

Explanation of Tisha B'Av. Worship 8/10/25  
Pr. Steve

There is a celebration marked every year in the Hebrew Jewish calendar. It is called Tisha B'Av. (It's a lunar calendar so the date normally falls around here. It occurred on August 2nd and 3rd of this year.) It's the most mournful celebration in the calendar of Judaism because it's believed that over the course of centuries—

the First Jewish Temple was demolished in 586 BC and the people driven into Exile on Tisha B'Av,  
and the Second Temple was also destroyed by the Romans in 70 AD (just shortly after Jesus) on Tisha B'Av,  
and in 1290 Jews were driven out of England,  
in 1492, the Jews are driven out of Spain [on Tisha B'Av],  
and on this date in 1942, the Jews in the ghetto of Warsaw were driven out to Treblinka, the slaughterhouse of the Holocaust.

So, this day is marked every year as the most mournful day. I could not help but include in this incredible list this year, the 80th anniversary of the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki—and the 50<sup>th</sup> year after the Hibakusha survivors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki came as a delegation to the States, to the Bay Area, and Peace hosted them [1995]. And they had such a simple mission. They told the stories of family members—and those who had been literally vaporized, and all that remained was a shadow on the rocks.

They gave us this gift of some peace cranes and said, *'Please, please, tell people for ages to come: Stop nuclear weapons. Stop the bombs. Stop building it.'* As you can see, this group of Peace Cranes got tangled. And I think the Tangle is kind of telling us the truth about All this. The prayers are still being pleaded for, on our behalf and for the sake of the whole world. *'Stop nuclear weapons. Stop nuclear war. Stop for God's sake, Tisha B'Av and Hiroshima and Hibakusha. Please stop.'*

Those who are willing and able, I invite to stand for minute of silence for the friends and families who died. And Hiroshima. Nagasaki. And Tisha B'Av.