



# 9 of Av, date the Jews were expelled from Spain 2012-08-01

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Last weekend we remembered another anniversary of the 9<sup>th</sup> of Av or as we call it: Tisha Ve Av.

The 9 of the month of Av is the most tragic historical date of the Jewish people, if not the most important one in the calendar.

The most tragic and unfortunate events took place on that date, since the beginning of our people's history up to the present time.

Many tragic events took place on this date and around it therefore, it is a Jewish tradition to reduce activities and celebrations as from the 17 of Tamuz for three weeks until the 9<sup>th</sup> of Av. As from the beginning of the month of Av, mourning traditions are stricter, wedding ceremonies are not performed and new business activities are not recommendable.

The first historical event that marks the nature of this date is the return of the spies who were sent to survey the Land of Israel. The spies came back and spoke ill of the Promised Land with no grounds. The Divine punishment is applied immediately and the entire generation that left Egypt dies before entering Israel.

Other tragic events that took place on that same date will determine the fate of the Jewish people forever: the destruction of the two Temples of Jerusalem, both on the same date.

Consequently the people left the Land of Israel and settled in the Diaspora which still keeps the people disseminated all over the World.

Another event that left a footprint on this date was the expulsion of the Jews from Spain under the Kingdom of Spain that ruled the following:

“We order all the Jews to leave all our kingdoms, never to return, or come back, not even some of them (...) not even attempt to come in transit, or any other way; not dare turn to them when they visit, or any appearance, if this is not fulfilled or they fail and appear in these kingdoms, they shall be subject to the penalty of death or their property shall be

confiscated”