

Look around us!

In the Gulf of Mexico, entire populations of sea creatures are being displaced due the negligence of the oil industry, and soon, livelihoods worldwide will be affected.

In the city of Detroit, there are plans to redevelop neighborhoods into farmland, since the land on which whole neighborhoods stood is now more valuable as farmland than as residential.

In the Northeast, we see cities lose their jobs first to offshoring of textiles, followed by the minicomputer bust, followed by the globalization of the software industry.

On the island of Dominica we see a whole population devastated by a calamitous earthquake.

In the Gaza Strip, whole communities of Jews were uprooted. The area has to be watched in order to thwart attacks on the rest of Israel.

Around the world, individuals and extremist groups, such as the Hamas, deny the existence of the Holocaust and demand the delegitimization of the State of Israel which was founded in part to become a home for those who survived the reign of terror of the Nazis.

It may be selfish of us to think only of the problems of the Jews, but it is a good place to start. We lament the exile into Babylonia after the destruction of the first temple, and the Diaspora as a result of the destruction of the second temple. But we do it together, as a community, for we are privileged to have the opportunity to pray together twice a day, seven times a week, here in this sanctified place.

Blessed art Thou, oh Lord Our Gd, King of the Universe, who has allowed Congregation Agudas Achim to survive and thrive. Grant us the wisdom, strength, and good fortune to keep this home in which we study the words of the Torah, and teach them to our children, their children, and the generations to come.

Composed by Ed Gordon

Blessing theme on Tisha B'Av