



## SIMCHAT SHMUEL

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**T**his *Shabbat* coincides with *Tisha B'Av*. As we are well aware, when *Tisha B'Av* coincides with *Shabbat*, the many aspects of mourning that *Halacha* mandates for the day of *Tisha B'Av* are suspended, and postponed until the following day.

Indeed our *Chazal* in the *Gemara*, *Masechet Taanit*, stated:

תשעה באב שחל להיות בשבת וכן ערב תשעה באב שחל להיות בשבת אוכל ושותה כל צרכו ומעלה על שולחנו אפילו כסעודת שלמה בשעתו

***Tisha B'Av that occurs on Shabbat, and so too, on Erev Tisha B' Av that occurs on Shabbat, one need not reduce the amount of food he eats; rather, he may eat and drink as much as he requires and put on his table a meal even like that of Shlomo Hamelech in his time.***

How are we to fully understand this teaching? Why are the many restrictions associated with *Tisha B'Av* suspended when it coincides with *Shabbat*?

In the *zemer* sung each *Shabbat* evening, *Kol Mekadesh Shevii* - we see a reference to the Temple's future reconstruction.

The stanza reads: "*Samcheim bevinyan shalem*" Rejoice in the complete building. What exactly is the connection between *Shabbat* and the building of the *Beit Hamikdash*?

The *Darchoi Noam*, the *Rebbe of Slonim*, explains the meaning of the stanza in our *Shabbat zemer*, *Samcheim B'vinyan*

*Shaleim* as follows.

*Each Shabbat we rejoice in the knowledge that the very essence of Shabbat is building, not in physically laying the stones of the Temple, but in spiritually building the bridges between each member of the Jewish people, building that unified sense of purpose, that shared awareness, not only of where we come from, but where we are in the here and now. Only then, when we once again achieve that understanding and genuine love and respect for one another, can we also, together, begin to truly build for the future. In the sacred hours and moments of Shabbat, there is no Churban, the Beit HaMikdash still stands! On Shabbat there is only unity, harmony and tranquility, not pain and destruction...*

Building the Temple begins with healing the wounds that divide us as Jews; building the Temple of the future begins with building the bridges of today. The *Slonimer Rebbe* teaches us that this is the essence of each and every *Shabbat*, and especially this *Shabbat* which coincides with *Tisha B'Av*. The experience of *Shabbat Kodesh* provides us with the opportunity to do our small part in building the *Beit Hamikdash*.

*Yehi Ratzon*, may this *Shabbat Kodesh* inspire each of us to strive for *achdut* and that shared sense of purpose, so that indeed we may witness the *Binyan Beit HaMikdash*, that we have waited, davened and longed for. ■