

WOC INTERNATIONAL

2021 New Moon 5 - July 09, 2021 Rosh Chodesh Av (5781)

Review

What have we covered so far regarding our duties on our road to fulfilling destiny?

1st - Natural cooperation spawns _____

2nd - True harmony yields _____ inspired service

3rd - Hope inspired service yields _____

4th Good fruit resists _____

5th - Good fruit is self-sustaining

Important fact to know about the month of Av

It is the 2nd month of Summer, 5th month of the ecclesiastical year and 11th month of the civil year

The natural Jews commemorate several _____ this month, but 3 in particular

1st - Jews wandering around and dying in the desert for 40 years

2nd - Destruction of the Temple by Babylonians in 423 BCE / 3rd - By the Romans in 69 CE

Why should we note these horrific past events as spiritual Jews? - They keep us mindful ...

1 - To maintain our connection to our " _____ " in the midst of our "environment"

Our spiritual ancestors and examples were Palestinian Jews, not European church fathers!

2 - That Av's secondary name "Menachem Av" highlights our connection to our _____

Yahweh is our true "consoler (Menachem) and Comforter (Av) in our times of tragedy

Important facts to know about Shimon (the son of Israel) this month

Shimon was 2nd of Jacob's son via Leah and 2nd son overall

Gen 29:33 "She conceived again, gave birth to a son and said, "It is because Adonai has heard that I am unloved; therefore he has given me this son also." So she named him Shim'on [hearing]." CJB

While Shimon's name means "hearing" (i.e., having the ability to _____ Yahweh's voice)

His name in a broader sense means, "He who hears and obeys what he hears"

Shimon is believed to have been born 9 years after Jacob arrived in Haran at the age 85 or 86

And Shimon died at the age of 120 (about 75 years after Jacob's family relocated to Egypt)

Shimon's name was attached to the 5th sapphire stone on the High Priest's _____

And it is his stone (a sapphire) that is the 2nd Foundation Wall of New Jerusalem

Rev 21:19 "The foundations of the city wall were decorated with all kinds of precious stones – the first foundation stone was diamond, the second sapphire, the third chalcedony, the fourth emerald"

What does the ancient sapphire being 2nd in hardness to a diamond, signify about Shimon?

Notes

What lesson can we learn about character in a review of Shimon's personality?

1st - He & the younger Levi were the most volatile, deceitful, & dangerous of Jacob's sons

Genesis 49:5-6 "Simeon and Levi are brothers; weapons of violence are their swords. 6 May I never come into their council; may I not be joined to their company for in their anger they killed a man, and at their whim they hamstringed a bull." CJB

2nd - Their fierce & cruel anger led to a slew of _____ lifeline generating decisions

Cruel anger led him to kill the Shechemite men & capture their women & children in revenge

Gen 34:27-29 "Then the sons of Ya'akov entered over the dead bodies of those who had been slaughtered and plundered the city in reprisal for defiling their sister. 28 They took their flocks, cattle and donkeys, and everything else, whether in the city or in the field, 29 everything they owned. Their children and wives they took captive, and they looted whatever was in the houses.

Why did they do this? - They were displeased at Jacob's _____ to Dinah's rape

Gen 34:31 "They replied, "Should we let our sister be treated like a whore?" CJB

What made these revenge acts unusual? - Tradition says they were _____

Cruel anger led him to throw Joseph into a pit & sell him to an Ishmaelite, which is why

Jewish sages believe Joseph imprisoned Shimon in front of his brothers as payback

Gen 42:19, 24 "19 If you are upright men, let one of your brothers remain incarcerated in the prison you're being kept in, while you go and carry grain back to relieve the famine in your homes.... 24 "Yosef turned away from them and wept; then he returned and spoke to them. He took Shim'on from among them and put him in prison before their eyes." CJB

Cruel anger kept him from getting Reuben's lost inheritance, though he was next in line

Reality - Reuben lost his via incest, Simeon lost his via a lack of self-control and murder

Notes

Important facts to know about Shimon (the tribe of Israel) this month

Location - Shimon camped on the S side with Reuben & Gad & was part of the 2nd Group to march

Reality - They were situated on the right or power & strength side of the front tribes

Which meant, they should've been the power and strength of Judah, Issachar, & Zebulon

What does this fact reveal about the 2nd Group's assigned role in the Kingdom?

What practical wisdom can we discern from our review of the tribe of Simeon?

1st - Their fierce and cruel anger (i.e., rage) led to a fierce and cruel _____

It led to their anger being cursed (not their person) and their being physically scattered

Gen 49:7 "Cursed be their anger, for it has been fierce; their fury, for it has been cruel. I will divide them in Ya'akov and scatter them in Isra'el." CJB

Notes

It led to their tribe never possessing their own distinct territory - They would share Judah's

Josh 19:9 "The inheritance of the descendants of Shim'on was taken out of the allotment for the descendants of Y'hudah, because the portion given to the descendants of Y'hudah was too much for them, so the descendants of Shim'on had an inheritance inside the descendants of Y'hudah." CJB

What does this example reveal to those of you with anger issues?

Nevertheless, they were still included in Moshe's blessing for Judah in the word "hearken"

Hearken or [shema] is the opening Judah's blessing and source of Shimon's name

Deut 6:4 "Sh'ma, Yisra'el! Adonai Eloheinu, Adonai echad [Hear, Isra'el! Adonai our God, Adonai is one];" CJB

2nd - Their fierce & cruel anger led them to reject their teammates & deviate from God's Plan

They knew Yahweh intentionally connected them to Reuben & Gad in the wilderness

After reaching the Land, they refused to interact with them & hung out with other tribes

Does my anger (active or passive-aggressive) keep me from interacting with certain others?

Or do I only interact with those of similar thoughts & actions (my version of Levi)?

Conclusion

Why is good fruit self-sustaining and what does this have to do with the month of Av?

Good fruit is self-sustaining in that it will not let me be a _____ of fierceness or cruelty

It will harshly & fiercely convict my carnal soul until I am brought to repentance or die

Good fruit is self-sustaining in that it can never die, so when I _____ (whenever that is)

Its righteousness births a holiness in my soul that instantly sets me free from transgression

What do natural cooperation, harmony, hopeful service & non-decaying, self-sustaining fruit, have to do with the month of Av?

They reinforce the reality the Spirit's good self-sustaining fruit is _____ in my spirit

1 Peter 1:23 "You have been born again not from some seed that will decay, but from one that cannot decay, through the living Word of God that lasts forever." CJB

So, when I hear [shema] and obey (i.e., become a spiritual Shimon)

This self-sustaining & incorruptible seed _____ me from anger's unholy work

James 1:20 "for a person's anger does not accomplish God's righteousness!" CJB

Notes

What do natural cooperation, harmony, hopeful service & non-decaying, self-sustaining fruit, have to do with Simeon?

They reinforce the Spirit's good & self-sustaining fruit birthing _____ into my soul

So, when I hear [shema] and obey what I hear (i.e., become a spiritual Shimon)

The incorruptible & self-sustaining seed in me qualifies me to perform my service!

But when I refuse to listen [shema] and disobey what I hear (i.e., be a carnal Shimon)

The incorruptible & self-sustaining seed prepares my soul to be _____

In judgment for being fierce, cruel, arguing & wanting to lead, but never serving

What time is it? - Time to let the Spirit take my soul on a deep introspective journey to where

I cease being a carnal Shimon - "One with a fierce & cruel anger who rejects his destiny"

I start becoming a spiritual Shimon - "One who hears the Word and obeys what he hears"

Notes