

Rabbi Lewis' message for September 2003

Try as we might, we can't leave the world behind even in the relaxed days of summer. Terrorism and war continue, Israel builds walls, and New York is blanketed in darkness. The vicissitudes of living show no respect for vacation plans. And yet we do our best to live our daily lives, being grateful for each moment even as we worry about what is yet to come.

We have passed Tisha B'Av, that dark moment in our calendar when we commemorate the destruction of the temple in Jerusalem, and have moved into a more reflective mode. Our Hebrew calendar requires us on a yearly basis to ask ourselves these questions: What is our purpose? How do we return to that purpose if we have lost sight of it? How do we forgive and how do we ask for forgiveness? Where can we love where we have not been successful in loving? These are the essential questions. They remain timeless, uninfluenced by weather and politics and war.

After reflecting as individuals on these questions, we will soon ask them as a community during our high holy days. Use these days to relax and reflect, so that we can come together and return in repentance to the Holy One of Blessing who is the source of all Creation.

Rabbi Ellen J. Lewis
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