

Exodus 32:19-20

¹⁹ And it came about, as soon as Moses came near the camp, that he saw the calf and *the* dancing; and Moses' anger burned, and he threw the tablets from his hands and shattered them at the foot of the mountain. ²⁰ And he took the calf which they had made and burned *it* with fire, and ground it to powder, and scattered it over the surface of the water, and made the sons of Israel drink *it*.

This story is when Moses had come down after receiving the 'Ten Commandments' from God, and upon returning back to the people of Israel, found them worshipping the golden calf. The date in which this took place was Tammuz 17. Tammuz 17 is a very significant date to the people of Israel, because several other events took place in history on that date. Not only was it the day that Moses broke the first set of tablets of the law, but secondly, the daily offering in the First temple was discontinued because of a lack of sheep. Look with me at **Daniel 11:31, "And forces from him will arise, desecrate the sanctuary fortress, and do away with the regular sacrifice. And they will set up the abomination of desolation.** Thirdly, right before the destruction of the second Temple, the walls of Jerusalem were breached. Fourthly, A wicked Roman ruler named Apostumus burned the Torah, or Law. The fifth thing that took place on this date in history was an idol was erected in the Holy Temple. In 2007, Tammuz 17 fell upon July 3rd. Tammuz 17 marks the beginning of three weeks of mourning for the Jews because of all of the calamities that befell the nation of Israel between the 17th of Tammuz and the 9th of Av. In 2007, the 9th of Av falls on July 24th. The 9th of Av marks five tragedies of its own in Jewish history. The first, is when the spies returned and gave an evil report which discouraged the Jewish people, and ending with them wandering forty years in the wilderness. The second tragedy on this date was when the first Temple was destroyed. The third tragedy was when on this date the second Temple was destroyed. The fourth tragedy was when the city of Betar was captured, and tens of thousands of Jews were killed. The fifth tragedy that fell on the 9th of Av was when the Romans ploughed over the site of the Temple.

Throughout history, five other major events took place on the 9th of Av. 1). The 1st Crusade was declared in 1095. 2). King Edward I expels all Jews from England in the year 1290. 3). Expulsion of the Jews from Spain in 1492. 4). Pope Paul IV moves all Jews into the ghetto in 1555. 5). lastly, the start of WWI. Is it coincidence that these sixteen events fall during this twenty one day period? I don't think so. Then consider this last piece of this amazing tapestry of time, Tammuz-17 was the name of the Iraqi nuclear reactor which was destroyed by Israel in 1981. It was so named because the 17th day of Tammuz is the day that Jerusalem was sieged prior to the destruction of the Temple by Nebuchadnezzar. Interestingly, Saddam Hussein was known to fancy himself as the heir to Nebuchadnezzar's fallen dynasty. Even the enemies of Israel recognize that this period has become a time of darkness in the history of Israel. The church needs to be very cognizant to pray and lift up Israel, especially during this three week period, falling between July 3rd and July 24th in 2007. Let me leave you with **Psalms 122:6, Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: "May they prosper who love you."**