


WAR IN ISRAEL

Praying for Peace in Israel

By Dr. Tim Sigler and Dr. Arnold Fruchtenbaum

04

Praying for Peace in Israel



I am for peace, but when I speak, they are for war! (Psalm 120:7)

On October 7, 2023, Hamas launched a surprise attack against Israel by land, sea, and air, infiltrating and overtaking towns and villages near the Gaza border and abducting and brutally murdering innocent civilians. More Jewish lives were lost on this day than on any other day since the Holocaust. As Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu announced, “Citizens of Israel, we are at war. Not an operation [a round of fighting], at war!”

I have been in regular contact with our Israeli staff, and they are thankfully far away from the front lines, but I could

hear the pain in their voices as the entire nation is devastated by this breach of safety in which even grandmothers and young children have been mercilessly kidnapped and taken brutally into Gaza. Israel’s sense of security and *shalom* has been shattered similarly to almost exactly 50 years ago, when the nation’s enemies unleashed a similar surprise attack that launched the Yom Kippur War.

Please pray for Israel’s leaders, for wisdom and decisiveness, for the rescue of the captives, and for a swift and decisive victory as the government promised, “We will win this war.” Of course, we know that this will mean a major response and the loss of many more lives. Nearly one month into the war, we see that anti-Israel protests have resulted in outbreaks of violence against Jewish people and institutions globally. Satanically inspired anti-Sem-

itism rears its ugly head proudly once again.

This October 7 massacre came right at the end of the joyous celebration of Israel’s fall festivals and the weeklong observance of the Feast of Tabernacles (*Sukkot*), leading up to the traditional celebration of the gift of the Scriptures to the nation at Sinai known as *Simchat Torah* (Rejoicing in the Torah). Yet now, our joy has turned to sorrow. In our sorrow, our surprise, and the sudden call to arms in response to this bloodshed, we find our comfort in God’s sovereignty and in the ultimate saving message of the Messiah—the Prince of Peace—as we stand together with Israel.

Please pray!

- Pray the safe release of hostages.
- Pray for the safety of Jewish people globally.
- Pray for the success of the IDF as they defend Israel. Many IDF soldiers and reservists from believing families are activated and engaged on the front lines.
- Pray the terrorists will turn to Yeshua and do right.
- Pray for Gaza’s liberation from Hamas.
- Pray this crisis will draw many in Israel and Gaza to saving faith in Yeshua.
- Pray that many will stand against anti-Semitism and stand in Messiah’s love toward the Jewish people.

Should you wish to support Ariel Israel through ariel.org, our staff is on the front lines of helping those who are traumatized by the war and touched by the loss of life and safety. Your gifts help them provide counsel and encouragement to many who are suffering.

Dr. Tim Sigler
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How to Pray for Israel

As Dr. Sigler's response to the terrorist attacks on Israel has shown, there is a lot to pray for. In a post by our social media team, we also tried to address the question of how are we to pray for Israel and pointed to Dr. Fruchtenbaum's commentary on Isaiah for an answer. Dr. Fruchtenbaum's comment below pertains to Isaiah 62:1.

"In light of the revelation that had been given in chapters 60–61, Isaiah made specific requests in verses 1-5.

The passage begins in verse 1 with the introduction to his prayer: *For Zion's sake will I not hold my peace, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her righteousness go forth as brightness, and her salvation as a lamp that burns.*

Isaiah's prayer is based upon God's promises in chapters 60–61. In those chapters, God had clearly spelled out what He intended to do on behalf of Israel as a nation and Jerusalem in particular, including the city's exaltation in the Messianic kingdom. Isaiah was fully aware of God's intentions, but this did not keep him from praying toward that end. The prophet understood that God's sovereignty includes controlling events that do come to pass in accordance with His will. Yet, not only does God ordain the end, but He also ordains the means, and among these means are the prayers of the prophets and the saints. Isaiah recognized this truth and prayed on the basis of God's



promises. He declared that he would keep praying until Jerusalem's righteousness shines like the dawn and her salvation blazes like a burning torch."¹

God promised that Jerusalem will be exalted one day, and no foreign nation will trample upon His people ever again. But until that day comes, let's pray that many people, Jews and Gentiles alike, will come to saving faith in Jesus, the Jewish Messiah.

¹ Arnold G. Fruchtenbaum, *Ariel Bible Commentary: The Book of Isaiah* (San Antonio, TX: Ariel Ministries, 2021), p. 647; quoted with minor edits.

Behold, he who keeps Israel
will neither slumber nor sleep.

Psalm 121:4

