, nearly to the day, after the destruction of Jerusalem in Av 70 AD. It is fitting that Jerusalem was both destroyed and rebuilt in a year “70” as the number 70 denotes exile and redemption in Scripture (Jer. 25:11; 29:10; Dan. 9:24).

2017 ECLIPSE

Tu B' Av this year occurs just shy of the seventh anniversary of the Great American Eclipse. The eclipse on August 21, 2017, was considered a biblical sign because:

- It occurred on the eve of Elul 1, the date that begins a 40-day period of repentance and trumpet warning blasts ahead of the Day of Atonement.

- Its 70-mile-wide shadow path crossed over seven US cities named Salem, an alternate name for Jerusalem.
- Its shadow path cut a dividing line across the US, on the same day that Jared Kushner arrived in the Middle East to begin work on a peace plan that divides Jerusalem.

The most portentous thing about the 2017 eclipse, however, is that its path marked the first half of a giant 'X' across the US, which was completed by the 2024 solar eclipse:

<https://tinyurl.com/3s67ry8b>

A giant 'X' across the US—Israel's main protector and ally, and home to roughly half the world's Jews—is an ominous sign indeed. The impending Tu B'Av will mark seven years since the sign began to manifest.

PERSONAL SIGN

Finally, though I don't usually write about personal signs or coincidences, the following one is too relevant to ignore. Tu B'Av this year marks exactly nine years since a friend and I saw a cloud take on the unmistakable and strikingly detailed shape of an angel sounding a shofar. For those who have not already read about this, for me, life-changing experience, here is what I wrote about it in my 2021 book, *Summer Is Near*: <https://tinyurl.com/nhh5zmr3>

While the August 19 date of the trumpeting angel had no special meaning to me when it occurred in 2015, I later learned that it was the anniversary of the 1970 master plan to rebuild Jerusalem. I found this incredible because the rebuilding of Jerusalem as it pertains to the "seven weeks," or Jubilee period, of Daniel 9 has been a main theme of this ministry since its beginning in June 2015.

Another coincidence, which I just recently became aware of, is that Tu B'Av lands on August 19 only twice during the 50-year span between 2000 and 2050: on the first and ninth anniversaries of this watchman ministry.

A fluke? Perhaps. Another possibility, though, if the trumpeting cloud angel was indeed a sign, is that the first anniversary was meant to establish a link between the sign and Tu B'Av, and the ninth anniversary is meant as a reminder. Why would God issue a reminder of the trumpeting angel in the ninth year? I can only guess. But the first thing that occurs to me is that the number nine, the last of the single-digit numbers, denotes divine completeness, and conveys the meaning of finality. When Jesus died in the ninth hour, He said, "It is finished" (John 19:30).

Could the ninth year of this watchman ministry be the year "it is finished"? I believe that it could, not just because of the angel-cloud anniversary, but because it is a calculated Jubilee. Counting Daniel's "seven weeks" from the Sabbatical week after the 1970 plan to rebuild Jerusalem, the 50th year, or Jubilee, ends this fall.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

Tu B'Av is a holiday brimming with eschatological themes: the full moon, weddings, entering the Promised Land, the grape harvest, and new wine.

The Gregorian date of Tu B'Av this year, August 19, coincides with the anniversary of the 1970 plan to rebuild Jerusalem, the Great American Eclipse, the start of the Trump-led peace efforts, and my own trumpeting angel sign.

Only God knows the day of the Rapture—and He is not telling (Matt. 24:36). But the signs and timelines are lining up as never before. It is therefore time to “look up”—today, on Tu B'Av, and every day—because our redemption is near.

NOTES:

1. Dancing in the vineyards on Tu B'Av: <https://www.sefaria.org/Taanit.30b.10?lang=bi>

2. According to tradition, each year on Av 9, Moses commanded the Children of Israel to dig graves and sleep in them as punishment for believing the spies' bad report and rejecting the Land. Each year, they would awaken to find that a number had died during the night. When the final year of Israel's sentence of wandering the wilderness had passed, however, the last of that generation did not die on Av 9. Assuming they had erred in calculation, they waited another day, then another, for death to come. When the full moon appeared on Av 15, they realized that the 40 years of wandering were over, and that they were about to enter the Promised Land.

3. The day after Tu B' Av in 1970 (August 18), is when the Jerusalem District Town Planning Committee approved a master plan to rebuild the Old City of Jerusalem. The plan was made public the next day, August 19, via a press report in the Jerusalem Post:

<https://tinyurl.com/yupaujdc>

https://www.nytimes.com/1970/08/22/archives/jerusalem-is-hewing-to-rebuilding-plans.html?fbclid=IwAR3IHn0jgcVTJnZbhMX2TEYwHC2SOFFkj4-561hIMhvWH_pEax3R3I3Hv1k

4. While the planning and clearing of rubble in preparation for the rebuilding of Jerusalem began soon after the Israeli takeover in 1967, the plan to rebuild the Holy City, composed by a team of architects, engineers, and administrators, was not approved and publicly communicated until August 1970).

5. Trump's peace team arrived in the Middle East to begin work on the "deal of the century" on August 21, 2017: <https://www.cnn.com/2017/08/22/politics/jared-kushner-middle-east-trip/index.html>

6. Coincidentally, the word "nine" appears 50 times in 49 King James Bible verses, evoking the "seven weeks," or Jubilee period, in Daniel 9: <https://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/search.php?q=nine>

7. Since the master plan to rebuild Jerusalem was issued in the middle of the Sabbatical week beginning in 1967, the count of seven weeks begins at the start of the next full week, which is 1974:

1974 + 7 weeks = 2023–24

8. More on the 2024 Jubilee calculation: <https://tinyurl.com/4r9fk7rb>

9. There is more to the angel-cloud story. On August 20, 2022, exactly seven years after my experience, a similar, albeit more ambiguous, cloud angel was witnessed and photographed by a friend, Brian Christopher: <https://tinyurl.com/3wxuxech>