

SHABBAT CHAZON & TISHA B'AV 2015 / 5775

Shabbat

Even though the 9th of Av occurs this year on Shabbat, the formal acts of mourning are deferred until Sunday. Meat and wine may be consumed at all the Shabbat meals and the usual *zemirot* may be sung. However, certain aspects of private mourning are observed and one should not wash in warm water even if it has been heated before Shabbat and marital intimacy should be avoided (unless it is *leil tevilah*).

Seudah Shlishit

Mincha on Shabbat afternoon will be at an earlier time. Seudah Shlishit must be concluded before sunset (8.59 pm). Shabbat terminates at nightfall (9.58 pm) at which time the *Baruch Hamavdil Bein Kodesh L'kodesh* declaration should be made and leather footwear should be removed.

Maariv

Maariv will be a short while after the conclusion of Shabbat (10.15 pm) in order to allow people to drive to shul. Havdalah is not made on Motzaei Shabbat though the bracha *Borei Meorei Ha-esh* is recited over a havdalah candle. Maariv will be followed by the reading of Eicha and the evening kinnot.

The Fast

Because Tisha B'Av is deferred (*nidcheh*) this year, certain leniencies apply and allow more halachic leeway for those who are unwell. In particular, women who are pregnant or nursing are not required to fast, though if possible they should fast for part of the day (till late morning) so that they can share in the sense of communal hardship. Those who are permitted to eat must recite havdalah before doing so (substituting fruit juice for the wine).

For people who are well and healthy the fast should be observed as it is in all other years. In addition to a prohibition against eating or drinking it is also prohibited to wear leather shoes, to wash in hot or cold water, to engage in marital intimacy or to learn Torah in the normal manner. The day should be observed in a sombre manner, even to the extent that greetings should not be exchanged as usual. During the morning one should sit on the floor or on a low stool rather than on a normal chair.

Mincha

Tallit and Tefillin are worn at Mincha rather than at Shacharit (though men should still wear their tzitzit under their shirt when they get dressed in the morning).

Motzaei Tisha B'Av

The fast concludes at nightfall (9.50 pm) and havdalah must be recited before eating or drinking. The introductory verses are omitted, as are the brachot for the spices and the light. Meat should not be eaten on the night after the fast, but because Tisha B'Av is deferred all the other restrictions of the nine-days are lifted immediately and it is permissible to shave, shower and do laundry after the fast has concluded.