



# Beit Ha'am

## Z-Talks

# בית העם

## שיג ושיח ציוני

### Tisha B'Av Insert

#### Psalm 137, 6-7

*"If I forget thee, O Jerusalem, let my right hand forget her cunning.  
Let my tongue cleave to the roof of my mouth, if I remember thee  
not; if I set not Jerusalem above my chiefest joy."*



#### David Ben Gurion

##### Speech at the Va'ad Hapoel

"One cannot measure, weight or count the worth of Jerusalem,  
for if a country had a soul – why Jerusalem is the soul of Israel."  
April 6<sup>th</sup>, 1948

1. What comes to mind when you think of Jerusalem? A religious place, a vacation spot, a news story, other? Why?
2. Can we reflect on Jerusalem detached from Israel? What advantage/disadvantage does this cause?



#### Ahad Ha'am

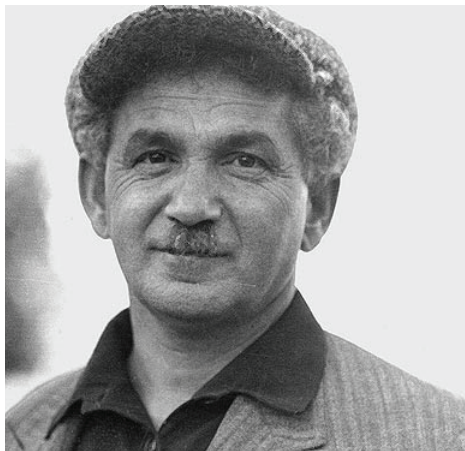
##### From "Truth from Eretz Israel"

"Full of sad ideas, after searching the country and seeing what I saw in Jaffa and the moshavot (Jewish settlements), I came to Jerusalem Passover night, to vent my thoughts and anger before "The trees and stones," precious remnants from ancient times. My first direction was towards the Kotel. There I found many of our fellow brothers, inhabitants of Jerusalem, standing and praying loudly. Their meager faces, their foreign movements and strange clothes - all appropriate for the terrible looking Kotel. And I stand and look at them and the Kotel, and one thought filled every space in my heart: these stones witnessed the destruction

of our country, and these people - the destruction of our nation: Which of these two destructions is larger than the other? On which of them will we cry more? - The land that would be destroyed, and the people still full of life and strength - will rise to her Zerubbabel, Ezra and Nehemiah and the people will return and build it again; but the people that will be destroyed, Who would rise up for them, where will help come from? And if at that moment would have come to me the spirit of Rabbi Judah Halevi and I could moan like him on the fragmentation of my people, my lament wouldn't begin with "Zion", but – "Israel".

Iyar 1891

1. Which destruction do you find more damaging? Why?
2. Explain the difference of these two destructions and the meaning it has to you.



## Berl Katznelson Davar Newspaper

“Could we be able to build a revival movement today had it not been for the fact that the people of Israel kept in their heart with sacred stubbornness the memory of the destruction (of the temple)? Had they not set aside in their memory and feelings and their way of life the Destruction day from all other days? This is the power of this crucial unified inspiring symbol in the history of a people... Where it not for the knowledge Israel has known to mourn for generations its destruction on the memorial day, with the same acuteness as someone who is in the presence of his deceased, of he who just now lost his freedom and homeland, then such men as Hess and Pinsker, Herzl and Nordau, Sirken

and Borochoy, A.D. Gordon and Brenner would not have risen. Yehuda Ha'Levi could not have created “Zion thou art anxious” and Bialik could not have written “Scroll of Fire” (Megilat Ha'Esh). ... The generation that drank the routine of exile and subjugation more than any generation before it, the generation that was forced to return to the feeling of destruction and expulsion, the generation that its entire existence is to be a bridge from the destruction and exile to a life of freedom and independence – will this generation be brought up to its destiny by forgetting it's nations day of mourning?”  
Av 1934

For generations we have shared the same yearning for Israel, today the younger members of our communities have been born into a world where Israel is a fact on the ground. Do we still share a collective memory? Has this reality changed our attitudes towards Israel?

