

The 9th of Av.

What was worse, the expulsion from paradise or the destruction of the temple?

No day of mourning is set aside in the Jewish calendar for mourning for the day when Adam was expelled from the Garden of Eden, yet, for 2000 years Jews have been mourning the destruction of the temple on the 9th of Av.

The reason is that the 9th of Av is the day of mourning for every disaster that that changed the course of history, for the world and for the Jewish People.

We don't have a day of mourning for the expulsion of the Jews from Spain or

the murder of six million Jews by the Germans, because the 9th of Av is the day of mourning for those events also; they also changed the history of the world.

The world came into existence for the purpose of traveling through history to a specific goal, namely, the edification of mankind in an era of universal peace and happiness.

The disasters mourned on the 9th of Av diverted the course of history from its original ultimate purpose, with the result that the wondrous zenith of history is being pushed further and further away, now I think mankind has given up altogether of reaching the glorious destiny for which it was created.

Scholars lift up their hands and shrug their shoulders in exasperation when asked "what is the purpose of existence?" Once we all knew exactly what the purpose of existence was. Now the enormous number of disasters that have taken place, have caused us to forget that the world was created for a purpose.

Each time we mourn on the 9th of Av we make a small atonement for the disaster, because humans, like us caused it to happen. Every atonement is correction to the course of history, that disasters deflected.