

**Israel Prayer Calendar
December 2015 – January 2016**



December 2015

Tuesday 01/12 'The flames of radical Islam, which are burning the entire region, are also reaching us,' Prime Minister Netanyahu said 8 October of this year during a press conference. "This vicious terrorism did not start today. It has accompanied the Zionist enterprise since its beginning." Pray that this power of terror will be broken, and pray for the protection of Israel. (Psalm 74:18-23)

Wednesday 02/12 On the Golan Heights Israeli oil and gas company Afek discovered a huge oil reserve. This find is an important contribution to Israel's relatively young oil industry. Thank God for this.

Thursday 03/12 Since Russia and Iran have mingled in the fights in neighboring Syria, the security situation at Israel's northern border has become even more dangerous and difficult to control. Pray for protection and safety for the towns, villages and kibbutzim in this border area.

Friday 04/12 In Israel there are hundreds of so-called 'lone soldiers': Jewish youth from other countries, who live in Israel without family who serve in the Israeli army with great motivation. Thank God for their involvement, and pray they will find a real home in their guest families.

Saturday 05/12 Sabbath. In Syria Christians are continually persecuted, killed or kidnapped by ISIL fighters. Pray for our brothers and sisters in Syria and in other countries of the Middle East. Pray for safety and possibilities to deliverance.

Sunday 06/12 The first prophecy concerning the Servant of the Lord is written in Isaiah 42:1-7: "*I, the Lord, have called you in righteousness; I will take hold of your hand. I will keep you and will make you to be a covenant for the people and a light for the Gentiles.*" (verse 6)

Monday 07/12 Yesterday evening at sundown the Hanukkah festival has started, the feast of the renewal (cleansing) of the Temple. This feast continues for eight days. Pray for safe and good festival days, for light in the darkness.

Tuesday 08/12 Please pray for the many volunteers who have come to Israel from their own safe countries. They work in soup kitchens, hospitals, or give help to Holocaust survivors.

Wednesday 09/12 Jews are returning from all corners of the earth. Just like the prophet Isaiah we can say to the North: "*Give them up!*", and to the South: "*Do not hold them back!*" Thank God, that as Christians for Israel we have been involved in Aliyah – the return of the Jewish people to Israel – since 1996. (Isaiah 43:5-6)

Thursday 10/12 The Lord Jesus also celebrated Hanukah, the feast of the Consecration of the Temple in Jerusalem. The lesson that we as Christians may learn from this feast is the victory of light over darkness. (John 10:22)

Friday 11/12 In October the small Jewish community in Yemen (200 persons) was presented with the choice: either convert to Islam or leave the country. Pray for protection of this group and for their return to the land of Israel.

Saturday 12/12 Sabbath. A rabbi once spoke at our head office in Nijkerk and assured his listeners, that as Christian Zionists they were in good company. He cited Joel 3:17 *"I, the Lord your God, dwell in Zion"* It's good to realize this. Likewise verse 16 is quite outspoken.

Sunday 13/12 The second prophecy concerning the Servant of the Lord is to be found in Isaiah 49:1-7. *"It is too small a thing for you to be my servant to restore the tribes of Jacob and bring back those of Israel I have kept. I will also make you a light for the Gentiles, that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth."* (verse 6)

Monday 14/12 Anti-Semitism is on the rise in Europe. Physically in the streets, where Jews are called names, but also on the Internet and in the media, with tendentious articles. Pray for safety and for protection of the Jewish population in the countries of Europe.

Tuesday 15/12 Your intercession please for Koen Carlier and his team, who do indispensable work in Ukraine for the project 'Bring he Jews home'. Pray for safety on the road during long trips to the Israeli Embassy and to the airport.

Wednesday 16/12 Thank God for the Jewish communities in Judea and Samaria. Pray for their safety. Pray that a solution will be found for these 'contested' areas with dozens of Biblical places from Jewish history.

Thursday 17/12 A few months ago the chairman of the Palestinian Authority, Abbas, said: "The Al-Aqsah mosque belongs to us, and the Jews have no right to defile this place with their dirty feet." A fitting answer can be found in Psalm 135 verses 1-4 and 19-21. Thank God for His Word.

Friday 18/12 In this time of Advent it is good to pay special attention to a remarkable scripture in Mary's Song of Praise, and to realize that the Scriptures connect the life of the Lord Jesus with the life of the Patriarch Abraham for the sake of His servant Israel. (Luke 1:54-55 and Genesis 17:7)

Saturday 19/12 Sabbath. Please pray for those who lost relatives and for the survivors of the recent wave of terrorism. Many Israelis relive what happened to them in previous days because of terror. Pray for comfort and for healing.

Sunday 20/12 The third prophecy concerning the Servant of the Lord is written in Isaiah 50:4-11. *"It is the Sovereign Lord who helps me. Who will condemn me? They will all wear out like a garment; the moths will eat them up."* (verse 9)

Monday 21/12 Because of the unrest and terror attacks in recent months tourism in Israel is under great pressure. Pray that tourists will continue to come; this is such an encouragement for the country's inhabitants.

Tuesday 22/12 During this period of unrest in Israel and the Middle East reading Psalm 125 is a consolation and strength to the Israeli people. The last verse we can pray daily: *"Peace be upon Israel!"*

Wednesday 23/12 Pray for constructive talks with those who represent the Palestinians. Looking at the example of Gaza, where Jews are absolutely forbidden to live, this is not easy. Pray for preservation of Biblical territory.

Thursday 24/12 The fourth prophecy concerning the Servant of the Lord can be found in Isaiah 52:13 through 53:12. *"He grew up before him like a tender shoot, and like a root out of dry ground. He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him."* (Isaiah 53 verse 2)

Friday 25/12 Today we may give thanks: *"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given."* May we look forward to *"the peace of Him who will reign on David's throne"*. (Isaiah 9:6-7)

Saturday 26/12 Sabbath. Pray that there will be a refreshing Sabbath rest in the country, at the moment that many Jews visit the synagogue. Those who seek God earnestly will find Him.

Sunday 27/12 The Jewish people in Israel are aware, that they are given to be a light to the nations. Wounded Syrian soldiers are tended to, and Arabs from Gaza nursed in Israeli hospitals. This is worth your prayer of thanksgiving.

Monday 28/12 Three months after the nuclear agreement with the USA, the highest spiritual leader of Iran, ayatollah Ali Khamenei, rejected further negotiations with this country. In that very period his book about elimination of the State of Israel appeared. Continue to pray for the protection of Israel.

Tuesday 29/12 At the end of September the chairman of the Palestinian Authority, Abbas, spoke to the United Nations, and said they are not prepared to have further negotiations with Israel. Since then the violence against Israel and its population has increased. Pray that there will be talks and open conversations.

Wednesday 30/12 In October parting Israeli Ambassador at the UN Ron Prosor said in his last speech: "Within 72 hours eleven acts of terror were perpetrated against Israelis, and there were zero condemnations by the UN." Pray that a change will take place within the UN concerning their attitude towards the State of Israel.

Thursday 31/12 Prayer for Israel can be summoned in one verse of Scripture: *"Spare your people, Lord. Do not make your inheritance an object of scorn, a byword among the nations. Why should they say among the people, 'Where is their God'"* (Joel 2:17). We see it before our very eyes: the way God deals with His people and the raging of the nations. However, we do not need to sit and watch passively, but can intercede continually: *"Spare Your people, Lord!"*

January 2016

Friday 01/01 A good New Year's resolution is to long passionately for the second coming of the Lord Jesus. Rejoice in His promise: *"Yes, I am coming soon."* (Revelation 22:20-21)

Saturday 02/01 Sabbath. Pray for peace from God for the inhabitants of the south of Israel, and trust in Him for their future. Because of the continual threat of war from Gaza many inhabitants are traumatized.

Sunday 03/01 Pray that in churches worldwide there will be preaching about fulfillment of Biblical prophecy, about Israel and the nations, about the signs of the times. The Bible is full of these subjects, giving ample occasion for such preaching.

Monday 04/01 Last summer children in Gaza were trained to be Jihad fighters. This has been going on for years. Already 15,000 children and teenagers have been prepared for the battle against Israel. Pray that this will be stopped and the children will receive a normal childhood.

Tuesday 05/01 Many people try to give a distorted picture of Israel by presenting people with false facts. Pray that this will change.

Wednesday 06/01 The prophet Isaiah describes several times that the desert will bloom, trees will grow there, and even rivers will flow through it! What a potential for the Negev! Pray for fulfillment of these prophecies.

Thursday 07/01 Please intercede, that the Lord will undo the powers of anti-Semitism and anti-Zionism. All over the world these two powers are taking terrifying shape.

Friday 08/01 Pray for the Jews that recently made Aliyah to Israel. A cause for thanksgiving, but also for prayer that they will have a good start in Israel.

Saturday 09/01 Sabbath. A verse from the Psalms, as you pray for Israel today: *“Oh, that salvation for Israel would come out of Zion! When the Lord restores his people, let Jacob rejoice and Israel be glad!”* (Psalm 14:7)

Sunday 10/01 *“As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, my God.”* (Psalm 42:1) Please pray for the Christians in Israel, that God and His Word will be their main focus and that they will follow Jesus.

Monday 11/01 *“Praying correctly is like a man who is picking flowers in a field – one by one, until together they form a beautiful bouquet. In the same way a man should put together every letter and every syllable, until a prayer forms.”* – Rabbi Nachman of Bratslav.

Tuesday 12/01 Please pray that the restoration of Israel and the Biblical promises to the Jewish people will receive more attention and will be taught at Theological colleges and Bible schools. At present this is rarely happens.

Wednesday 13/01 *“The Lord foils the plans of the nations; He thwarts the purposes of the peoples.”* (Psalm 33:10) Give thanks, that God holds everything in His hands. Although we do not understand everything, we may trust Him in everything.

Thursday 14/01 *“Our own ways lead us in circles, all the time returning to ourselves. But when God leads our ways, they lead towards Him. God leads us through fortune and misfortune – but always only towards Him. That is how we recognize God’s ways.”* – Dietrich Bonhoeffer.

Friday 15/01 Iran demonstrates more power all the time, experimenting with long range missiles and showing military bases – scattered throughout the country and built deep into mountain slopes. In addition they continuously say that Israel must be destroyed. Take this development very seriously and take it to your heavenly Father in prayer.

Saturday 16/01 Sabbath. Jewish leaders in Ukraine have requested their government to protect Holocaust monuments. The well-known monument at Babi Yar in Kiev was damaged six times last year. Pray that politicians will take action and find the right solution.

Sunday 17/01 In a recent report of the OECD it was stated, that from the 34 associated countries Israel tops the list concerning the difference between poor and rich. Pray for a clear and fair solution.

Monday 18/01 Continue to pray for minority groups in the Middle East: Jews, Christians, Yazidi and others, who have a very hard life under the pressure of Islam. Many fear for their lives and flee.

Tuesday 19/01 Pray for Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu, President Rivlin and the commander-in-chief of the Israeli army, Eisenkot. All three of them carry great responsibility. Read Proverbs 21:1.

Wednesday 20/01 Muslim terrorists speak about a “Jerusalem Intifada” and spread horrifying messages and pictures with the call for attacks in Israel. Please intercede that these plans will be thwarted.

Thursday 21/01 In some countries school books for secondary schools contain downright incorrect ‘facts’ about Israel, especially about its history. Pray that the necessary corrections will be made.

Friday 22/01 Radical Muslim groups and terrorist movements supported by Iran cause more and more unrest in the Middle East; Israel is also threatened. Cry out to God about this situation, on the basis of Psalm 35:17-28.

Saturday 23/01 Sabbath. Altogether there are still 180,000 survivors of the Shoah (the Holocaust) in Israel. Their average age is 83. Pray that these people, who are often lonely and advanced in age, receive sufficient help.

Sunday 24/01 Your prayers please for the pastors and preachers of ‘Christians for Israel’, who regularly minister in services of churches and congregations all over the world.

Monday 25/01 Pray that the nature of Islam and the intentions of Arab leaders will be disclosed. That this will open the eyes of politicians in the western countries and in Russia.

Tuesday 26/01 Thank God for the new version of 'Why Israel?' in French and the accompanying website 'Pourquoi Israel?' There is also an edition now in the Myanmar language and in Portuguese. Pray that the readers will learn to understand God's way with Israel.

Wednesday 27/01 Today is the international 'Holocaust Remembrance Day'. Let us learn from what happened in the past, and pray that this commemoration may be a consolation to the Jewish people.

Thursday 28/01 We find a remarkable continuation of Isaiah 60:14 in verses 15-22. It's about God's loving care for the Jewish people, so that the horrible past will be restored by a glorious future.

Friday 29/01 We ask your prayer of thanksgiving for all the activities of 'Christians for Israel' and for our expanding network.

Saturday 30/01 Sabbath. "The interest of the Lord God ought to be the starting point of our prayer life. Not our agenda, but His. Our first love for Him should also be and remain our only love."
- Ofer Amitai.

Sunday 31/01 Pray that as Christians we will make the Lord Jesus visible through our actions. "*As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead.*" (James 2:26)