



1

Leaving an unfinished space in one's home

There is a custom that when a man builds his house, and reaches the last stage of painting the rooms, at a moment when he is especially happy, he must remember that the Temple, is still not rebuilt. As a remembrance of mourning for the destruction he must leave an unfinished square of one amah by one amah (one cubit by one cubit), unpainted. Even those who paste wallpaper on their walls, should leave an unfinished square of one amah by one amah without wallpaper. This square should be in a prominent place, and this is the reason the sages determined that he should be in front of the entrance door.





2

Breaking a Glass under the Huppah

The Gemara tells us the story of a rabbi who married his son, and saw that the disciples were too happy at the wedding, so he broke a glass in front of them, to remind them of the destruction of the Temple. This custom is now common throughout Israel as a reminder of the destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple.





3

Praying towards Jerusalem

In synagogues Jews faced the city of Jerusalem when praying, so that people from all over the world pray towards the same place, and not in the same direction. The residents of Jerusalem pray towards the Temple Mount. In synagogues, it is customary to place the ark so that it fits the direction of the prayer towards Jerusalem.





Next year in rebuilt Jerusalem

We traditionally end the Passover Seder and the Yom Kippur prayers with the words: 'Next year in rebuilt Jerusalem'. The purpose of the prayer is to show that every Jew wants to come to Jerusalem, and if he has not yet managed to reach Jerusalem, he hopes and prays that he will be able to come to Jerusalem next year. Every Jew used to end the Seder night with this prayer, feeling connected to the redemption that began in Egypt and will end in Jerusalem. It is customary to sing the song at the end of Seder night in the late hours of the night.





5

Tisha B'Av

The French general Napoleon once walked by a synagogue and saw Jews sitting on the floor and weeping bitterly. "Why are you crying?" asked Napoleon. "We mourn the destruction of the Temple," the mourners replied. "How long ago did this happen?", asked Napoleon. The answer struck him: "Over 2,000 years ago". Napoleon responded with these words: "Only a nation that mourns over its past, after such a long time, will be able to survive even the most difficult future."





6

Sigd

For generations, Ethiopian Jews have dreamed of returning to Jerusalem to reunite with the Jewish People. Sigd became a day of fasting and repentance, a source of fulfilling the commandments, a day of introspection among the people of the Beta-Israel community, and above all a plea to God to return his people - Beta-Israel - to Jerusalem. It has been a day of prayer and prostration towards Jerusalem and an expression of yearning and longing to return to Zion.

