

**Israel Prayer Calendar
February - March 2016**



February 2016

Monday 1 February Pray for protection of the north of Israel. From Lebanon there is a serious threat by terrorist movement Hezbollah. From Syria there is the threat by several terrorist groups and soldiers from Iran.

Tuesday 2 February Pray for the safety of Israeli soldiers and border police, who have to guard 1006 kilometers of border: 255 km along the border with Egypt, 51 km along Gaza, 238 km along Jordan, 79 km along Lebanon, 76 km along Syria and 307 km along the Jordan West Bank. The soldiers are often times in bunkers and receive images from satellites and cameras. Pray that they notice everything that is necessary for the protection of Israel.

Wednesday 3 February There is continual unrest in the north. Time and again Israel has to take action against terrorists. In Syria arms transports – destined for terrorist groups – are intercepted. Pray for protection for the inhabitants of this borderland.

Thursday 4 February In many countries speakers of Christians for Israel go out and explain God's plans with Israel from the Bible in churches, home groups etc. Pray for the speakers to find the right words, in order that people will receive a clear exposition of God's ways with His people.

Friday 5 February On Friday evening Sabbath begins – a good moment to pray for the Jewish people. They gather in synagogues and at home to honor and worship God.

Saturday 6 February Sabbath. A rabbi once spoke at our head quarters in the Netherlands, and assured his audience that as Christian Zionists they are in good company. Quoting Joel 3:17, where it is written that the Lord dwells on Zion. Verse 16 is also encouraging.

Sunday 7 February The history of Israel is described in a nutshell in Jeremiah 31:10. *Scattering, gathering and keeping*. God fulfils His Word, give thanks for that. This verse also says that we can both hear *and* proclaim this. So let's do that!

Monday 8 February Hundreds of times God's Word speaks about the return of Israel, *Aliyah*. Keywords in this are: *restore* (your fortune), *bring back* (to your land), *return* (to the Lord your God). Thank God for the continuing *Aliyah*.

Tuesday 9 February Please pray that Jews in Ukraine who lost their documents as a result of the upheaval in recent years will yet be able to secure the necessary documents, so they can leave and go to Israel.

Wednesday 10 February Give thanks, that at the end of last year the last Jewish family in Syria was saved and could flee from Aleppo. Pray also for the (liberation of) Jews in Iran.

Thursday 11 February Today it is exactly 30 years ago that 'refusenik' Natan Sharansky was released after eight years in prison. They put him in jail because of his fight for more rights for Jews in the Soviet Union. After his release, he left for Israel straight away, and he held several ministerial posts. Give thanks for the important work he does nowadays in Israel. As the director of the Jewish Agency he is involved in the Aliyah of thousands of Jews from all over the world.

Friday 12 February Last year almost 300,000 Jews made Aliyah to Israel – the largest increase in 15 years, according to the Jewish Agency. Thank God for this and pray they will make a good start in Israel. (Isaiah 11:12)

Saturday 13 February Sabbath. Moses had to say to Pharaoh: *"Israel is My firstborn son; therefore I told you: let My son go, so that he may worship Me."* (Exodus 4:22) Thank God for the continuing Aliyah, and pray that the deeper meaning of the return - serving God – will become more and more apparent.

Sunday 14 February Pray that there will be prayer for Israel in Church services. Pray for preaching in which the promises to Israel are not explained merely in a spiritual sense, but that preachers will stick closely to the Word of God.

Monday 15 February Since October 2015 acts of terror have made Israel's capital more and more unsafe; since then hotel reservations in Jerusalem have gone down drastically. Pray that fear will not keep tourists from visiting Israel. (Proverbs 29:25)

Tuesday 16 February In his Christmas sermon the Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby stated, that IS threatens to eradicate Christianity in Bethlehem – the birth-place of Jesus. Pray for the Christians in Bethlehem and for reverend Naim Houry and his wife Elvira. (Matthew 16:18).

Wednesday 17 February During the last months of 2015 24 Israelis were killed and 266 were wounded in Palestinian attacks with knives, stones and firebombs. Pray for the relatives of the deceased and for the wounded, for comfort and healing.

Thursday 18 February Please pray for the many workers and volunteers of Christians for Israel all over the world.

Friday 19 February The Israeli government unexpectedly gave permission to 9100 Ethiopian Jews to come to Israel over a five-year period. This in connection to family reunification. It is a reason for thanksgiving, that this part of Aliyah can now be completed.

Saturday 20 February Sabbath. *"The Lord has taken away your punishment. He has turned back your enemy."* What a joy, what a promise! Thank God for His Word! (Zephaniah 3:14-17)

Sunday 21 February During every conversation and at every speaking opportunity the late Karel van Oordt, founder of Christians for Israel, would say again and again: "All promises to Israel will be fulfilled to Israel!" Thank God for His faithfulness to His promises.

Monday 22 February The bloody terror attack on Bataclan Theatre in Paris, France, last November was purposely aimed at this theatre because its former owner is Jewish. Pray for protection of Jews living in Europe.

Tuesday 23 February Israel is engaged in wars forced upon them at many fronts, including the media. Media coverage of Israel is often one-sided and misleading. Pray that this will change. The true facts are available, but need to be published!

Wednesday 24 February Labeling products from Judea and Samaria, eastern Jerusalem and the Golan heights is a prelude to a total boycott of Israeli products. Some European countries do not take part in this. Pray that other European countries will follow their example.

Thursday 25 February Please pray for the international board of 'Christians for Israel' and its regional directors, who gather in Jerusalem today until 29 February. It is encouraging, that Christians from many different countries work out plans to stand with Israel in their own country.

Friday 26 February Out of 24 resolutions submitted to the 70th General Assembly of the United Nations, 20 were directed at the State of Israel. This is not a coincidence, but has been a trend for years. Pray that countries will no longer be opposed to Israel in advance, but will vote in a sincere way.

Saturday 27 February Sabbath. Politically and economically Israel turns more and more towards countries in the Far East, like China, India and Japan. Pray that these countries will adapt their voting policy in the United Nations and not continue to vote against Israel automatically.

Sunday 28 February Prayer for Israel is not always easy, when we look at daily events in the country. Peace and tranquility seem further away than ever. But we may continue to pray and continue to look forward to God's interference. (Zephaniah 3:18-20).

Monday 29 February Iran continues to threaten Israel with destruction. It is very special that many people in Iran are converting to Christianity. A considerable number among them also receive a love for Israel. (Isaiah 54:17 and Romans 15:10-11).

March 2016

Tuesday 1 March Pray for the protection of the south of Israel. There is a serious threat from Gaza by terrorist group Hamas, and by several terrorist groups from the Egyptian Sinai desert.

Wednesday 2 March Although many Israelis call the peace with Egypt and Jordan a 'cold peace', yet it offers opportunities. Pray for positive developments in diplomatic, economic and military spheres.

Thursday 3 March Because of the conflict between Saudi Arabia and Iran the antitheses between Sunni and Shia Muslims sharpened. The situation in the Middle East became less safe. Therefore continue to pray for Israel, that God will achieve His purposes. (Micah 2:12-13)

Friday 4 March Speaking in a synagogue shortly after his appointment, the new director of the Mossad Yossi Cohen said: "Israel came into being with God's help, and this help we still sorely need today." Next he cited Proverbs 11:14. Give thanks for his openness and trust in God.

Saturday 5 March Sabbath. As a result of the terror attacks in Israel more than twenty soldiers and police became disabled. They are recognized as 'disabled veterans'. Pray for good rehabilitation with optimal results.

Sunday 6 March A topical Psalm for Israel is Psalm 109. It speaks of wicked men who attack without a cause, and of God who will bless while attackers curse. Especially the first part (verses 1-5) and the end (verses 26-31) speak clearly.

Monday 7 March Please thank God today for the prevention of many terror attacks because of the efforts of Israeli military, police, secret services and border police.

Tuesday 8 March In order to obtain an understanding of Israel and to continue praying faithfully for them, it is good to re-read all the prayer points at the end of every week and put them into prayer.

Wednesday 9 March Pray for Christian news media in the Netherlands and Europe. Through newspapers, radio, TV and Internet they still have a lot of influence. Pray for honest and sincere reporting about Israel.

Thursday 10 March Anti-Semitism is still rampant in many forms. Sometimes Jews are called names or assaulted on the streets. Sometimes through a newspaper article. Pray that this will stop.

Friday 11 March Paul reminds us, that our position as non-Jewish believers is based on God's promises regarding the Jewish people. (Romans 15:8-13) Thank God for this.

Saturday 12 March Sabbath. In 2014 - 26,500 Jews made Aliyah to Israel, in 2015 – 30,000 Jews made Aliyah. Pray for housing and a quick mastering of the Hebrew language. But pray especially for the consciousness, that they are part of a larger plan: God's plan of Salvation.

Sunday 13 March 'Where does God dwell?' With this question the Rabbi of Kotzk surprised a group of well-educated men. They laughed at him and said: 'But the world is full of His glory!' But he replied: 'God dwells there, in the place where He is given entry!'

Monday 14 March What started in September last year as the *Al-Aqsa Intifada* was later called the *Jerusalem Intifada*, and since a few months the *Intifada of the Knife*. Fear among Israelis is growing. Pray that the powers of intimidation, terror and murder will be broken.

Tuesday 15 March Rev Willem J.J. Glashouwer, President of Christians for Israel International, is now in Brazil. On TV and during lectures he brings the hope-giving message of God's faithfulness to Israel. Pray that this will have the right effect among his audience.

Wednesday 16 March Sadly, sex scandals and fraud cases in which high-ranking officials and politicians are involved, do occur in Israel. Pray for purity and sanctification in the government and civil service.

Thursday 17 March Please intercede for a serious situation in Israeli society: religious Jews who harass Arabs and start fires in Judea and Samaria. Pray that their faith in Biblical promises will suffice just to settle in these areas and that they will abhor violence.

Friday 18 March According to the latest report of the Israeli Statistics Bureau 776,500 children in Israel live below the poverty level, and poverty among the elderly continues to increase. Please pray that financial means will be set apart to relieve this serious need.

Saturday 19 March Sabbath. Psalms 130 and 131 are songs of pilgrimage, both ending alike: "O Israel, put your hope in the Lord!" Such may be our intercession for Israel: hope!

Sunday 20 March Thursday Purim will be celebrated. The Bible Book of Esther is read in synagogues. It is remarkable, that in the first verse Ethiopia and India are mentioned. Nowadays two lost tribes are returning from these two countries: the tribe of Dan from Ethiopia and the tribe of Manasseh from India. Give thanks!

Monday 21 March Psalm 23 is a very well known Psalm both to Christians and to many non-Christians. This Psalm is inspiring for your prayers for Israel.

Tuesday 22 March Thank God for daily times of prayer on the walls of Jerusalem by groups of Christians. Pray for their safety and protection, because the walls of the Old City are partly situated in Arab areas.

Wednesday 23 March *"Pray for the peace of Jerusalem."* Psalm 122:6 is more topical than ever. Read the other Songs of Pilgrimage as well, and allow Psalms 120 through 134 to inspire you in your intercession.

Thursday 24 March Today is Purim. This Biblical festival carries an important message even for us as Christians today. We should not remain silent, when Jews are slandered and attacked. Pray for possibilities and take action! (Esther 4:14)

Friday 25 March 'Good Friday'. To many Jews this day does not have a good name, because throughout the centuries especially on this day non-Jews have accused them of murdering Jesus. Pogroms and the Shoah (Holocaust) in Europe are an extension of this accusation. Today is a good day to ask forgiveness for these events and to pray, that in our time a positive testimony is given about who Jesus is.

Saturday 26 March Sabbath. 'Holy Saturday'. A day to deeply realize the sufferings of the Lord Jesus and the sufferings of the Jewish people. Both are called to be a light to the nations. Read again the passages about the Servant of the Lord in Isaiah (see Isaiah 42:1-7 | Isaiah 49:1-7 | Isaiah 50:4-11 | Isaiah 52:13 through 53:12)

Sunday 27 March Easter! Jesus, risen from the dead, walks with two of his disciples on the road to Emmaus, teaching them about Himself from the Books of Moses and the Prophets. Thank God that the Scriptures speak about Israel, the people of God, and about Jesus, the Son of God. (Acts 15:13 and Luke 24:27)

Monday 28 March Give thanks and pray for tourists who are in Israel right now. Among them are many Christians, who have come to celebrate Easter. Pray that they will show a positive attitude and leave a good testimony.

Tuesday 29 March Your prayer (of thanks) for all Biblical information about the restoration of Israel, which we are able to spread worldwide as Christians for Israel. By now in more than 40 countries by means of books, newspapers, websites, radio and television.

Wednesday 30 March Pray for the staff and volunteers of Christians for Israel in more than 40 countries, including USA, Brazil, Albania, Denmark, Myanmar, Fiji and Cook Islands.

Thursday 31 March Topical news about Israel can be found on the website c4israel.org and whyisrael.org. Pray that along with the news that we bring, we will be faithful to refer to the Word of God, and make a difference for those who read it.