

## **PRAY FOR ISRAEL**

### **October 26, 2023**

On October 7, 2023, the nation and people of Israel suffered brutal terrorist attacks that left over 1400 people dead, 200 taken as hostages, and thousands injured. Many have lost or had to flee their homes.

The people of Israel are suffering and deeply grieving. It is said that “everybody knows someone who lost someone.” Meanwhile, many in the global community disbelieve the accounts of the atrocities and even accuse Israel of deliberately killing innocents. These two responses make it clear that—even as Israel is trying to absorb what’s just happened—they must defend themselves not only from Hamas but also from international outrage in the wake of *the worst massacre of Jewish people since the Holocaust*.

**The people of Israel have been thrust into an epic battle against evil that few saw coming. We have the privilege of doing battle alongside them as we pray for God to intervene and save.**

In Psalm 122:6, we are implored to “Pray for the peace of Jerusalem.” These words in Hebrew are “*sha’alu shalom Yerushalayim*.” In Arabic, “*es’alo salam, orashalim*.”

Thank you for joining in prayer at this time. We invite you to use this prayer guide to focus on specific areas of concern. Add other petitions as the Holy Spirit brings them to your mind. Please pray...

#### **LEADERS:**

- For unity and resolve.
- For Israel’s government and military leaders as they make and carry out plans to defend against continued violence.
- For success in removing the threat of Hamas from Israel, and from Gaza and beyond.
- For Israel’s government and military leaders to make wise and right decisions, regardless of pressure from outside voices.
- For clarity when communicating their mission and goals in the media.
- To not lose heart when some in the global community refuse to believe reports of the atrocities and accuse Israel of injustice or worse.
- For a desire to open the Scriptures and seek the Lord.

#### **CITIZENS:**

- That the God of Israel, who never slumbers or sleeps, would watch over His people and deliver them from their enemies (Psalm 121).
- That people throughout the region would be given a supernatural sense of peace during this time.

- For safety as rockets continue to rain down in all parts of Israel, and that no weapon formed against them shall succeed (Isaiah 54:17).
- For physical and emotional protection for civilians, especially the children who have been trying to cope with constant threats.
- For unity as a people.
- For spiritual awakening. Sadly, some say they believed that God existed up until the date of October 7th, but other non-believers are starting to pray in ways they never have before.
- For protection of Gazans who desire to flee to safety, but are blocked by those who would use them as pawns.
- For courage of Palestinians who desire peace and an end to hostilities with their neighbors, and for those who dare speak out against the terrorist organizations in their midst.
- That humanitarian aid to Gaza will actually get to the innocent, rather than being confiscated by Hamas.

#### **VICTIMS AND THEIR FAMILIES:**

- For God to comfort grieving families and others who lost dear ones in the murderous attacks and to provide the peace that only He can bring.
- For children who have become orphaned.
- For healing of the wounded, some still fighting for their lives in the hospitals.
- For survivors carrying unseen wounds who will need emotional and psychological healing.
- That those that have lost their homes will be provided a place to live, both now and when peace returns.
- For those who have had to evacuate their homes near the southern and northern borders, not knowing when they will be able to return.

#### **HOSTAGES:**

- For the release of Israelis and those from other countries, including the United States, being held hostage in Gaza.
- Praise God that some of the hostages have been released!
- For families and friends desperate for news.
- For healing of wounds sustained during or after capture.
- For their survival and protection while in the hands of evildoers.
- That they will not lose hope, but sense the presence of Almighty God in the middle of their circumstances.
- For officials working behind the scenes to achieve their rescue.

#### **MILITARY PERSONNEL:**

- For supernatural wisdom for leaders and commanders, everyone on up the ranks; for critical, tactical decisions at the right time.
- For divine protection to surround all Israeli soldiers who serve their nation.
- For soldiers' alertness, strength, stamina, and safety.

- For courage and determination should campaigns be drawn out over a long time.
- For success in battle, rescuing hostages, and navigating traps being laid for them.
- For decisive victory and eradication of terrorist networks, including Hamas to the south, Hezbollah to the north, and others who seek the destruction of Israel.
- For morale and wellbeing, as they are in a heightened state of readiness while also having to wait.
- For provision of food, equipment and supplies for over 350,000 reservists.
- That soldiers who are followers of Jesus will have opportunities to shine the light of the Gospel among their fellow soldiers, and for open, receptive hearts.
- For reservists' families and businesses coping in their absence; may their fears be replaced with the peace of God.

### **BELIEVERS:**

- For our Palestinian brothers and sisters who are deeply impacted by the ongoing conflict. Pray for their protection and that they would somehow see God at work in the midst of so much devastation.
- That the conflict will end quickly, and that the Lord will meet all needs, especially at this time, and that believers in both Gaza and Israel be the light in the middle of this total darkness and reflect the light and love of Christ.
- For the Arab believers in Israel, the territories, and the wider Middle East, to have the courage and moral clarity to take a clear stand in that conflict and distance themselves from the evil spirit of Hamas.
- For opportunities to share their hope in the Messiah, Jesus Christ, and for many to come to believe in Him.

### **THE HELPERS:**

- For strength for medical staff working day and night, some of whom have lost loved ones themselves.
- For people to come alongside those who have witnessed unspeakable horrors, helping them find hope and peace of mind.
- For those tasked with identifying the deceased, preparing them for burial and notifying their families.
- For the dozens of organizations doing donation drives and providing meals. Multiple Christian ministries have come together to get supplies out to soldiers in the field as well as provision to families who needed to flee their towns and villages.
- For Christian organizations in Gaza providing others with food and medicine as needed.

### **PRAY FOR PEACE:**

The situation in Israel and Gaza, indeed the entire Middle East, seems impossible. By human standards, it's a disaster that will never change. But we serve a God who is not bound by human perspective—He can bring about peace and the heart changes needed to stop the violence.

“Pray with us, ask the Lord to stop this war, these attacks against the civilian population in Gaza,” one pastor in Gaza asks.

“Pray with us that God will use all those leaders whose decisions in these days will determine the fate of so many people,” the Bible Society of Israel said on its website. “May our loving God bring this disaster to an end.”

*Amen and Shalom*

### **RECOMMENDED SCRIPTURES:**

Psalm 27:3  
Jeremiah 29:11  
Psalm 121: 1-4  
Psalm 122:6-9  
Genesis 12:1-3  
Psalm 83 (often read at funerals of IDF soldiers)  
Psalm 138:7  
Jeremiah 31:31-33  
Isaiah 62

### **REFERENCES:**

<https://www.oneforisrael.org/news/israel-at-war/whats-happening-in-israel-at-the-moment/>

<https://www.globalestherfast.com/> (Esther 14:14-16)

<https://www.opendoorsus.org/en-US/stories/7-ways-pray-Israel-Gaza/>

<https://firmisrael.org/praybyname/>

Joshua Aaron, *Pray for the Peace of Jerusalem*: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KhIIJ6H\\_WLU&list=OLAK5uy\\_nINW8v3iRzeo7ec0FIjSgLMUfQoNR8vE4&index=5](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KhIIJ6H_WLU&list=OLAK5uy_nINW8v3iRzeo7ec0FIjSgLMUfQoNR8vE4&index=5)