

When Tisha B'Av Falls on Shabbat

Young Israel of St. Louis, 5776
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Dear Friends:

When the Tisha B'Av falls on Shabbat, as it does this year, certain changes from the normal 'Tisha B'Av' routine, particularly *erev Tisha Be'av (Shabbat)*, are required. The following is a brief guideline of the changes specific to such a year.

1. Seudah Mafseket

Normally, the final meal before Tisha B'Av ("Seudah Mafseket") is eaten in "mourning", sitting on the floor, eating a piece of bread and a hard boiled egg with some ashes. When Erev Tisha B'Av is Shabbat, however, these practices do not apply since no mourning is allowed on Shabbat. A proper "Shabbat" meal should be eaten at Seudah Shlishit, and this meal may even include meat and wine.

This meal should take place after mincha, and **care must be taken to complete this meal, including *birkat hamzon*, before sunset**. To accommodate this, *mincha* Shabbat afternoon next week will be scheduled earlier than usual giving people the opportunity to return home, have *Seudah Shlishit*, and then return to shul after the conclusion of Shabbat (see below).

2. Zmirot

Based on the *pesak* of Rav Moshe Feinstein, זצ"ל, it is permissible to sing regular Shabbat *zmirot* on this Shabbat, even at Seudah Shlishit, and even if one's normal practice is not to sing *zmirot*.

3. Havdala

Since one cannot drink the wine of Havdala on Saturday night (because of the fast), Havdala is NOT made immediately after Shabbat. Instead, only the blessing on the candle (**בּוֹרֵא מְאוּרֵי הָאֵשׁ** – *Borei me'roei ha'esh*) is made. After the fast ends **Sunday evening**, Havdala is recited over a cup of wine. At that time, the opening verses of Havdalah, beginning with *Hinei E-l yeshu'ati...*, as well as the blessing over spices, are **omitted**.

Note: If one needs to break their fast and eat on Tisha B'Av itself, one should say the Havdala, as described above, just prior to breaking their fast.

4. Shabbat Schedule

In order to allow people to eat a proper Seudah Shlishit at home, as well as return to shul for *Ma'ariv* and *Eicha* after Shabbat is over in Tisha B'Av attire, the schedule for this Shabbat will be modified from the usual.

- As mentioned earlier, Mincha will be scheduled early (**5:45 pm**) allowing people to return home for Seudah Shlishit.
- The fast begins at sunset, **7:57 pm**, and Shabbat ends at **8:39 pm**.
- Ma'ariv *motzei Shabbat* has been delayed to **9:00 pm** to allow people wait until after Shabbat to change into Tisha B'Av clothing and shoes and return to shul in 'Tisha B'Av mode' after Shabbat.
- Important:** Please remember that after Shabbat ends, one should say the words: **"בְּרוּךְ הַמְבַדִּיל בֵּין קֹדֶשׁ לַחֹל"** ("Baruch Hamavdil bein kodesh lechol") before doing any *Melacha*, or preparing for Tisha B'Av (including changing into Tisha B'Av shoes).

5. Motzei Tisha B'Av (Sunday)

In addition to Havdalah, another distinction exists regarding the end of the fast (Sunday evening) this year. Generally, the restrictions of the 9 days continue in force until mid-day the next day, reflecting the historical fact that the Temple burned through the 10th of Av. However, in a year in which Tisha B'Av is a *nidcheh* (postponed from Shabbat), the date of the fast day is already the 10th of Av. On such a year, all the restrictions of the 9 days end with the fast itself, with the exception of the restriction on meat and wine which remain in force till the next morning. (One may, however, drink the wine of Havdalah as mentioned above.) Thus, one may do laundry, bathe, swim, take a haircut, shave, listen to music, etc. all beginning Sunday night immediately after the fast.

If you have any further questions regarding the customs of this Shabbat or Tisha B'Av, please feel free to email or call.

May you all have an easy fast, and through our mourning may we merit us to see Jerusalem totally rebuilt, speedily in our time, bimheira beyameinu.

Sincerely,
Rabbi Shulman