

Five פרוניות, five tragedies occurred on בתמוז עשר שבעה. They're all listed in משנה ברורה. The לוחות were broken, the קרבן תמיד was discontinued in the first המקדש בית, in the second המקדש בית the walls were breached, אפוסטמוס ימה שמו burned the ספר תורה - it was not just any ספר תורה, it was written by הסופר, and last, they put a געטשקע in the בית המקדש. A day of tragedies.

However, as tragic בתמוז עשר שבעה is, there's an amazing surprise revealed by the סופר חתם, as brought down by Rav Moshe Wolfson in his sefer: שבעה עשר בתמוז was the day that Boaz married Rus. The spark of משיח that had been trapped in מואב was brought into life. And as we know, משיח is going to come from that wedding.

What's interesting is that the שבת before בתמוז עשר שבעה is almost always פרשת בלק, which this year, תשפ"ה, is true. If Rus holds the spark of Mashiach, Balak was a קליפה holding in that spark. What was בלק's טענה to בלעם why he was afraid of ישראל? His reason was כִּי רַב הוּא. Who are you kidding? We know we're the smallest of all the nations, we're tiny. So what did he mean by כִּי רַב הוּא?

What is רַב? רַב stands for רות and בועז. Balak was scared that the spark of משיח would be released. What did he do? This is brilliant, the guy was brilliant. He said to בלעם, go and curse אֶרֶץ לִי אֵת. חס ושלום. כלל ישראל, חס ושלום. אֶרֶץ לִי אֵת. Curse that nation so that we will not be able to join them. Why? Because it says in the torah לא יבוא כלל ישראל. Balak said "If we can't join כלל ישראל, Rus and Boaz can't get married. If they can't get married, משיח can't come. I want to keep that spark here. I don't want to let it go. Therefore, let's curse the Jews and they will be forbidden to marry the people of מואב for all time, forever."

However, his idea backfired. The חכמים beat him at his own game. לא יבוא עמוני ומואבי, but מואבית, yes. As prophesied to בלק later, משיח would come from this nation. Rus was an elevated נשמה trapped in the בלק of טומאה.

What's fascinating is, וירא בלק בן צפור is the same gematria as חודש תמוז. Both are 771. Balak was a קליפה trapping Rus. תמוז is a lofty time, but it is currently trapped in טומאה. It's our job to release that spark. Just as Hashem freed Rus, Hashem will free תמוז, and שבעה עשר בתמוז will once again become the holiday it was supposed to be when משה brought down the לוחות. Have a meaningful and easy fast.

