

## Israel Prayer Letter October/November 2013



*Shalom,*

*Israel finds itself in the eye of the storm, in the surrounding countries there is chaos. Just follow the news media and you will know. We received an email from Elisheva Ronen-Luurs, a pediatrician in Ashkelon. During the Yom Kippur service on 14 September she was reminded of us as Christians for Israel.*

*She wrote: "I was standing in the Great Shul (synagogue) of Jerusalem, singing prayers together with 5,000 others, and I thought: they need to know about this. We are standing in prayer before the Most High to be deemed worthy of living another year. And these prayers are being heard: we need not battle with our enemies ourselves! Egypt itself catches Al-Qaida terrorists in the Sinai and destroys tunnels used for smuggling. Egypt itself is keeping the border with Gaza closed, so the Muslim Brotherhood will not be able to supply Hamas with weapons and rockets. Russia itself is involved in destroying chemical weapons, which in the past they supplied to Syria themselves! Isn't it incredible, in this way we see the works of the Almighty. All we need to do is being good to each other, learning and practicing Torah. Exactly what Jesus used to preach."*

*If you would ever doubt whether prayers are heard, then this is an inspiring answer from Jerusalem. Continue to be faithful in intercession, God hears. Continue to be faithful to His Word, God takes care. With this prayer letter I would like to inspire you to continue to pray faithfully for God's people in the coming months. For each of the subjects you will find seven prayers, like the seven arms of the Menorah. They are pointed upwards, to our heavenly Father. That is the only right direction: "Set your hearts on things above."*

*Pieter Bénard*

*Prayer coordinator Christians for Israel*

### ALIYAH

In September Michael Freund, director of the organization 'Shavei Israel' (*Israel returns*) wrote some prayers to be used at the feast of Tabernacles, for Aliyah and especially for the return of the B'nei Menashe from Northern India, who were taken away into captivity 2,700 years ago. These are inspiring prayers and Bible passages for the time to come, and to be used now, as during the coming months 900 members of B'nei Menashe are returning to Israel.

#### **Day 1**

Our Father in Heaven, Rock of Israel and its Redeemer, bless the people and the Land of Israel, and bring about the promised redemption along with the Ingathering of the Exiles from the four corners of the earth. Thank you for the miracles you are unfolding before our eyes.

*"See, I will beckon to the nations, I will lift up my banner to the peoples; they will bring your sons in their arms and carry your daughters on their hips [or: shoulders]." (Isaiah 49:22)*

#### **Day 2**

May the Almighty grant understanding to Israel's leaders, to make wise decisions as they confront threats from their enemies. Shine Your countenance upon them and encourage them to stand firm and walk in Your ways as Israel continues to absorb thousands of Jewish immigrants from across the globe.

*"For I will take you out of the nations; I will gather you from all the countries and bring you back into your own land." (Ezekiel 36:24)*

### **Day 3**

Our Father in Heaven, grant success to those Jews who have followed in the footsteps of their forefather Abraham and left their birthplace to "the land that I will show you." May You bless those who have placed their trust in You and made "Aliyah" to Israel.

*"And the Lord, your God, will bring you to the land that belonged to your ancestors, and you will take possession of it. He will make you more prosperous and numerous than your ancestors." (Deuteronomy 30:5)*

### **Day 4**

Dear God, may You open up the eyes of the Jews who still live in the Diaspora to see the great miracles You are performing in Israel. Awaken in their hearts a longing for the Land of Israel and may they follow in the footsteps of their forefathers who built and settled the Holy Land. That they will return - not as in days past when Jews sought refuge in Zion out of fear, but upright in their decision and proudly choosing to play a part in the unfolding of Divine destiny.

*"He will raise a banner for the nations and gather the exiles of Israel; He will assemble the scattered people of Judah from the four quarters of the earth." (Isaiah 11:12)*

### **Day 5**

Father in Heaven, grant special blessing to the Lost and Hidden Jews scattered around the world. Help them return, wherever they may live.

*"Hear the word of the Lord, you nations; proclaim it in distant coastlands: 'He who scattered Israel will gather them and will watch over his flock like a shepherd.'" (Jeremiah 31:10)*

### **Day 6**

Almighty God, grant grace and wisdom to the men and women serving on the cabinet of the State of Israel as they decide the fate of the Lost Tribe of Bnei Menashe in India. Put into their hearts compassion to restore them to their ancestral homeland, this ancient community which is descended from the Ten Lost Tribes of Israel.

*"So there is hope for your descendants,' declares the Lord. 'Your children will return to their own land.'" (Jeremiah 31:17)*

### **Day 7**

Our Father in Heaven, Rock of Israel and our Redeemer, bless the State of Israel, the first blossoming of our redemption. May it be Your will O God, and the God of our forefathers, that you quickly rebuild the Temple in Jerusalem and herald the coming of the righteous Messiah, in our lifetime, Amen.

*"So then, the days are coming," declares the Lord, "when people will no longer say, 'As surely as the Lord lives, who brought the Israelites up out of Egypt,' but they will say, 'As surely as the Lord lives, who brought the descendants of Israel up out of the land of the north and out of all the countries where he had banished them.' Then they will live in their own land." (Jeremiah 23:7-8)*

## **THE NATIONS**

Years ago Wiesje de Lange wrote: 'Israel has been fought by the world like no other people, but has never been treated with indifference. The amount of energy the world has wasted at attempts to destroy Israel cannot be calculated. I have the impression, that from the very first Jew being on earth, this goal has constantly been written at the top of some agenda somewhere on earth.'

The statement above characterizes the attitude of most nations. Even if a diplomatic relation exists, that does not guarantee, for instance, a positive voting policy at the United Nations. We may pray for our own country in relation to Israel, but also read what the Bible indicates about this subject.

#### **Day 1**

Thank God for His promise to all nations through Abraham. For when He called Abraham, God set the tone: *"I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you."* (Genesis 12:3)

#### **Day 2**

Pray for the inhabitants of Israel and for the inhabitants of the surrounding countries: unrest and threat of war are being felt everywhere. *"Scatter the peoples who delight in battle."* (Psalm 68:31b)

#### **Day 3**

Pray for Israel's protection on the basis of this promise: *"I will send my terror ahead of you and throw into confusion every nation you encounter. I will make all your enemies turn their backs and run."* (Exodus 23:27)

#### **Day 4**

There are nations that rejoice at Israel's misfortune (Ezekiel 25:6-7), and are not ready to help Israel. (Ezekiel 35:5-7)

#### **Day 5**

Israel is like a banner to the nations (Isaiah 11:10-12). Under which the nations may take shelter, and help them. (Isaiah 49:22-23)

#### **Day 6**

In Revelation 21 the new heaven and the new earth are described, and the New Jerusalem. With twelve gates in its great and high wall, carrying the names of the twelve tribe of Israel. In verse 26 it is so beautifully said: *"The glory and honor of the nations will be brought into it."* Even here we see a connection between Israel and the nations!

#### **Day 7**

Of all the nations that exist, we find the name of the people of Israel hundreds of times in the Bible, with hundreds of promises. Pray that the nations will realize this and act accordingly. For instance, the promise in Psalm 69:31-37.

## **ISRAEL**

Lord, hear our prayer for Israel:

#### **Day 1**

Pray for prophetic words and deeds, so that Your (God's) people may dwell in Your land. (Ezekiel 36 and 37)

#### **Day 2**

Pray about a longing for Your Spirit, so the government may know how to act in a case of crisis. (2 Chronicles 20:1-30)

#### **Day 3**

Pray for peace on all borders, with Lebanon, Syria, Jordan and Egypt. (Psalms 25 and 125)

#### **Day 4**

Pray for continuing immigration, from the East, the West, the South and the North. (Isaiah 43:1-8)

#### **Day 5**

Pray for foreigners (goyim) who will assist in the building, so there will be sufficient houses and jobs, a healthy economy. (Isaiah 60)

#### **Day 6**

Pray for repentance. Thank God for rain and food, showing the Lord is in their midst. (Joel 2)

## Day 7

Thank for the Lord being King in Israel's midst, a hero who saves, who turns around their destiny. (Zephaniah 3:9-20)

- **Pray for protection of the State of Israel, that God will guide them towards their prophetic destiny, that the Arab world will understand and accept this.**
- **Continue to pray for protection of the State of Israel. The threat of war and terror is great as never before.**
- **Pray for the mostly young soldiers who are guarding the borders; Lord, give them attentiveness and insight.**
- **Pray for the preservation of Biblical territory in Israel's hands: for Judea, Samaria and Jerusalem, they form the 'heart' of the country.**
- **Pray for the safety of the Israelis living in these areas; many travel daily to Jerusalem or Tel Aviv for their work. There is a lot of terror in the form of throwing stones at car drivers.**
- **Pray for the ongoing peace process with the Palestinian Authority with mediation by the United States. And know: 'All God's promises given to His people, will also be fulfilled to His people!'**
- **Pray for personal faith and be faithful in your times of intercession.**

## PRAYER

It is not always easy to pray for an hour or longer. Jesus was confronted with this in His disciples (Matthew 26:40-46). Even when the will to pray is there, the flesh will be weak, and the adversary will eagerly make use of that. But God says: "*Be strong in the Lord.*" (Ephesians 6:10-20)

**How can one transform 'willing' into 'doing'?**

**Resist the evil one and your flesh, by accepting the commission given to you by God, see 1 Tim. 2:1-20 and Jeremiah 1:4-12.**

**Acknowledge your own weakness, but believe that God will supply both the willing and the doing - Philippians 2:13-15.**

**Then commit your time of prayer into God's hand and experience His guidance.**

Prayer does not mean that for an hour we will be submitting our requests to God. Rather it is being available for God's business for an hour.

When Moses was on the mountain with Aaron and Hur, he prayed not using words, but lifting up his staff in obedience to God. In the valley the result of this spiritual battle was visible. (Exodus 17:8-16)

Reading a passage from the Bible may also be seen as a proclamation of God's power in the invisible world. The word of God works like a weapon (Matthew 4:1-11) and gives direction to our prayers (Daniel 9:1-3, Acts 1:12-26). Honoring, praising and worshipping God denies the power of Satan and delights God. Being still with the Lord and waiting on Him is also a form of prayer (Lamentations 3:25-26, Psalm 27:13-14 and Psalm 130:5-6).

The power of our prayers is not in the multitude of words, but in the faith and authority with which they are pronounced. Be relaxed and concentrated on God, dare to tackle new things.

## **A guideline for intercession**

- **Check whether your heart is right before God, giving the Holy Spirit time to convince you, if there are any unconfessed sins.**
- **Subject your own thoughts and burdens to the Lord God.**
- **Ask for the fear of the Lord to help you in this, to express in prayer what He suggests to you.**
- **Wait in silent expectation. Then pronounce, in obedience and faith, what thoughts God brings to your mind.**
- **Always keep a Bible at hand, in case God wants to give you guidance or confirmation through it.**