

Israel Prayer Calendar

October - November 2018



CHRISTIANS FOR
ISRAEL
INTERNATIONAL

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Shalom,

This past month the Jewish calendar year 5778 ended and 5779 began. Will this coming year bring negotiations resulting in peace? Will the residents of Gaza be able to throw off the yoke of Hamas? Will Syria no longer be a country plagued by fear and death? Will the coming year bring the long expected Messiah to the Jewish people and to us?

We do not have the answers to these questions. We can bring these questions to our heavenly Father in prayer. One way of looking at terror, death and fear, dictatorships, the love of many growing cold, and the coming of Jesus, is in the context of what the Lord Jesus said about the signs of the end times in Matthew chapter 24. Verse 44 really hit home for me: "Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect." Are we ready to meet Him?

May the Lord bless you in your prayers.

Pieter Bénard
Prayer coordinator

October 2018

Monday 1 October

As Christians we should realize that our lives do not belong to ourselves, but to God the Father. Make your prayer for Israel a priority. These tiems of intercession are the more valuable, because the restoration of Israel is a fulfilment of God's Word.

Tuesday 2 October

Today is *Simchat Torah* (Rejoicing with the Torah, Leviticus 23:39). This conclusion of the Feast of Tabernacles has always been celebrated, whether in secret during World War II or by Russian Jews under the Soviet regime, or now in their own Jewish State. Pray that this rejoicing will spill over to the synagogue services and Jewish holidays during the rest of the year.

Wednesday 3 October

Give thanks for the medical aid the Israeli army has been able to provide over the past several years to thousands of Syrian war victims along the northern border. This has become much more difficult now because the Syrian army is back at the border with the Golan.

Thursday 4 October

Tomorrow through October 13th the Holland Choir is in Israel to sing for the encouragement of the Jewish people and the glory of God. The climax is the concert in Israel on October 11th in the presence of important public figures. In the coming days please pray for safety and good interactions, and that the concerts may achieve their purpose.

Friday 5 October	Pray for the safety of the town of Metula (1600 inhabitants) in the north of Israel. This border town is surrounded on three sides by Lebanon from where it is threatened by Hezbollah. A security wall has recently been erected there on the border.
Saturday 6 October Sabbath	At the moment 10,500 UN troops are stationed in southern Lebanon along the northern border of Israel. Their daily and nightly patrols since the war in 2006 have sustained the brittle stand-off between Hezbollah and Israel up till now. Pray for peace and protection for the north of Israel. Pray the might of Iran, a country which exercises a strong influence in Lebanon, to be broken.
Sunday 7 October	“Great are the works of the Lord, studied by all who delight in them.” (Psalm 111:2) Pray that Christians will be inspired to pay more attention to God’s covenant with His people and the fulfillment of Bible prophesy in our time.
Monday 8 October	Give thanks that in the first six months of this year 12,000 new immigrants (<i>olim</i>) have come into Israel. Pray for a good start in the country with language learning, housing, and work. Pray that they will realize that they are part of the fulfillment of prophesy: God is bringing His people home to His land and to Himself.
Tuesday 9 October	Pray for the elderly Jews in Ukraine who often live in loneliness in small villages, especially now winter is coming and they are barely able to leave their houses. Give thanks that we are able to visit them and have the opportunity to encourage them by distributing food parcels.
Wednesday 10 October	“Jesus never taught His disciples how to preach, only how to pray.” (Andrew Murray)
Thursday 11 October	Give thanks that we can look for the coming/return of the Messiah and all that goes along with it together with the Jewish people. (Isaiah 2:1-5, Revelation 22:1-5)
Friday 12 October	United States Vice President Pence commented, “Just 70 years after the Holocaust, attacks on Jews, even on aging Holocaust survivors, are growing at an alarming rate.” Pray for protection for the Jews in Europe.
Saturday 13 October Sabbath	Give thanks that we at Christians for Israel have been involved in <i>aliyah</i> since 1996. “He will raise a signal for the nations and will assemble the banished of Israel, and gather the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth.” (Isaiah 11:12)
Sunday 14 October	Pray for Israel using Psalm 102:1, “Hear my prayer, O Lord; let my cry come to you!” and Psalm 116:1, “I love the Lord because He has heard my voice and my pleas for mercy”.
Monday 15 October	Give thanks that the Israeli people have proven (thanks in large part to the Tora) that they strive for a society that looks out for the well-being of all its inhabitants. All Jewish homes in Israel have a mezuzah on the doorpost as a reminder. (Deuteronomy 6:4-9)
Tuesday 16 October	Thank the Lord God for His Word: “Praise the Lord, O Jerusalem! Praise your God, O Zion!” (Psalm 147:12) In the verses that follow the Lord God displays His almighty power to His people and the other nations. It is very clear at the end of this psalm that He gave Jacob His words, statutes, and rules – He has not done this for any other nation. Israel is unique!
Wednesday 17 October	Give thanks that we have to opportunity to help build up Israel and help the villages in Judea and Samaria put down roots. Through Jesus the Messiah we have been made co-heirs and fellow citizens with the Jewish people. Give thanks for the aid provided to Rechelim in Samaria, to Shadmot Mechola in the Jordan Valley, and to Beit Haggai in Judea. (Ephesians 2:11-22)
Thursday 18 October	Pray for the protection of Israel’s coastline. The marine commandos are responsible for security on the beaches and monitor all boats approaching or leaving Israel.

Friday 19 October	The Iranian regime has made Al-Quds Day (Jerusalem Day) a national holiday. On Al-Quds Day hatred towards Jews is openly expressed and celebrated. Thankfully the average Iranian has a more positive view towards Israel than the Iranian leaders would like. This is why a “pro-Israel protest” is being held on Twitter on Al-Quds Day. Pray that this movement will grow and that love will win over hate, light over darkness.
Saturday 20 October Sabbath	Rev. Cornelis Kant is in Brazil through October 28 th and will be speaking to many pastors there. Val Nogueira and her team have organized all of this. Pray for safety, and that this speaking tour will be a successful follow-up to previous trips. Pray for the team of Christians for Israel Brazil in this immense country. There are many prayer groups praying for Israel in Brazil as well.
Sunday 21 October	Pray that Israel will trust in the Lord God now they are returning to their own land from out of the other nations. “I will say to the Lord, ‘My refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust.’” (Psalm 91:2)
Monday 22 October	Give thanks for the Jewish people’s many inventions and discoveries, the results of which are applied around the world. This is a foretaste of what is to come now God is making His people “chief of the nations”. (Jeremiah 31:7) Here we see the application of the principle from 1 Corinthians 15:46; first the natural and then the spiritual.
Tuesday 23 October	Pray for protection for the Jewish residents of Judea and Samaria. Pray for talks and peace with the Palestinian Authority and for a solution to the current impasse on who can live where. Pray that the Biblical promises will be fulfilled.
Wednesday 24 October	Anti-Semitism and anti-Zionism are growing and becoming more firmly rooted in society, a fact many people play down. A Dutch Jew said, “Play it down as much as you like. There really is something going on.” Pray for the safety for the Jews. Let us encourage them and stand up for them.
Thursday 25 October	Pray for the dissolution of the military cooperation between North Korea, Iran, and Syria; especially the nuclear cooperation which forms a serious threat to Israel through the exchange of information on the production of nuclear weapons. (Matthew 18:18)
Friday 26 October	Israel and China have increasingly close economic and financial ties. This opens the way to China and also the way from China to Israel. Pray that Israel will act wisely in this situation, especially now China is putting itself forward as a world power with military ambitions.
Saturday 27 October Sabbath	The credit rating agency <i>Standard and Poors’s</i> raised Israel’s credit rating a few months ago. This is another victory over the BDS movement! Money that is freed up by lower interest rates is used for healthcare, education, and welfare. Give thanks that in this way all Israeli citizens benefit.
Sunday 28 October	In your prayers break (loose) the pride of anti-Zionism among the nations. At its root it is anti-Messiah.
Monday 29 October	Give thanks for the work of American UN ambassador Nikki Haley, who is highly motivated in her support for Israel at the UN. Her attitude is having a ripple effect among other member states and the difference between the last year of the Obama administration and the first of the Trump administration is enormous.
Tuesday 30 October	At the end of a week or a month read through the prayer calendar again, so that the Lord may draw your attention to something for which you personally can pray and give thanks.
Wednesday 31 October	Last year Reformation Day concluded 500 years of reformation. Since then there has been a renewed interest in Luther’s writings, including what he wrote about the Jews. Pray that Luther’s followers will recognize that his theology about the Jews was radically wrong and that they will gain a Biblical perspective on God’s people.

November 2018

Thursday 1 November	Pray for the population of Gaza. Pray that the yoke of Hamas will be broken and that western governments will stop financing this terrorist organization. When terrorists succeed in crossing the border with Israel they kill Jews without scruple.
Friday 2 November	Pray for protection for Israeli towns and villages along the border with Gaza. The distances are minimal. Kibbutz Nahal Oz: 850 yards. Be'eri: 2.5 miles. The city of Sderot: 770 yards. Kibbutz Kerem Shalom: 330 yards.
Saturday 3 November Sabbath	Pray for children and teenagers in Gaza, who are taught to hate Jews at home as well as at schools and mosques. Pray for a radical change in their thinking about Israel.
Sunday 4 November	"In my distress I called to the Lord, and He answered me." (Psalm 120:1) "Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord! O Lord, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my pleas for mercy!" (Psalm 130:1,2)
Monday 5 November	Despite the threats and terror from Gaza, medical and humanitarian aid from Israel to Gaza continue unabated, as does the transport of goods such as fuel, building supplies (even though they are misused), and groceries. Give thanks for this.
Tuesday 6 November	Of the two million residents of the Gaza Strip just one thousand are members of the three Christian churches. The rest are Muslim. Pray for our brothers and sisters there, but also for those in Bethlehem, East Jerusalem, Ramallah, and Jericho. In these well-known places as well as in smaller villages, Christians live as a tolerated minority among a Muslim majority.
Wednesday 7 November	"Prayer is a wonderful opportunity, because we can change everything through prayer: people, things, difficulties, and situations." (Mother Basilea Schlink)
Thursday 8 November	Give thanks for the many prophetic promises the Lord gives to His people in Ezekiel chapters 36 and 37. Dozens of times Ezekiel is told to prophesy and is given a clear word of the Lord that we can either see fulfilled in our time or look forward to seeing fulfilled. The prophecies are God's own initiative, with many repetitions of His mighty "I will...".
Friday 9 November	Eighty years ago on November 8 th and 9 th in Germany 1400 synagogues were set on fire, 7500 Jewish homes and businesses were destroyed and hundreds of Jews were murdered. Because of the amount of broken glass in the streets this night came to be called <i>Night of Broken Glass</i> (in German: <i>Kristallnacht</i>). The same threat that hung in the air on that night can still be felt in Europe. Pray for the Jewish population, show them friendship, and encourage them.
Saturday 10 November Sabbath	Rev. Willem Glashouwer and Rev. Cornelis Kant will be in Florida (USA), for conferences from November 11 th through November 18 th . In 2017 the foundation was laid so that the work there can continue to be built up now. Pray for these developments in this country that is so important to Israel.
Sunday 11 November	"O Lord, I call upon you; hasten to me! Give ear to my voice when I call to you!" (Psalm 141:1) "With my voice I cry out to the Lord; with my voice I plead for mercy to the Lord." (Psalm 142:1)
Monday 12 November	Give thanks for the promise in Hosea chapter 11: despite His people turning away from Him (verse 7), the Lord God says in verse 8, "How can I give you up, O Ephraim? How can I hand you over, O Israel? How can I make you like Admah? How can I treat you like Zeboiim? My heart recoils within me; my compassion grows warm and tender." (Adma and Zeboiim are the names of towns that were destroyed together with Sodom and Gomorrah.) There is mercy in our time too, the mercy of our heavenly Father towards Israel. They are His own people.

Tuesday 13 November	Pray for the Christian denominations in all of their diversity for perspective when it comes to Israel. Pray that the Church will understand that although the Holocaust sped things up, the State of Israel came into being as the fulfillment of God's prophetic Word
Wednesday 14 November	Give thanks for the Word of God. The return of the Jewish people to the Promised Land is like a prophetic stone thrown into a global river. The ripples that it causes touch every country, reach the ends of the earth, and are undeniable!
Thursday 15 November	Give thanks that despite the BDS movement's demands to boycott Israel there are sports leagues that reprimand their athletes if they refuse to compete with Israeli athletes. Give thanks that there are international performers who openly ignore the boycott and perform in Israel. Give thanks that there are foreign businesses and banks that make no secret of their investments in Israel.
Friday 16 November	Pray for safety for the north of Israel, along the border with Lebanon and especially along the border between the Golan and Syria. Russia is guaranteeing that Iranian troops maintain a distance of 53 miles (85 km) from the border. Russian troops have recently joined the UN peace-keeping force. Both Russia and Iran have a vested interest in the region, as do America and of course Israel and Syria themselves. (Psalm 121:4)
Saturday 17 November Sabbath	There are currently about 350 Jewish believers in Messiah serving in the Israeli army, including both officers and career soldiers. Israel still has a draft for both boys and girls. Pray for these believers and give thanks that they too are committed to the duties associated with Israeli citizenship, and that on the whole they are accepted and valued in the army
Sunday 18 November	In Exodus chapter two we read the story of Moses: He was born but was not supposed to be allowed to live. In Matthew chapter one we read about the birth of Jesus: He was not supposed to be allowed to live either. Israel is in the same type of situation. The state has been founded but should not be allowed to exist according to many countries, people, organizations, and movements. Speak life over death, God's almighty power over human weakness and shortsightedness.
Monday 19 November	Psalm 83 speaks of the enemies of Israel – this Psalm has not lost any currency. What Israel's enemies do not realize is that they are fighting against the Lord God. Verses 2 and 5 speak of enmity towards God, verses 3 and 4 speak of enmity towards God's people. Here too; speak life over death, God's almighty power over human weakness and shortsightedness.
Tuesday 20 November	A word of thanks from Shraga Evers on behalf of Aleh (a care facility for children with multiple handicaps): "The involvement of Christians for Israel worldwide is very special to us. Thank you for all of your friendship, support, and trust! In these times of BDS (boycotts) and anti-Israel sentiments it is exceptional that you have such a warm heart for Israel and the Jewish people." Give thanks that by supporting Aleh we can support Israel and demonstrate who we are as Christians.
Wednesday 21 November	Pray for the Jews living in Judea and Samaria: The danger and acts of terror are constant. Pray for comfort for those who have been wounded. Pray for the families and friends of those who have been murdered. Give thanks that many trust in the Lord and are an inspiration to others.
Thursday 22 November	"Jewish history is at the center of world history. Whatever the world tries to do to us it does to itself." (Elie Wiesel) To pray for Israel is to pray for the world. God wants to bless the world through His people.
Friday 23 November	Give thanks for the Biblical promise to God's people, "...whoever stirs up strife with you shall fall because of you." (Isaiah 54:15b)

Saturday 24 November Sabbath	Give thanks that Israel has given aid to flood victims in India over the past several months. Israel also brought aid to Cameroon in the form of highly specialized water filters to combat the cholera epidemic.
Sunday 25 November	“The purpose of praying is not prayer. The purpose of praying is God.” (Abraham Heschel)
Monday 26 November	Please pray for the staff and the volunteers of Christians for Israel around the world. ‘Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.’ (Colossians 3:23,24).
Tuesday 27 November	Please pray for the bi-monthly newspaper ‘Israel and Christians Today’ and the websites of Christians for Israel. Pray that news about Israel will be clearly explained in the context of the Bible and vice versa; the Bible explained in the context of current events.
Wednesday 28 November	Give thanks for the miracle of the State of Israel’s founding and continued existence. The enmity is unbelievably fierce, both visible and invisible. We can see the hand of our heavenly Father in this miracle every day.
Thursday 29 November	Please pray for Andrew Tucker, who stands up for Israel together with other international lawyers. Pray that they will be able to clarify what the term “International Law” means. Many politicians and journalists misuse this term and thus de-legitimize Israel’s right to existence and cause great harm to the Jewish
Friday 30 November	Give thanks that the affiliates of Christians for Israel are active all around the world. Pray for the affiliates in Vietnam (Asia), Uganda (Africa), Australia, North America, Romania (Europe), and Brazil (South America).