



Shalom,

In this prayer calendar several days are marked 'Israel is 70!' Starting at sundown on April 18th and ending with sundown on April 19th Israel will celebrate 70 years of independent statehood. The day before, April 18th, Israel will commemorate the fallen of the many wars and conflicts. Sorrow and joy have been closely linked for 70 years.

No one expected that out of the ashes of the Holocaust the state of Israel would rise three years later. It was a miracle. An even greater miracle, if a less visible one, is the fulfillment of Bible prophecy. Centuries ago prophets prophesied of the resurrection and restoration of Israel. We are a privileged generation to witness these events, which point to the approaching coming of the Messiah.

Besides all of the joy there is also deep concern about the events playing out just across the border with Israel in Lebanon and Syria, where Russia is exercising increased political influence and Iran has a strong military presence. The Bible warns of the threat from the north, but also urges us to pray for the peace of Jerusalem. Spiritually we see two opposite powers that are preparing for a face-off. We can watch and pray for Israel, the only country in the world whose history was written ahead of time. Not by a person in a nice book, but by the Lord God Himself in His Word.

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Prayer coordinator

April 2018

Sunday 1 April
Easter




Our risen Lord's last promise as recorded by Matthew is, "And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." (Matthew 28:20) Give thanks every day that Jesus is with us, in our personal life and in our prayers for Israel.

Monday 2 April

Russia and Iran have more and more influence in Syria and Lebanon, north of Israel (with a marine base and military forces respectively). In this they stand opposite the United States, which has a military presence in Israel. Pray that Israel will make the right decisions in this political power struggle.






Tuesday 3 April




Give thanks for the friendship and protection of the United States. Earlier this year vice president Mike Pence said, "We stand with Israel because we believe in right over wrong, in good over evil, and in liberty over tyranny." (Proverbs 9:10)

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| Wednesday 4 April | During Passover week we are especially aware that the Jewish people have prayed and toasted during Passover with the words, "Next year in Jerusalem!" for centuries. Give thanks that this desire has been fulfilled for millions of Jews and pray that God will place a longing in the hearts of those Jews who still live outside of Israel to return to Zion. |
| Thursday 5 April | Anti-Semitism has many faces. Sometimes hatred of Jews presents itself openly and crudely, at other times quietly and subtly. Pray for this power to be broken and for trust in God for the Jewish people. "When I am afraid I put my trust in You." (Psalm 56:3) |
| Friday 6 April | In Esther chapter 6 verse 13 we read that Haman told his wife and friends about Mordechai. Their reply was, "If Mordechai, before whom you have begun to fall, is of the Jewish people, you will not overcome him but will surely fall before him." Pray that Iran, with all of its activity to the north, will not overcome Israel but fall before it. |
| Saturday 7 April Sabbath | Rev. Willem J.J. Glashouwer and Andrew Tucker are in Austria this weekend for the 10 th anniversary of the Austrian branch of Christians for Israel. In 1995, 50 years after World War II, a small number of politicians and some of the population have confessed the guilt of the nation for the atrocities committed against the Jewish people during that time. Give thanks that this confession is bearing fruit. |
| Sunday 8 April | In Vinnitsa (Ukraine) large nationalistic gatherings were held on January 27 th , the day after the Holocaust memorial. Masked young men chanted, "Praise Ukraine, death to the Jews." Streets were renamed after people who had killed Jews in barbaric ways in the past. Pray for the safety of the Jews still living in the Ukraine, for the Jewish Agency, and for the Christian communities that provide help and shelter. |
| Monday 9 April | Pray for the Jews and aid organizations in Donetsk and other places in the Ukraine as well. (Psalm 12:7) |
| Tuesday 10 April | Thank the Lord that He is fulfilling His promises to Israel and is returning His people to the land that He promised to Abram and his descendants. The gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable as the apostle Paul writes in his epistle to the church in Rome. (Romans 11:29) |
| Wednesday 11 April | Recently Israeli archeologists unearthed a 2,700 year-old clay seal in Jerusalem with the ancient Hebrew inscription, "Property of the governor of the city." Give thanks for this proof that even then Jerusalem was already a Jewish city. |
| Thursday 12 April | Today Israel commemorates the Holocaust (Yom Ha'Shoah). The history of the Holocaust continues to be rewritten. Poland, which has recently begun to see their share in the Holocaust differently and has even passed laws about it, is an example of this. Pray that the nations will have the courage to be honest about what they did to the Jewish people during World War II. |
| Friday 13 April | Pray for those of the Bnei Menashe who have made Aliyah from India in the past several months. Pray for housing and joy in learning the Hebrew language. Give thanks that many are now reunited with their families. |
| Saturday 14 April Sabbath | Every year Christians for Israel tour groups hand out thousands of Shalom cards in Israel. These cards are written by people who attend Christians for Israel events. These cards move Israelis; they realize that despite the animosity of the world, they also have many friends. Give thanks for this small token that has a great impact. |
| Sunday 15 April  | In Ezekiel 36 we read dozens of times: "Thus says the Lord God" and "I will". This makes clear to us that every fulfillment of prophesy that we see today is an act of God. Give thanks that He allows us to be a part of this in physical aid and in prayer. |
| Monday 16 April  | Give thanks that the American embassy is moving to Jerusalem and that other countries have indicated that they will do the same. Pray that other countries will make the same decision. |
| Tuesday 17 April  | Right before the celebration of Israel's 70 th birthday it is informative to read Ezekiel 37, the vision of the valley of dry bones that come to life through Ezekiel's prophesy and ultimately form God's people in the land of Israel. Give thanks that although this vision was unclear for centuries, its visible fulfillment is shaking up the world and bringing the coming of Jesus the Messiah closer. |

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| Wednesday 18 April | Today the state of Israel commemorates her fallen soldiers (Yom Ha'Zikaron). Sadly each year there are more fallen soldiers to mourn, more parents who lose their child, more women who become widows, more children without a father. War and terror are always present in Israel. Pray for comfort and wherever possible do something to let the Jewish people know that they are not alone. |
| Thursday 19 April | Yesterday evening the memorial ended and the independence day (Yom Ha'Atzmaut) celebrations began. Today the Jewish people celebrate 70 years of Jewish statehood. Israel is a miracle and the Lord is their Keeper. (Psalm 121:4) |
| Friday 20 April | Rev. Willem J.J. Glashouwer is in the United States for teaching and meetings until April 30 th . Pray for the development and continuity of the affiliates of Christians for Israel in North and South America |
| Saturday 21 April Sabbath | Give thanks that Israel has had peace with Egypt since 1978 and with Jordan since 1994. Although relations are still cool and distant it is a great improvement on the situation during the wars of 1948, 1956, 1967, and 1973. |
| Sunday 22 April | Agreements such as fresh water provisions for Jordan, aid for Syrian war victims, anti-terrorism coordination in Egypt, and operations on seriously ill patients from Gaza in Israeli hospitals are also signs of peace. Give thanks that Israel has undertaken all of this, showing that they are willing to take big steps towards peace with their former enemies. |
| Monday 23 April | According to the Central Bureau for Statistics in Israel, approximately 170 thousand Christians live in Israel: This group forms two percent of the total population. Nearly 80% of those are Arab. Pray for our brothers and sisters in Israel, that as followers of Jesus they may live in harmony with Jews and with Islamic Arabs. (Acts 2:47a) |
| Tuesday 24 April | Give thanks that the danger formed by tunnels dug from Gaza to Israel will be dealt with by the building of an underground wall, with sensors and advanced equipment for tracking excavation deep beneath the ground. Israel will live safely, even in the south! |
| Wednesday 25 April | The American ambassador to the United Nations, Nikki Haley, has cut back the UNRWA contribution of millions of dollars and has initiated an investigation into the misuse of aid funds for the Palestinians. Hate speech in textbooks, regular payments to families of terrorists, weapons purchases, and the construction of tunnels from Gaza are examples of a huge misuse of funds while the population goes wanting. Give thanks that the misuses are coming to light and pray that other countries will also take measures. When the money is used correctly it benefits the Palestinian people, as it is meant to do. |
| Thursday 26 April | Give thanks that after years of small victories the BDS movement (Boycott, Disinvestment, Sanctions) is losing momentum. There are more and more counter-movements, the Israeli economy is growing, and tourism is increasing. |
| Friday 27 April | "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word..." (John 14:23a) Speak scripture in faith during your prayers to keep God's Word in your heart and grow in His love. |
| Saturday 28 April Sabbath | Intercession is praying in the will of the Father. That is why the Father must have free access to our will. Jesus said: "...I seek not My own will but the will of Him who sent me." (John 5:30b) |
| Sunday 29 April | After an extremely turbulent time Job finds rest in prayer. (Job 42:10) He repents and prays for his friends. The conversation between Job and his friends is reminiscent of a conversation between two Jews. The one said, "The Holocaust made me lose my faith in God." The other survivor answered, "It is because of the Holocaust that I do believe in God." It is worth taking a minute to think about this and to realize that God is always present, in suffering and in deliverance. |
| Monday 30 April | In 2017, in a total of 99 acts of terror, 20 Israelis died and 169 were injured. There is an especially high rate of terrorist attacks in Judea and Samaria, the Biblical heartland of Israel. It is not just the victim toll but also the daily fear that so deeply affect the Jewish population. Pray that Israel will live in safety. |

May 2018

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| Tuesday 1 May | Proverbs 29:2 describes the current situation in Gaza perfectly: "When the righteous increase, the people rejoice, but when the wicked rule, the people groan." Israel would like to help build up Gaza but the Palestinian Authority does not want Israel's help, to the detriment of its own population. Pray for change, for the population of Gaza, and for peace with Israel. |
| Wednesday 2 May | Various terrorist groups are active in the Sinai Dessert, including ISIS. Israel is helping Egypt combat this plague, not only for Egypt's benefit but also to protect Israel's own southern border. Pray that this cooperation will be effective and promote peace. |
| Thursday 3 May  | The first 'land for peace' agreement is described in Genesis 13. The encouraging thing is that when Lot leaves with the promise for his share of the land, the Lord speaks to Abram and promises that land to him and to his descendants. There is still a lot of frustration in Israel over the withdrawal from Gaza in 2005: instead of peace they only received war in return. Pray that the upcoming talks will have a different result. |
| Friday 4 May  | In recent years many Muslims have come to faith in Jesus. This puts them in mortal danger: <i>fatwas</i> are issued against them and their own family members try to murder them. It is a miracle that they learn to know Jesus and also learn to love Israel. Pray for the safety of these new converts and that their love for Israel may be contagious to other Christians. |
| Saturday 5 May Sabbath | There are rulers and military leaders working day and night for the destruction of Israel. Pray for Israel using Isaiah 54:17a, "No weapon that is fashioned against you shall succeed..." |
| Sunday 6 May | Having received a word from the Lord, Jeremiah bought a field in Anathoth and sealed the deed of purchase. After this he prayed to the Lord. (Jeremiah 32:16) Our prayer for Israel can follow this pattern: listening and acting in obedience, staying alert and interceding. |
| Monday 7 May | Rev. Willem J.J. Glashouwer is in Romania until May 11 th representing Christians for Israel International. While there he will speak and teach in various places on the Biblical significance of the restoration of Israel. Please pray for good seminars during which the participants will learn much and continue to learn more in the future. Pray that they will examine the Scripture on this topic. |
| Tuesday 8 May  | Many Christians for Israel affiliates organize events to celebrate 70 years of Israeli statehood. Please pray for blessed and safe events in which we will not only look back to the past but also look towards the future. |
| Wednesday 9 May  | Give thanks that the Messianic congregations in Israel are developing and have now been accepted by a large share of Israeli society. The congregation HaDerech is an example of this. It is instructive for us that HaDerech has three pillars, Ezekiel 36:24-26, Galatians 6:2, and Ephesians 2:14. |
| Thursday 10 May Ascension Day | Acts 1:4-12. Give thanks that the Lord is bringing His people home, so that when the Savior comes and His feet stand on the Mount of Olives they will meet Him. We have the privilege to help the Jewish people in the diaspora return to Zion, and to look for the coming of the Messiah together with them. |
| Friday 11 May | Pray for our brothers and sisters in the Middle East. Preachers and priests, congregation members and those who attend church services are under enormous pressure. Muslims who convert to Christianity do so at the risk of their lives. |
| Saturday 12 May Sabbath | Many in the media play a dangerous role in the stigmatization of Israel and Judaism; people receive one-sided information and do not hear anything positive about Israel. Pray for Israel using Isaiah 54:17a, "...and you shall condemn every tongue that rises up in judgement against you." |
| Sunday 13 May  | Yom Yerushalayim – anniversary of Jerusalem's reunification. Give thanks for Jerusalem and Gods promises in Psalm 125:1, "Those who trust in the Lord are like Mount Zion, which cannot be moved, but abides forever." |

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| Monday 14 May | Rev. Willem J.J. Glashouwer is in Moscow until May 18 th to teach on the restoration of Israel. Pray for this time. With the increasing nationalism in Russia and in the Ukraine it is important that congregations are informed about Israel. |
| Tuesday 15 May  | The American theologian Dr. Gerald McDermott has calculated that of the 250 times that 'covenant' (<i>berit</i>) is mentioned in the Old Testament 70% refer directly or indirectly to the land of Israel. Give thanks for God's Word and for His covenant with His people. |
| Wednesday 16 May | In May 1997, twenty years after Ayatollah Khomeini arrived in Iran from Paris and took power, Iran held large-scale military drills along the entire Persian Gulf coast under the code-name ' <i>Tariq al Quds</i> ' (the Road to Jerusalem). Since then Iran has only become more dangerous to Israel and they have come closer to Jerusalem through their military presence in Syria and through their political involvement in other Middle Eastern countries. Pray that this spiritual power that wants to bring the state of Israel and the city of Jerusalem under Islamic power will be broken. |
| Thursday 17 May | Israel has electric fences on the borders, patrol boats at sea night and day to protect the coastline. Thousands of soldiers and materials at the ready everywhere and at all times, and satellites that observe everything across the border. Pray that the Lord God will guard His people. |
| Friday 18 May | Whatever the situation at this time in Israel – spiritual, societal, or military – let us take it to the Lord in prayer using Jeremiah 32:17, "Ah, Lord God! It is You who have made the heavens and the earth by Your great power and by Your outstretched arm! Nothing is too hard for You. " |
| Saturday 19 May Sabbath | This evening Jewish Pentecost – the feast of weeks - begins (Shavuot). Pray for safe and inspiring feast days. Just as in the time of Jesus, Jews from many other countries are present in Jerusalem. Give thanks that God's Spirit blows where He wills. |
| Sunday 20 May Pentecost | Give thanks that many Christians have also come to Israel to celebrate the miracle of the pouring out of Gods Spirit. Together with the Jewish people they can speak of 'the great acts of God'. (Acts 1:11) |
| Monday 21 May | Pray for the unity of the Israeli people, because there are major differences within and between all sectors of Israeli society. When the Jewish people were defeated by enemies it was not because of a lack of might, but because of a lack of unity. |
| Tuesday 22 May | Not only the north of Israel, where people live under the threat of missile attacks, but the whole of Israel is living under a threat of war and destruction greater than any since World War II. Pray for God's grace and protection for all inhabitants of Israel, and that He will complete His purpose with the restoration of Israel as is prophesied in the Bible. It is His unfailing Word. |
| Wednesday 23 May | "The danger is to the north", states Orit Perlov of the Institute for National Security Studies. "There is an Iranian-built factory in Lebanon for the production of extremely accurate Fateh-110 missiles with a range of almost 300 kilometers." Pray for the north of Israel using Isaiah 42:13c, "He shows Himself mighty against His enemies." |
| Thursday 24 May  | Pray for the leaders of your country in relation to the Jewish people and the State of Israel. |
| Friday 25 May | Pray that in each of the 40 countries where Christians for Israel has an affiliate or representative the Holy Spirit will work in the hearts of people who hear about the position of Israel in the world. The United Nations are a battleground but so are people's hearts. Someone once said that understanding Israel was being born again a second time. Pray that those who know Jesus will also grow to love His people. |
| Saturday 26 May Sabbath  | Isaiah 44:24-28 is a great passage to read and use in prayer for Israel. The central message is the fact that God does what He wants and uses whom He wants, how He wants. Give thanks that He says of Jerusalem, "She shall be inhabited", and of the cities of Judah, "They shall be built." (Verse 26b) |
| Sunday 27 May | Despite the law that King Darius was above every person and god and that all the residents of his mighty kingdom had to worship him, Daniel remained faithful to God and prayed facing Jerusalem three times a day. (Daniel 6:11) This is another lesson for us to take our intercession seriously and to remain faithful to God. |

Monday 28 May

Pray that the mission of Christians for Israel, “to make Christians aware of the significance of the Jewish people in God’s dealings with the world”, will be understood and supported, not only by Christians but also by non-Christians. Pray that they will become curious about what we do and the source of our inspiration and strength – the Bible.

Tuesday 29 May

Pray for protection for the Jewish Holocaust survivors in the Ukraine who are regularly visited by members of the Christians for Israel team and receive food parcels. This sometimes makes the neighbors jealous. People with bad intentions break into their homes because they think there may be something worth stealing. Assaults also take place.

Wednesday 30 May



Give thanks for the work of Christian Friends of Israeli Communities (CFOIC) who support the Jewish residents of Judea and Samaria with small-scale help. A donation for a library or community garden, and the purchase of a heard of sheep or lesson materials for a school are examples of this aid. Pray that the inhabitants of Judea and Samaria will live in safety and be encouraged by this friendship.

Thursday 31 May

Growing anti-Semitism around the world, expressed as anti-Zionism, is a continuing matter for concern. Pray that the Lord God will defeat this power and show Himself all-powerful.
