

Av Video Notes 2019

Month: Five

Name: Av, meaning "Father."

Tribe: Simeon, meaning "to hear or *shema*."

Tribal Banner: Sword, Fortress

Mazel: Aryeh (Lion) or Leo

Sense: Hearing: This is the month Adonai gives us a hearing test!

Theme of the Month: Destruction and Consolation (Renewal)

Torah Portions:

- **MATTOT – MASSEI** – *Tribes - Journeys*
- **DEVARIM** - *Words*
- **VA'ETCHANAN** – *I Plead*
- **EKEV** – *Because - Heel*
- **RE'EH** - *See*

Blessing

Blessed are You, Adonai, Who gives us the New Moon, the sign of being born from above and continual renewal. Blessed are You, Adonai, Who renews His mercies every morning and gives us countless opportunities to repent and start fresh. May the ancient light of the moon's face never cease from reminding us of Your truth, Your love, and your saving grace.

May the Holy One, blessed be He, renew Av unto us and unto all His people, the house of Israel, for life and for peace, for gladness and for joy, for salvation and consolation, for a good livelihood and sustenance, for good reports and tidings, for rains in their season, for complete healing and swift redemption; and let us say, Amen.

This season has many congruent themes. There are too many dynamics to cover in one video. Please see two articles on Grace in Torah: *Chodesh Tammuz & the Three weeks* and *Month of Av: Tisha B'Av & Tu'B'Av*. These posts will expand upon the traditional fasts of the fourth and fifth months, which are vital to one's understanding. Zechariah prophetically mentions these fasts, and how one day they will be transformed into a time of rejoicing. Until then, we need to be aware of the spiritual warfare that occurs at this season. The other links under the video are also helpful.

Zec. 8:19 (NASB) "Thus says the LORD of hosts, 'The fast of the fourth, the **fast of the fifth**, the fast of the seventh and the fast of the tenth months will become joy, gladness, and cheerful feasts for the house of Judah; so love truth and peace.'

Overview

The month of Av marks a grand transition in the months. *Hey* (ה), the Hebrew letter that represents five, is also the definite article “the” when attached to nouns as a prefix. Like English, the Hebrew definite article marks something as specific or particular. The person, place, or thing is clearly stated or decided. It is not vague or doubtful, it is definite.

As the fifth month, **Av has a tone of definiteness**. Coupled with the other themes for the month, the tone is specific to what one “hears,” and therefore, obeys. One either hears the truth and acts on it, or one hears lies and acts on them. It is definite and particular. There is no ambiguity, even though the hearer might be confused due to sin and rebellion.

Consider other instances of five. On the fifth day of creation, the flying and swimming creatures move fast across the whole earth carrying and sowing the seeds of day three. They are obedient to their pilgrimages across continents and know the moedim given to them by the Creator.¹

Jer. 8:7 (TLV) Even the stork in the sky knows her **appointed times** (moedim), and the turtledove, swallow and crane observe the **time of their migration**, but My people do not know the judgments of Adonai.

These creatures “hear” and obey. The fifth feast is Rosh Hashanah or the Day of Blowing (Trumpets). One is required to “hear” the awakening blast. Yeshua tells the fifth church in the Book of Revelation to: “**Wake up**, and **strengthen** the things that remain, which were about to die; for I have not found your deeds completed in the sight of My God. So, **remember what you have received and heard**; and keep it, and repent. Therefore, if you do not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what hour I will come to you.” (Rev. 3:2-3)

In tradition, this is the month that the children Israel chose to listen to the voice of the ten evil spies, rather than the Voice of Adonai. This cost the first generation everything, even though they sought the LORD with tears.² They would wander in the wilderness forty years until every last one that believed the evil reports died in the desert.

The new moon of the fifth month is the date that the first Levitical High Priest, Aaron, died. (Num. 33:38) Since Aaron is directly connected to the Tabernacle and later Temple, I find it incredible that both Solomon’s and Herod’s Temples were later destroyed in the very month that her original High Priest passed away. (2 Kings 25:8-10, Jer. 52:12-13)

Is this a coincidence? I don’t believe so. The first Temple was destroyed on account of idolatry – listening to or believing the lies of false gods or powers. (Breaking the first great

¹ To learn more, see *The Creation Gospel: The Foundation, Workbook One* by Dr. Hollisa Alewine.

² See more about this account in my article: *Torah Portion: Shlach L’cha*

commandment.) The second Temple was destroyed on account of baseless hatred among brothers/sisters, which is not believing and acting upon the second greatest commandment. Do you see the pattern? The House and Body of Messiah is destroyed when we chose to listen to voices other than Elohim. The Shema and V'ahavta are the foundation, and when neglected, Adonai razes the House and rebuilds from the ashes. This is the theme of the month of Av.

Simeon & Hearing

Gen. 29:33 (NASB) Then she conceived again and bore a son and said, "**Because the LORD has heard that I am unloved**, He has therefore given me this son also." So she named him **Simeon**.

Do you feel unloved? Hated? Do you hate yourself or your current lot in life? Are you jealous of your sister? Last month, we discussed Leah's weak eyes and how this is related to tears and "blurred vision." This month is associated with Leah's second son, Shimon, and the sense of proper hearing. Sadly, we do not always hear correctly.

With Rueben, Adonai looked upon Leah's affliction, and with Simeon He heard that she was unloved or wasn't the preferred wife. Simeon is Shim'on, which is related to shema, to hear and obey. We read the Shema (Dt. 6:4) in one of this month's Torah portions, V'etchanan.

To hear in Hebrew is to listen. If one merely hears the sounds and does nothing, he has not truly heard. He has not listened. "Ears that hear" have the ability to discern truth from error. This causes one to turn, change, and repent upon hearing truth. In the natural, the inner ear plays a crucial role in one's balance. An inner ear problem can cause dizziness, motion sickness, or vertigo. Each of these issues make walking a straight path difficult or impossible.

This is true in the spirit realm as well. If your ear is off, your walk will be as well. What voices are you listening to? Do you have an ear that can hear? Is your world spinning out of control? Then, look no further than to the voices you are hearing and believing. The truth heals, but lies make one fall into a pit of sin and despair.

Expect to be tested in the realm of "hearing" properly this month. This sense mirrors your inner balance or lack thereof, and as such, it is the foundation to a proper walk. This is a good month to read how many times the Master, Yeshua, used the phrase "ears to hear" and in what context they are found. (Also look for, "He who has an ear, let him hear.")

The man and the tribe of Simeon have much to teach about proper and improper hearing. I find it fascinating that the man whose name means to "hear" often had closed ears. It seems ironic, but is it? Are we any different? It was Shimon and Levi that decided to take justice into their own hands when Shechem violated their sister Dinah.³ This enraged Jacob and he reprimanded

³ Gen. 34:25

his sons for their rash behavior.⁴ Later, when Jacob blessed his sons, Shimon and Levi receive more of a rebuke than a blessing:

Gen. 49:5-7 (LITV) Simeon and Levi, brothers; their weapons are instruments of violence. 6 Let not my soul come into their counsel; let not my spirit be joined to their company. For in their anger they killed a man; and in selfwill they hamstrung a bull. 7 Cursed be their anger, for it was fierce; and their wrath, for it was cruel. I will divide them in Jacob, and I will scatter them in Israel.

Notice that Jacob's rebuke is similar to YHWH's edicts against us when we are wayward. Exile or scattering, is a result of sin. Shimon and Levi acted in unholy anger when they attacked the Shechemites. We must be careful when someone kindles anger in us (right or wrong), for more often than not, we become the greater sinner when we allow our actions to be ruled by inflamed flesh. A reddened face full of rage makes one more like an Esau (red), and no better than a hairy beast. This will only bring wrath upon our own head and division in our camps.

Later, the Levites find favor from HaShem; but, as the LORD's inheritance, they remained scattered throughout the tribes. (Dt. 33:8-11) Shimon doesn't fair quite as well, as Moses skips over Simeon when he blesses the tribes of Israel.⁵ Rashi says that this is because of what happened in Shittim when Israel played the harlot with the daughters of Moab. Two particular characters in this drama were Zimri (a Simeonite) and Cozbi (a Midianite). They were in the throes of passion when Pinchas skewered them at the doorway of the Tent of Meeting, which stayed the plague. (Num. 25)

Again, we see the one that should have had ears to hear given over to the noisy passions of the flesh. Instead of boiling with anger, this time we see a Simeonite inflamed with a rebellious and perverted sexual desire. Can you see a pattern developing here? The one that should have ears to hear is deaf to the instructions of the Creator. He is led by the tempting voice of the harlot, the lower nature.

Unlike the other tribes (save Levi), Shimon didn't receive a separate neighboring portion in the Promised Land. Instead, Shimon was scattered in various towns and cities within Judah's allotment.⁶ Thus, Jacob's rebuke held true for both Levi and Shimon. Some of our actions have long lasting and dire consequences, even though we have found forgiveness.

⁴ Gen. 34:30

⁵ Dt. 33, Shimon is absent from the blessings.

⁶ Easton's Bible Dictionary: "This tribe received as their portion a part of the territory already allotted to Judah (Josh. 19:1-9). It lay in the south-West of the land, with Judah on the east and Dan on the north; but whether it was a compact territory or not cannot be determined. The subsequent notices of this tribe are but few (1 Chr. 4:24-43). Like Reuben on the east of Jordan, this tribe had little influence on the history of Israel."

The Sages teach that even though Moses didn't explicitly bless the tribe of **Simeon**, he did allude to this tribe when he blessed Judah. Judah's blessing begins with "**Shema, O LORD...**" Shema hints to Shimon, the one that would be blessed within Judah's allotment.

Other positive acts of Simeonites: Simeon was the remnant with Judah and Benjamin as Rehoboam's forces. (1 Kings 12:23) When David was anointed King of Judah, over 7,000 Simeonite warriors joined David at Hebron. Simeon is included in the tribes who will have territory in the coming kingdom in Ezekiel. He will be with Issachar and Zebulun at the south gate of the New Jerusalem. (Ez. 48:24, 33) Simeon is also mentioned in Revelation 7:7 as 12,000 from this tribe have foreheads sealed unto God.

My favorite mention of a person named Simeon is in Luke. Remember the theme for this month? Destruction and yet God brings comfort or consolation. Av is often dubbed Menachem Av (Comforting Father) for this reason. The haftarah portions also switch from judgment to comfort.

Luke 2:22-35 (NASB) And when the days for their purification according to the law of Moses were completed, they brought Him up to Jerusalem to present Him to the Lord 23 (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, "EVERY firstborn MALE THAT OPENS THE WOMB SHALL BE CALLED HOLY TO THE LORD"), 24 and to offer a sacrifice according to what was said in the Law of the Lord, "A PAIR OF TURTLEDOVES OR TWO YOUNG PIGEONS." 25 And there was a man in Jerusalem **whose name was Simeon**; and this man was righteous and devout, **looking for the consolation of Israel**; and **the Holy Spirit was upon him**. 26 And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. 27 And **he came in the Spirit into the temple**; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to carry out for Him the custom of the Law, 28 then he took Him into his arms, and blessed God, and said, 29 "Now Lord, You are releasing Your bond-servant to depart in peace, According to Your word; 30 **For my eyes have seen Your salvation**, 31 Which You have prepared in the presence of all peoples, 32 A LIGHT OF REVELATION TO THE GENTILES, And the glory of Your people Israel." 33 And His father and mother were amazed at the things which were being said about Him. 34 And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary His mother, "Behold, this Child is appointed for the fall and rise of many in Israel, and for a sign to be opposed— 35 and **a sword will pierce even your own soul—to the end that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed.**"

Some believe that this Simeon was possibly Rabban Simeon, the son of Hillel, who was president of the Sanhedrin forty years; and in whose office his son succeeded him. Thus, Simeon was the father of Gamaliel, the master of the Apostle Paul. (Acts 5:34) It seems that Luke would have mentioned Simeon's lofty position if that were the case, but we can be sure that this Simeon was the first prophet who said that Messiah had come!

Can you sense how powerful this redemption is for all the other rash and cruel Simeonites? The one with “ears to hear” finally got it right and listened to the voice of the Holy One. A man named Simeon was the first to proclaim Yeshua as Messiah, the Comforter of Israel!

Moreover, Yeshua’s first named disciple was Simon Peter. It was he that said, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.” Yeshua said to him, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, because flesh and blood did not reveal this to you, but My Father who is in heaven!” (Mat. 16:16-17 TLV)

Torah Portions & Choice

This month will present you with a definite choice. The first Torah portion of the month, Mattot-Massei means “Tribes and Journeys.” We are engrafted into the tribes of Israel through Messiah Yeshua (Rom. 11, Eph.2), and we also are in progress in this life as we journey toward the Promised Land. This portion marks the end of the narrative that began in Genesis, and it will not resume until the end of Deuteronomy. The rest of Devarim or Deuteronomy is a repetition of the Torah, the Words spoken in various accounts. Moses urges to people over and over to choose life by listening to the Voice of the LORD, and by obeying His Covenant.

This is a good time to review all of Deuteronomy 30. When Adonai restores our captivity and rebuilds Jerusalem, which is recognized in the fasts of the fourth and fifth months, He reiterates the choice:

Deut. 30:1-3 (TLV) Now when all these things come upon you—the blessing and the curse that I have set before you—and you take them to heart in all the nations where Adonai your God has banished you, 2 and you return to Adonai your God and **listen to His voice** according to all that I am commanding you today—you and your children—with all your heart and with all your soul, 3 then **Adonai your God will bring you back from captivity and have compassion on you**, and He will return and gather you from all the peoples where Adonai your God has scattered you.

He goes onto to present the choice:

Deut. 30:15-18 (TLV) See, **I have set before you today life and good, and death and evil.** 16 What I am commanding you today is to love Adonai your God, to walk in His ways, and to keep His mitzvot, statutes and ordinances. Then you will live and multiply, and Adonai your God will bless you in the land you are going in to possess. 17 But if your heart turns away and **you do not listen**, but are drawn away and bow down to other gods and worship them, 18 I tell you today that you will certainly perish! You will not prolong your days on the land, where you are about to cross over the Jordan to go in to possess.

Choose life! Choose to listen to the Voice of Adonai! It is obvious that one's sense of hearing (or lack thereof) is the vehicle by which one will find themselves mourning or rejoicing.

Lion – Aryeh

In the Bible, a lion can represent a destroyer, like an enemy seeking whom he may devour, or a righteous conqueror like the Holy One and His Kingdom, which is Israel. This fits perfectly with the theme of the month: destruction and renewal (consolation).

Israel is a Like a Lion:

Balaam's second oracle

For there is no omen against Jacob, Nor is there any divination against Israel; At the proper time it shall be said to Jacob And to Israel, what God has done!
"Behold, a people rises like a lioness, And **as a lion it lifts itself**; It will not lie down until it devours the prey, And drinks the blood of the slain. Num 23:23-24 (NASB)

Balaam's third oracle

God brings him out of Egypt, He is for him like the horns of the wild ox. He will devour the nations who are his adversaries, And will crush their bones in pieces, And shatter them with his arrows. "**He couches, he lies down as a lion, And as a lion, who dares rouse him?** Blessed is everyone who blesses you, And cursed is everyone who curses you. Num 24:8-9 (NASB)

The Holy One is Like a Lion:

I will not execute My fierce anger; I will not destroy Ephraim again. For I am God and not man, the Holy One in your midst, And I will not come in wrath. They will walk after the LORD, **He will roar like a lion**; Indeed He will roar And His sons will come trembling from the west." Hos 11:9-10 (NASB)

Hos. 5:14-15 (NASB) For **I will be like a lion to Ephraim And like a young lion to the house of Judah**. I, even I, will tear to pieces and go away, I will carry away, and there will be none to deliver. 15 I will go away and return to My place Until they acknowledge their guilt and seek My face; In their affliction they will earnestly seek Me.

Rev 5:4-5 (NASB) Then I began to weep greatly because no one was found worthy to open the book or to look into it; 5 and one of the elders *said to me, "Stop weeping; behold, **the Lion that is from the tribe of Judah**, the Root of David, has overcome so as to open the book and its seven seals."

Warfare

Destroying spirits and religious spirits are highly active during the Three Weeks. You might notice things such as:

- Spiritual and/or physical attacks on one's beliefs, intentions, or motivations.
- False charges, reports, and accusations.
- Attacks or accusations coming out of the blue from virtual strangers with charges that you are not who you say you are or that you believe or teach something false because you won't bind yourself to their creedal statement. (Religious spirit)
- Like last month, leadership attacks will continue, just as the people wanted to stone Moses and Aaron in the account with the spies. The people chose the lie over the truth because they were ruled by ungodly fear.
- People with sheer hatred in their hearts will use cruel words and actions, rash behavior, and unrighteous zeal to destroy the House (Temple) of God. Most of these will claim to be Believers, but what they really believe (hear) are lies, falsehood, and rumors.

As we cross over into the fifth month, perception or sight shifts to hearing, which reflects one's balance. Strongly linked to hearing is listening to and receiving godly counsel. This is much more difficult than it seems.

- Which Simeon are you? Are you angry? Cruel? Rash?
- Are you a destroyer or a builder (consoler)?
- What voices do you most often listen to?
- Does what you hear and believe about yourself and others line up with the Word of God?
- Is your life balanced or is it more chaotic and dizzying; spinning out of control? This implies an inner ear problem.
- Is your first impulse to believe the worst or the best about YHWH, yourself, and others upon "hearing" a report?

It's time to get your hearing tested:

- Discernment
- Making righteous judgments
- Balance in Walk with God and man
- Choice: you must choose to shema or not
- Counsel – listen/shema to balanced peacemakers

Whose voice will you shema?