

Instruction for Tisha B'Av 5785

As Tisha B'Av falls on Motzei Shabbos, there are many special halachos of which to be aware.

We eat normally for most of this Shabbos; all the Shabbos meals may include meat, wine and delicacies. One may eat extra knowing this will help with the fast but should not explicitly state 'I am eating this to prepare for the fast.

One may invite guests for Friday night dinner and Shabbos lunch. Regarding Shalosh Seudos – see below. Zemiros are sung as usual, even at Shalosh Seudos.

All foods are fine for Shalosh Seudos; there is no seudah hamafsekes of bread and hard-boiled eggs. However, the meal should only be eaten with people who would normally be present for a Shabbos meal, and the mood should be somber. **All eating must stop before shkiyah (sunset)** [at _____ PM], even though Shabbos continues until [_____ PM]. One recites Birkas Hamazon with a mezuman (if available). It may be recited after sunset.

Most authorities permit regular Torah study on Shabbos afternoon. However, some communities have the custom to study only topics permitted on Tisha B'Av itself.

The prohibitions of wearing leather shoes and sitting on a chair do not commence until after the conclusion of Shabbos. After Shabbos ends, and before performing any melachah, one first recites “Baruch hamavdil bein kodesh l'chol [Blessed is the One who separates between the sanctified and the ordinary].” One then removes one's leather shoes and Shabbos clothing. (Some wait to do this until after Borchu at the start of maariv.)

One may not bring Tisha B'Av clothing or footwear to shul until after Shabbos has ended and one has recited “Baruch hamavdil.” Therefore, Maariv on Motzei Shabbos is delayed until [about 15-20 minutes after Shabbos ends].

We recite the berachah of “Borei me'orei ha'eish” over a multi-wicked flame before Eichah. This will be done in Shul but can also be done at home. The remainder of the Havdalah blessings are not said until after the fast on Sunday night, after which eating is permitted.

Shabbos dishes should not be washed on Motzai Shabbos. One should wait until midday on Sunday.

Those who are fasting recite Havdalah on Sunday night before breaking the fast. Havdalah consists of the blessing on the beverage and Hamavdil. There is no beracha said on spices or a flame. Note that if one must eat on Tisha B'Av, one should recite Havdalah before eating.

Due to the restriction on wine during the Nine Days, halachic authorities debate whether one may use wine or grape juice for Sunday night's Havdalah; some use beer. Each household should follow their own custom. Those who have no custom should use the same beverage they use for Havdalah the rest of the year.

Although the prohibitions of Tisha B'Av end with nightfall on Sunday, the practices of the Nine Days – refraining from meat and wine, not bathing for pleasure or cutting hair, not laundering or wearing freshly cleaned clothing, and not attending celebrations or listening to music – continue until midday the next day (____ PM).

[Notes for the Rabbi:

1. Women attend the mikveh on Friday night as usual, as marital relations are permitted.
2. At Shabbos afternoon Mincha, we do not say Tzidkascha or recite Pirkei Avos.]