

Israel Prayer Calendar

June - July 2018



CHRISTIANS FOR
ISRAEL
INTERNATIONAL

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Shalom,

In the '80s my wife Heleen and I lived in Jerusalem with our children, who attended an Israeli school. It was difficult for Marco, who was 7 at the time, because the children in his class didn't know how to relate to him. How should they act around the new boy, who was blond, Dutch, and Christian? His new classmates drew a Star of David and a cross on the tiles of the schoolyard. While everyone watched, they made Marco choose between the two. He set one foot next to the Star of David and the other next to the cross and said, "I belong to the cross and I love the Star of David."

This settled the matter, and from that moment onwards the other children accepted Marco as one of their own. The whole school heard the story and his teacher came and told us. Their perspective on Christians changed, because they realized that it was possible to belong to the cross *and* love the Star of David. This was new to them. They knew the history of most Christians' attitudes towards the Jews and Israel all too well.

Inspired by our faith in Jesus and with love for His people, let us pray for Israel.

Pieter Bénard
Prayer coordinator

June 2018

Friday 1 June

The Iranian regime is out to destroy the state of Israel. Pray that God will break this power. "For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places." (Ephesians 6:12)

Saturday 2 June Sabbath

During the conflict on the Lebanese border in 1978 an American volunteer sat in a bomb shelter. The Israeli children there with him were afraid, so he composed a song on the spot and sang it to keep them calm. "You are my hiding place; You always fill my heart with songs of deliverance" (Michael Ledner). Pray that, despite the language of destruction from Iran, Israel may know that they are safely hidden in the hand of the Lord their God.

Sunday 3 June

The Jerusalem Prayer Breakfast is taking place in Jerusalem today through Wednesday. Hundreds of leaders and board members of Christian pro-Israel organizations from around the world will take part. Psalm 50:5 is the theme: "Gather to me my faithful ones, who made a covenant with me by sacrifice!" Pray for unity, brotherly love and dedication to prayer for Israel.

Monday 4 June	Please pray for the 2018 summer exhibition, Israel, Wonder of the World, open in the Israel Center in Nijkerk, the Netherlands through August 31 st . Pray that visitors will be moved by the exhibition to study Gods Word and that they may grow in their love for Israel.
Tuesday 5 June	In Iran the 'Hourglass Festival' started on April 19 th , Israel's Independence Day. It refers to the hourglass counting down the days to the predicted downfall of the Jewish state. This is an extremely dangerous development, because 2,400 anti-Israel NGOs around the world are also involved. Call on the Lord as a mighty man of war against His enemies. Isaiah 42:13, 14
Wednesday 6 June	As the past few months have shown, the situation in the south of Israel is as serious as ever. Pray for safety for this region of Israel. Pray for the population of Gaza too, as they suffer under the harsh rule of Hamas. Pray for peace talks that will lead to a normalization of relations, and pray that the Lord God will intervene on behalf of His people. (Psalm 59:1, 2)
Thursday 7 June	When interceding for Israel and for other situations, it is useful to read and put into practice 2 Timothy 3 verses 16 and 17. These verses speak of God's Word and of being fully equipped.
Friday 8 June	Pray for safety and the opportunity to make aliyah for Jews in Ukraine and other countries. Give thanks for employees and volunteers at the Jewish Agency, Ebenezer and Christians for Israel, who help Jewish people in these countries to obtain travel papers and provide transportation to the airports. Give thanks that churches in these countries have a vision to work alongside these organizations and to provide protection to Jews where necessary.
Saturday 9 June Sabbath	Give thanks that every month thousands of Jews arrive in Israel to build a new life. Some are fleeing economic problems (e.g. from Venezuela) while others are fleeing anti-Semitism (e.g. from France). Many come because they want to experience their Jewishness more fully, without the restrictions that they experienced in these countries.
Sunday 10 June	Praying for Israel is obedience to God's Word. There is power in obedience (John 8:29), power in prayer (Acts 6:4), power in time (Psalm 31:15), and power in faith (Mark 9:23).
Monday 11 June	The Israeli Minister of Defense, Avigdor Lieberman, has indicated that Israel foils 20-30 plans for terrorist attacks per week. Give thanks for this answer to prayer against Israel's enemies.
Tuesday 12 June	<i>Aliyah</i> brings Jews from over a hundred different countries and cultures together in Israel. Thank God that He is bringing His people home. Pray that they will understand and accept each other, so that the Lord can bless them in the Land. (Psalm 133)
Wednesday 13 June	Give thanks that 3.7 million tourists visited Israel in 2017, 25% more than in 2016. Pray that Christian pilgrims will leave a good impression and that they will return to their own countries as "ambassadors for Israel".
Thursday 14 June	For a while now Dutch Christians have been trying to convince Jews in Djerba (a city in Tunisia) to make aliyah while they still can. It is nearly impossible for these Jews to sell their real estate, which holds them back from taking this step. Pray for change. There was recently an attempt to set fire to a synagogue. Pray for protection for the Jews in Tunisia.
Friday 15 June	As Christians who live in free countries, let us pray for our brothers and sisters in the Islamic countries in the Middle East, where they are threatened with persecution for their faith. Pray that they may know that they are hidden with Christ in God. (Romans 8:35)
Saturday 16 June Sabbath	Christians for Israel Germany celebrates its 20 th anniversary today with a special conference. Give thanks for the work of Christians for Israel in Germany.
Sunday 17 June	If you read all of Psalm 69 first and then give thanks and pray for Israel, the last two verses point even more clearly to God's greatness. "For God will save Zion and build up the cities of Judah" (verse 35), "...those who love His Name will dwell in it" (verse 36).

Monday 18 June	Pray for the protection and deliverance of the city of Jerusalem from Isaiah 31:4,5, “...So the Lord of hosts will come down to fight on Mount Zion and on its hill...He will protect and deliver it; He will spare and rescue it.” God’s promised intervention is urgently needed, considering the plans of Hamas, Hezbollah, Syria, and Iran. Their hatred’s objective is the destruction of the State of Israel.
Tuesday 19 June	This hatred also finds its mark in the Jews living on the Golan heights of Judea and Samaria – they too are to be driven out. Most of the attacks in the past several years took place in these areas and in Jerusalem. Pray for protection. Stay watchful.
Wednesday 20 June	Hananya Naftali is Jewish, lives in Israel, and believes in Jesus. When he was asked how we can support Israel from the countries where we live, he answered, “The most important way is to pray for Israel. You may not notice the difference, but we in Israel feel supported by your prayers.” Give thanks that our prayers touch Israel. God is their Helper.
Thursday 21 June	Pray for the Israeli soldiers who monitor and guard the northern border in posts filled with specialized equipment. The northern border is extremely volatile, with Hezbollah on the other side, supported by army units from Iran and the increasing influence of Russia. Storm the ramparts of heaven, pray that the Lord God will break these forces of evil!
Friday 22 June	We see an increase in vandalism and arson as expressions of anti-Semitism and anti-Zionism. Pray for the protection of synagogues and of the offices of affiliates of Christians for Israel around the world.
Saturday 23 June Sabbath	Give thanks that Israel’s economy has been one of the strongest in the world for years, with an annual growth of more than 3%. Pray that this will be for the good of all the country’s inhabitants and form a basis for peace with the Palestinians.
Sunday 24 June	We can learn a lot from Jonah’s prayer life. “Then Jonah prayed to the Lord his God from the belly of the fish.” (Jonah 2:1) “My prayer came to You, into Your holy temple” (verse 7b). This is an interesting example: Through prayer Jonah reached from the earth to the Father in heaven. Let us pray so that God can achieve His purpose with Israel and with us.
Monday 25 June	Give thanks for the move of the American embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. Give thanks that other countries are also going to take this step. Guatemala, Honduras, Romania, the Czech Republic, and Greece have been named. Give thanks that this step sends a clear message: Jerusalem is the capital of Israel!
Tuesday 26 June	Give thanks that God is faithful to Israel. He promised eternal faithfulness to His people. His promises are eternal. Let us continue to stand with Israel. As Ruth put it, “Your people shall be my people, and your God my God!” (Ruth 1:16)
Wednesday 27 June	Israel is increasingly on its own, as it must defend itself against terror and fight for its existence. But it also must fight against hostile and prejudiced media and world politics. Pray for the Israelis; bless them in prayer, and stand up for them!
Thursday 28 June	Give thanks for the English language Christians for Israel newspaper, especially that it is also published in Asian countries. This is the result of many conferences about Israel that Christians for Israel has organized in that part of the world in recent years.
Friday 29 June	During a ceremony for new Marines officers General Aviv Kochavi said, “Israel is preparing for war on six fronts.” He was referring to specifically to Iran. The others are easy to guess: ISIS in Egypt, Hamas in Gaza, Lebanon, Syria, and cyber-attacks. Pray for Israel. (Psalm 68:1, 2) Be creative. Pray while sitting in a traffic jam, or go for a walk and find quietness to pray.
Saturday 30 June Sabbath	Give thanks for Saudi Arabia’s overtures towards Israel. The strictly Islamic country is Sunni, and stands directly opposite Shiite Iran. Pray that God will use this situation for the good of His people.

July 2018

Sunday 1 July	In Luke 2:36-39 we read about Anna, a prophetess who fasted and prayed day and night, speaking about Jesus the Messiah to the others who were looking for the salvation of Jerusalem. Let us fast and pray in our inner rooms, talking to others about the coming King and looking towards Jerusalem.
Monday 2 July	Pray for protection for the south of Israel, near the Egyptian and Gaza borders. Drones with explosives, kites with flammable material, stones, and stinking black smoke from burning tires all make their way across these borders. Pray that Israel will live in safety.
Tuesday 3 July	God calls on us to comfort His people. "Comfort, comfort My people." (Isaiah 40:1) These are moving words that we can put into effect together through friendships, encouragement, and daily prayer for Israel.
Wednesday 4 July	Give thanks that Per and Kirsten Nielsen started a Danish branch of Christians for Israel earlier this year. They also published the first Danish edition of the newspaper. Pray for this young branch and for the other European branches of Christians for Israel.
Thursday 5 July	In the Turkish newspaper Yeni Safak, President Erdogan described his dream of destroying the state of Israel within ten days together with an army from all 57 Islamic countries. God's answer to Erdogan's foolishness was written in His Word centuries ago in Psalm 149. Pray that Israel will rejoice in the Lord: we are to stand by them in prayer in this battle.
Friday 6 July	Ezekiel 36 contains contain a wonderful prophesy about Israel. Verses 1-15 are about the restoration of the land. Verses 16-38 are about the restoration of the people. The physical restoration precedes the spiritual restoration. Give thanks that this is clearly visible. The Lord fulfills His Word.
Saturday 7 July Sabbath	Give thanks that Israel is a land of miracles. The number of inhabitants in 2018 is ten times what it was seventy years ago. This is the combined result of normal population growth and the influx of millions of Jews who have made aliyah. The Jewish people are coming home and we get to play a role through help and prayer. What a privilege!
Sunday 8 July	In Matthew 26:39-44 we read about Jesus' prayer life. In Gethsemane Jesus was sorrowful unto death; and still He did the will of His father. He expects us to watch and pray with Him for an hour and not to fall into temptation. By doing this we can give thanks for His sacrifice, pray for His people, and look forward to the salvation of Jerusalem.
Monday 9 July	The Jewish people are the people of the Messiah. The Bible is Israel's history book but it also tells us of salvation through Jesus. He is the Savior of all peoples; in the first place that of His own brothers and sisters, the Jewish people. Give thanks that we non-Jews have been added to this number.
Tuesday 10 July	Pastor Ghason, an Iraqi, notes an aspect of the persecuted church in his country. "It is in the face of persecution that many come to faith." Pray for persecuted Christians in the Middle East. Give thanks that more people are deciding to follow Jesus despite the persecution!
Wednesday 11 July	A pastor in Israel is surprised at the growing anti-Israel sentiment in Europe. "If I want to watch a good comedy show, I watch the European news. It's full of lies about Israel." Pray that the media will have the courage to report honestly and objectively on Israel and the Palestinians.
Thursday 12 July	Pray for politicians who continue to stand up for Israel, despite opposition and ridicule. Pray for politicians in the parliaments and governments, in the European Union, in the United Nations, and in other political and economic bodies.
Friday 13 July	Pray for wisdom and insight for Prime Minister Netanyahu, President Rivlin, and Chief of Staff of the Israel Defense Forces Eisenkot. They carry a great responsibility, not only politically but also societally.
Saturday 14 July Sabbath	Earlier this year Rev. Willem J.J. Glashouwer visited Fiji and the Cook Islands in the Pacific. They are now affiliates of Christians for Israel. Give thanks for this development. Pray that these countries will use their votes well in the United Nations and that they will defend Israel against many other countries' smear campaign towards Israel.

Sunday 15 July	Isaiah's prophesy in chapter 41 is a wonderful passage about the omnipotence of God as Savior. By reading these words aloud and proclaiming them we come to a deeper realization of how powerfully God speaks to the nations and to nature, and how much He loves His firstborn son Israel.
Monday 16 July	Pray for the Jewish members of the Knesset. They are confronted daily with Arabic Knesset members who speak hate against Israel in the parliament and want to drive Jews out of the country.
Tuesday 17 July	As Christians we should have compassion on the poor in Israel. John wrote very clearly, "My dear children, let us not love in word or in talk, but in deed and truth." (1 John 3:17, 18) Give thanks for those who volunteer with organizations such as Aleh or Hineni, and for the donations towards these organizations and projects.
Wednesday 18 July	Unrest is common in Israel. The Jewish faith and a secular lifestyle often come into conflict. The tensions surface in various ways. Pray for peace with each other from the Lord God.
Thursday 19 July	More and more European countries are discovering that anti-Semitism is growing in their country due to second-generation Muslim immigrants. Be careful as you pray about this: It is not about the person, but about the ideas and thoughts about Jews that they hold. Pray for the thinking of these Muslims to change. Pray for protection for the Jews in Europe.
Friday 20 July	In recent years hundreds of artifacts have been unearthed at archeological digs that prove that Jews have been living in the Israel for centuries. Psalm 102:14 speaks of people, stones, and dust. Verse 13 says, "You [Lord] shall arise ... the appointed time has come." Give thanks that God is gracious to Israel and confirms this through archeological digs.
Saturday 21 July Sabbath	The following sentence is from an invitation for a preachers' seminar: "Theology needs a renovation. How do we relate to the reality of Israel?" Pray that theologians will discover the reality of Israel in their study of the Bible.
Sunday 22 July	Pray that government leaders and nations will choose Jerusalem and not Babylon. (Isaiah 60:1-3, 12) Pray that they will learn to base their thoughts and actions on the Biblical Jerusalem and break the habit of basing their thoughts and actions on heathen Babylon.
Monday 23 July	Give thanks that the Jewish Agency will bring 500 new immigrants into Israel today from France, South America, the Ukraine, Russia, Ethiopia and several other countries. Christians for Israel plays a substantial role in this work.
Tuesday 24 July	Psalm 121 is a special psalm to read as you pray for Israel. This psalm mentions the Lord as the Keeper of Israel three times and says that He will keep them three times.
Wednesday 25 July	Please pray for your own congregation today. Pray that the Lord Jesus will be the focal point and that there will be a love for God's Word. This is the foundation for loving and understanding Israel. Anything else that we do for God's people stems from love for His Son and His Word.
Thursday 26 July	Earlier this year the Israeli Minister of Defense, Avigdor Lieberman, visited several countries in Africa. Iran is trying to gain influence in Africa as well, but Africa remembers all too well the empty promised given by the Arab countries after the Yom Kippur war. Pray for good relations between Israel and African countries. Israel has much to offer these countries in the areas of water management, agricultural techniques, anti-terrorism and security.
Friday 27 July	Christians for Israel affiliates organize trips to Israel. Pray that the participants will learn much from their visits to the country and that they will encourage the population by their presence.
Saturday 28 July Sabbath	On this day of rest for the Jewish people, it gives us rest to read in Isaiah 11:1-10 about the Messiah and His kingdom of peace. The conclusion is absolutely beautiful: "In that day the Root of Jesse, who shall stand as a signal for the peoples – of him shall the nations inquire, and his resting place shall be glorious."

Sunday 29 July	“What am I to do? I will pray with my spirit, but I will pray with my mind also; I will sing praise with my spirit, but I will sing with my mind also.” (1 Corinthians 14:15) Prayer for Israel is not always easy considering the animosity towards the nation. You will receive joy and strength if you alternate prayers with singing and praise. Just look at the psalms for an example of this.
Monday 30 July	Pray for the employees and volunteers of Christians for Israel worldwide. It is encouraging that so many people volunteer.
Tuesday 31 July	Pray for the board of Christians for Israel, for unity and wise decisions. Pray for the incoming Executive Director of Christians for Israel International, Cornelis Kant.
