

Toward Tisha B'Av, "Within the Straits," and Then Beyond: Calendar Notes for Tammuz and Av and Elul, V.Spatz, songeveryday.org

17th of Tammuz

40 days after Shavuot.
July 12-13, 2025

Torah: Golden Calf incident (Exodus 32); Moses breaks first Tablets

History: Roman rulers forbade Temple sacrifices in 69 CE. Walls of Jerusalem breached in 70 CE; start of siege

Begins The Three Weeks:
"bein hametzarim"
= "within the straits"
or "within the borders"

Shabbat Chazon [Vision]

Just prior to Tisha B'Av.
August 1-2, 2025

Named for Isaiah 1:1-27, final of three prophetic readings describing destruction and chastising the People

Shabbat Nachamu [Comfort]

Following Tisha B'Av.
August 8-9, 2025

Named for Isaiah 40:1-16, the first of seven "haftarot of comfort," stressing repentance and possibility, from Av through Elul to the high holidays

Tisha B'Av (9th of Av)

August 2-3, 2025

Torah: After incident with the scouts (Numbers 13), **whole** generation condemned to die in the desert

History: 586 BCE: 1st Temple destroyed, Babylonian Exile. 70 CE: 2nd Temple destroyed. Many other calamities are observed on this date.

Lowest day of the Jewish calendar, from which building begins

Reading: *Eikhah* [How?!], the Book of Lamentations

The Three Weeks

17 Tammuz - 9 Av
July 13-August 3, 2025

Period of semi-mourning:

-- **no** weddings or other public celebration;

-- **no** haircuts or shaving;

-- **no** dancing or music (some avoid live only or instrumental only)

-- **no** occasion to recite "*Shehecheyanu* [thank God for bringing us to this moment]" blessing, e.g., new clothes or first taste of seasonal fruit;

Readings:

"Haftarot of Affliction":

-- Jeremiah 1:1-2:3, read this year on July 19; and

-- Jeremiah 2:4-28, read this year on July 26;

-- for third, see *Shabbat Chazon*

The Nine Days

Intensified mourning, starting with Rosh Chodesh Av (eve of July 25, 2025)

-- **no** bathing or laundry (except for hygiene, i.e., not for pleasure);

-- **no** wine or meat, except on Shabbat;

-- **restrictions** on business, travel, and purchases

-- **restrictions** on building or planting

The Days Between / The Nine Days of Jerry

Jerry Garcia, z"l, was born Aug 1, 1942 and died Aug 9, 1995. August 1-9, "The Days Between," is observed by many as a time of remembering and reflection. Treated as purely celebratory by some, the days mark great loss and transition for others.

NOTE: Jews who don't listen to music during The Three Weeks observe "the Nine Days of Jerry" after Tisha B'Av.

There were days / and there were days
and there were days between
Summer flies and August dies
the world grows dark and mean...

Hearts of Summer held in trust
Still tender, young and green
Left on shelves collecting dust
Not knowing what they mean

...Hoping love would not forsake / The days that lie between

-- "Days Between," Robert Hunter & Jerry Garcia (1993)

first performed live by Grateful Dead, 2/22/93