

1. Shock and disbelief

Totally unexpected – they were dancing and partying on one side of Tur Malka (Gittin 57a) as the other side was being destroyed ([TLIR pp. 160-165](#))

Even the gentiles were shocked - מפני הנסים בימי חזקיהו (יב:ד איכה) לא האמינו מלכי ארץ - Rashi)

Even after it happened – hard to assimilate into reality - [Story of R. Soloveitchik after the death of his wife.](#)

[We can no longer truly celebrate life](#) – Rav Soloveitchik (from *Mentor of Generations*)

(More on the confusion at the time of catastrophe – see KRS p. 461, s.v. ואבכה).

[Tzohar 2024](#)

2. Was there a false sense of security?

ואני אמרתי בשלוי ...

אשרי אדם מפחד תמיד

Rabbi Soloveitchik discussed this idea in many places. [See this excerpt from my coming sefer on tefillah](#)

“Pachad cheit shilo” - Sins of Shilo – a failure to rebuke. We didn’t see the danger

3. Joy and derision of the nations

סחי ומאוס - we are simultaneously viewed as the lowest – and yet most powerful. (Rav Asher Weiss explains that this is the conversation between Haman and Achashveirosh. One says he has a mountain of dirt – and the other – a ditch. See Megillah 14a)

סורו מני שמעוני עוברי - They would not allow me to come near or into their spaces

Somehow, after my tragedy – they hate me more! ([TLIR pp. 150-157](#))

They will always misunderstand us – see [commentary on the Midrash](#) about the Amonites and Moabites who entered the Kodesh Hakodashim and found the keruvim.

This was always our final argument – למה יאמרו הגויים. It worked in the desert – but not here.

An upside-down world – where we are the sinners – חטא חטאה י-ם ([R. Kornitzer](#))

What happened? (See [Eim Habanim Semeichah pp. 334-335](#))

We are a nation that will continue to dwell alone.

4. Devotion of the People – willingness to sacrifice

על פני פרת נפצו חסידיה

השולמית שובי שובי - See KRS p. 200 – עדרי חברי

5. A personal connection ([TLIR pp. 168-169](#))

סחי ומאוס השימוני

אני הגבר ראה אני - today we see all of the horrors

Someone near and dear to me has died