

Tisha B'au

Putting things in PERSPECTIVE

A closer look at the dates surrounding the building, completion, and destruction of the Batei Mikdash, Bayis Rishon and Bayis Sheini (the First and Second Temples) – each of which lasted for over 400 years | BY ROBERT SUSSMAN

ERA OF THE FIRST BEIS HAMIKDASH

2928 – In the month of Iyar, building of the First Beis HaMikdash (Temple) commenced

2935 – Building of the First Beis HaMikdash was completed. On the 7th of Tishrei, Shlomo HaMelech (King Solomon) gathered all of the children of Israel to celebrate. The celebration lasted seven days – and they even ate on the 10th of Tishrei, Yom Kippur.

3228 – **17 Tammuz*** – Menashe, King of Yehudah, placed an idol in the Beis HaMikdash (some say this was instead done by Apustomus – see 3610)

3319 – Nebuchadnezzar, King of Bavel (Babylon), conquered the area belonging to the tribe of Yehudah, as well as Yerushalayim, plundering the Beis HaMikdash

3336 – On the **10th of Tevet***, the army of Nebuchadnezzar laid siege to Yerushalayim

3338 – The First Beis HaMikdash was destroyed

- **9 Tammuz** – The walls of Yerushalayim were penetrated
- **17 Tammuz*** As a result of the siege around Yerushalayim, the korban tamid (daily offering) ceased being brought in the Beis HaMikdash
- **7 Av** – The army of Nebuchadnezzar entered into the Beis HaMikdash, where they feasted and vandalised things until late on the 9th of Av
- **9 Av*** – The army set fire to the Beis HaMikdash and it burned until the 10th of Av. Most of the Jewish people were taken into exile to Bavel (Babylon).

3339 – **2 Tishrei** – Gedaliah, the Governor of Yehudah, was assassinated (because of this event, we fast each year on the 3rd of Tishrei, aka Tzom Gedaliah, the day following the two-day observance of Rosh HaShanah)

**The 10th of Teves, 17th of Tammuz, and 9th of Av were later made fast days because of the tragedies that occurred on them. The 17th of Tammuz also begins the annual three-week period of mourning for the destruction of the two Temples that concludes on the 9th of Av (although there are some observances that pertain to the 10th of Av as well).*

ERA OF THE SECOND BEIS HAMIKDASH

3391 – On Rosh HaShanah (1 Tishrei), the daily offering (aka korban tamid) was recommenced on a newly constructed altar. Several months later, in Iyar, the building of the Second Beis HaMikdash commenced, but was later halted by Cyrus at the request of the Kuthim (aka the Samaritans).

3742 – **3750** – Renovations to the Second Beis HaMikdash by Herod I were completed (it is this magnificent structure that is often depicted in paintings and illustrations of the Second Beis HaMikdash and in the well-known scale model featured at the Israel Museum in Jerusalem)

3886 – **9 Av*** – Following a three year battle and the death of more than half a million Jews, including Bar Kochba, the well-known leader of the Jewish revolt, the city of **Betar fell to the Romans**.

3395 – **3406** The events of Purim took place

3408 – Darius II, the son of Esther and Achashverosh, who succeeded his father in 3406, allowed the building of the Second Beis HaMikdash to resume. This was 70 years after the destruction of the First Beis HaMikdash

3668 – The Tzaddukim (aka Saducees), who controlled the region of Yehudah (Judea), began demeaning the position of Kohen Gadol (High Priest) by selling the position to the highest bidder (a situation that would sadly continue under the Roman occupation)

3412 – The Second Beis HaMikdash was completed

3413 – Ezra led the return to Israel from the exile in Bavel

3610 – **17 Tammuz*** – Apustomus, one of the Syrian-Greek leaders, burned a Sefer Torah

C. 3449 – **3622** The Greeks were in power. The events of Chanukah took place towards the end of this period.

3829 (some say it was 3828) – **The Second Beis HaMikdash was destroyed** (please G-d may we live to see our daily prayers answered and see it rebuilt and the avodah restored)

- **17 Tammuz*** – The walls of Yerushalayim were breached
- **9 Av*** – The Romans, led by Titus, set fire to the Second Beis HaMikdash. The Western Wall was all that remained – and remains to this day. As depicted in the Arch of Titus located in Rome, the Romans carried off many of the holy utensils used in the Beis HaMikdash, including the Menorah.

3828 – On behalf of the Romans, Titus laid siege to Yerushalayim

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In the background, a painting by David Roberts titled, "The Siege and Destruction of Jerusalem by the Romans Under the Command of Titus" from 1850 (5610).

Based primarily upon The Jewish Timeline Encyclopedia by Rabbi Mattis Kantor