

~AB (93)

- The postexilic name of the 5th lunar month of the Jewish sacred calendar, but the 11th of the secular calendar. It corresponds to part of July and part of August.
- 2• The meaning of the name **Ab** is uncertain. In the Bible it is mentioned, not directly by name, but only as **the fifth month**. The name does appear, however, in the **Mishnah [Ta`anit 4:6]** and other postexilic Jewish writings.
- **Ab** was a month of summer heat, a time when the harvesting of grapes began in Israel.

See Also CALENDAR

- It was on the first day of **Ab** that Aaron died on Mount Hor.
- And Aaron the priest proceeded to go up into Mount Hor at the order of Yehowah and to die there in the fortieth year of the going out of the sons of Israel from the land of Egypt, in the fifth month, on the first of the month. (**Numbers 33:38**)
- And in the fifth month on the seventh day of the month, that is to say; the nineteenth year of King Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon, Nebuzaradan the chief of the bodyguard, the servant of the king of Babylon, came to Jerusalem. (**2 Kings 25:8**)
- Says that it was on the seventh day of this month that Nebuzaradan, the servant of the king of Babylon, **came to Jerusalem**. However,
- And in the fifth month, on the tenth day of the month, that is, in the nineteenth year of King Nebuchadrezzar, the king of **Babylon**, Nebuzaradan the chief of the bodyguard, who was standing before the king of Babylon, came into Jerusalem. (**Jeremiah 52:12**)
- Tells us that it was on the tenth day of this month that Nebuzaradan came into Jerusalem. The **Soncino Books of the Bible** comments on this, saying; **The interval of three days may be accounted for as representing the date of Nebuzaradan's arrival on the**

scene and the commencement of operations. (Edited by A. Cohen, London, 1949)

- It would appear, then, that Nebuzaradan arrived at Jerusalem on the seventh day, made his survey from his camp outside the city walls, and gave directions for the demolition of the city fortifications and the plundering of its treasures. Then finally, on the tenth day of the month, he entered the city and its holy temple.
- According to Josephus in; *The Jewish War* , VI, 250,268 [iv, 5,8], Herod's temple was burned by the Romans on the tenth day of the fifth month of **70 C.E.**, and Josephus makes note of the precise correspondency of this date with the burning of the first temple on the same day by the Babylonians.
- During the following 70-year Babylonian exile, this fifth month was a time of fastings and wailings by the Jews in memory of the destruction of the temple in Jerusalem.
- Saying to the priests who belonged to the house of Yehowah of armies, and to the prophets, even saying; Shall I weep in the fifth month, practicing an abstinence, the way I have done these O how many years? (**Zechariah 7:3**)
- Say to all the people of the land and to the priests; When you fasted and there was a wailing in the fifth month and in the seventh month, and this for seventy years, did you really fast to me, even me? (**Zechariah 7:5**)
- Look! That is the dissolving of his way, and from the dust others spring up. (**Job 8:19**)
- It was also in the month **Ab** that Ezra returned to the restored Jerusalem to instruct the Jews in the Law of Yehowah.
- At length he came to Jerusalem in the fifth month, that is, in the seventh year of the king. (**Ezra 7:8**)
- For on the first day of the first month he himself appointed the going up from **Bab**ylon, and on the first day of the fifth month he came to Jerusalem, according to the good hand of his God upon him. (**Ezra 7:9**)
- And you, Ezra, according to the wisdom of your God that is in

your hand appoint magistrates and judges that they may continually judge all the people that are beyond the River, even all those knowing the laws of your God, and anyone that has not known them you men will instruct. (Ezra 7:25)