

A Word from the Rabbi & the Rebbetzin

Shalom beloved in Moshiach,

One of the most fascinating genres of literature is the ‘origin story’. Every good hero has one. Every remarkable villain has one. But it isn’t just heroes and villains that have origin stories. Holidays have them too. Even [Tisha B’av](#).

The idea that any mystery or intrigue would prevail in the origin story for this saddest of days on our calendar seems odd. Everyone knows that [Tisha B’av](#) commemorates the destruction of both the first and second Temples. It's sad, it's terrible, but that's it, right?

Well, that's not how the Sages of the Talmud saw it. In our Sermons and Bible Studies this Shabbat we set out to explore an event the Sages saw as an antecedent to all that happened centuries later on this mournful day. We are talking here about an episode that happened all the way back in Biblical times, the story of the Spies, in the Book of Numbers. The sages suggest that the spies returned from their mission on the eve of Tisha B'av, and the disaster that unfolded then, people weeping in their tents that they would surely be wiped out trying to conquer the Land, this somehow created the seeds of what would eventually become [Tisha B'av](#).

But as we have studied the Parasha this week, we discovered that there's more to [Tisha B'Av's](#) origin story than even this. The evidence seems strong that, if the story of [Tisha B'av](#) begins with the Spies, the story of the Spies itself begins even earlier, in a tragic and mysterious event that takes place all the way back in the Book of Bereshit (Genesis).

To really understand [Tisha B'av](#), we want to argue, we need to play ‘link Torah’s scripture’ with all these stories. The [Parasha Reev](#) this week is going to be both breathtaking and revelatory.

[Join us this Shabbat to watch](#) and **[to listen to](#)** our **New sermon and Bible study Series** in honor of [Tisha B'av](#). We have a suspicion you won't be sorry.

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Yours,
Rabbi Harel & Rebbetzin Gavriela Frye
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