

Newsletter for the Month of Tevet 5784 by Sherry Lush

Shalom to All,

We at Alpha and Omega Ministries want to say how thankful we are for each and every one of you. We consider you family and thank the Lord for the Light of Yeshua that you carry to the world. It is a joy to be working with you to take His Word out to people who are hungry and to others who don't yet know the Light and Love of Yeshua! In these times of war and chaos, it is His Light and Love and His Peace that carries us all. What a joy it is to take Him to a needy world.



The calendar now turns from Kislev to the month of Tevet. Tevet begins on a note of great hope and light as we light the last two candles in celebration of the great miracle of Hanukkah on the 1st and 2nd of Tevet. Hanukkah celebrates victory of the righteous Jews in Israel who fought the Seleucid army to preserve the observance of Torah and to be free to worship G-d! The great miracle of their victory and the amazing miracle of the one flask of clean oil found in the desecrated Temple, only enough to burn in the Menorah for one day, miraculously burned for eight days. Those eight days of light remind us of the eight names of the Messiah that come from ***Isaiah 9: 5-6** For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called **Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace**. He is always the Light in dark times.

So the month of Tevet begins with light even though it is a dark winter month and very rainy. However, by the 10th of Tevet, the tone has changed, and we turn to a day of fasting. Why are we fasting? We fast in remembrance and sadness of three events that happened on the 8th, 9th, and 10th; these are combined into one day of fasting on the 10th.

On the 8th of Tevet, Ptolemy of Egypt, who had the largest library in the world, had the Torah translated into Greek. Sadly, on the 8th of Tevet, the Torah was now perceived as just another book to look to for wisdom as part of Ptolemy's library. Then Ezra the Scribe who had returned with a relatively few Jews from the Babylonian captivity, and rebuilt the Temple, died on the 9th of Tevet.



Then Asara B'Tevet or the 10th of Tevet comes. Nebuchadnezzar had already exiled the elite of the Jewish people to Babylon. On this day Nebuchadnezzar surrounded the city of Jerusalem with his armies. No one was allowed in or out of the city and not food could be delivered. The food supply was so diminished that as Jeremiah the prophet regarding this time: ***Jeremiah 19:9-10** I will see to it that your enemies lay siege to the city until all the food is gone. Then those trapped inside will eat their own sons and daughters and friends. They will be driven to utter despair. How could such a terrible thing happen? It all came to be because

the Jewish peoples decided the worship idols and to do sinful things among themselves, things they knew G-d had said not to do.



Sin brings consequences as is clear in ***Romans 5:12** Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned. In these days when the world seems to be multiplying sin may we continue to be light. May we stand firm in doing good deed and making disciples. May our love for our Savior grow and our love for His Word be our strength and joy. ***Romans 15:13** May the G-d of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope. ***Romans 12:12** Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. ***Philippians 4:4** Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice.

We pray blessings and joy for all in the month of Tevet. One day even the 10th of Tevet will be turned into a day of celebration! May it come soon! God is always with us preparing for our day of redemption! Shalom!

COMING THIS MONTH

You are invited to join us on Shabbat.

David Nekrutman will be with us from Israel! He will give us the latest information on what is happening there, and all that his foundation is doing to help innocent and hurting Israeli's, plus his amazing insights on the Torah Portion!



**December 23, Shabbat, 10:30am,
Harbor Life Church, 4711 58th St NW, Gig Harbor**