

Tisha B'Av: When Society Breaks Down, Temples Fall - Answers to Comprehension Questions

Source #1

1a. *Avodah zarah* (idol worship), *gilui arayot* (adultery), *shefichut damim* (murder).

1b. 1

1c. 2

2a. *Sinat Chinam* (baseless hatred)

2b. How destructive *sinat chinam* is

3a. *Bein Adam Lechaveiro*

3b. God doesn't control us and can't be the one forgiving wrongs we have committed against one another. By hurting others, we destroy the fabric of our own societies.

Source #2

1. "Amend" their ways – do *teshuva*

2. The people are relying on the Temple itself to save them. They think that God will never destroy God's own house.

3. (Thought Question)

4. There is a lack of justice – the people need to fix that.

5a. Oppressing (taking advantage of, not being just towards, not helping) strangers, orphans, and widows; committing murder; worshipping false/other gods

5b. *Bein Adam LeChaveiro*

6a. Stealing, murder, adultery, swearing falsely, and *avodah zarah* (serving other/false gods)

6b. The *Aseret HaDibrot* (the 10 Commandments)

6c. *Bein Adam LeChaveiro*

7. The people are committing serious sins and believe that (a) going to the *Beit HaMikdash* and offering sacrifices will absolve them and is enough, and (b) that God will never destroy God's own house.

8. (Thought Question)

Source #3

1. The *Mishkan* (Tabernacle)

2. It was captured, and it was eventually dismantled and/or destroyed

3. Because the people sinned and didn't do *teshuva*

4. To show the people that God WILL destroy God's own house. If God destroyed the *Mishkan* in Shiloh, then God can/will destroy the *Beit HaMikdash* too.

5. (Thought Question)

Source #4

- 1a. Kamtza
- 1b. Bar Kamtza
- 1c. Bar Kamtza (the enemy)
2. "You are the enemy of my friend; therefore, you are my enemy. Get up and leave!"
- 3a. To let him stay, and he (Bar Kamtza) would also pay for his meal
- 3b. To not have to be humiliated by having to leave abruptly
4. (Thought Question)
5. The host refused the offer and insisted that Bar Kamtza leave
6. The rabbis sat quietly; they did not interfere or try to persuade the host not to humiliate Bar Kamtza publicly.
7. (Thought Question)
8. Bar Kamtza told the emperor that the Jews were rebelling and suggested that the emperor test their loyalty. The emperor should send an animal that the Jews would sacrifice in the emperor's honor. Along the way, Bar Kamtza purposely made a *moom* (blemish) in the animal so that it couldn't be sacrificed in the *Beit HaMikdash*. This *moom* was NOT enough for the Romans to consider it a blemish, but WAS enough for the Jews. After a halachic debate among the rabbis, the decision was that the sacrifice could not be offered. When the Jews wouldn't offer the sacrifice, the emperor saw that as an insult and a rebellion. The Romans began the war that led to the destruction of the Temple.
9. (Thought Question)
10. (Thought Questions)