



Shalom!

Chapter 11 of the letter to the Hebrews in the New Testament is known for the list of "Heroes of Faith", with 39 references to the Old Testament. Abraham, Moses and Samuel are among the familiar names and Bible stories that many Christians know and love. All of them are listed to strengthen our own faith.

Over the next four months, Dec/Jan and Feb/March, fifteen "Heroes of Prayer" will be featured on Saturdays in the prayer calendar. These Biblical figures were not only a witness in their faith but also in their prayer lives! Just as faith of Abraham, Moses, Samuel and others encourage and inspire us their prayer and intercession inspire us as well.

How incredibly powerful God's Word is! How wonderful that after all those centuries our faith and prayers can grow and become stronger through the witness of Abraham, the father of all who believe (Galatians 3:6-7), and the witness of Moses, who led God's people to freedom! The exodus from Egypt is mentioned over 90 times in the Bible. The LORD Jesus is also an intercessor, both when He was with us on earth and now in heaven at God's right hand (Romans 8:34). What a privilege it is to be so closely connected with Jesus and with other believers around the world in faith and prayer.

May this connection continue to be our goal in 2020.

Christians for Israel Prayer team

December 2019

<p>Sunday 1 December - 1st Sunday in Advent</p>	<p>"The voice of your watchmen – they lift up their voice; together they sing for joy; for eye to eye they see the return of the LORD to Zion. Break forth together into singing, you waste places of Jerusalem, for the LORD has comforted his people; He has redeemed Jerusalem." (Isaiah 52:8-9) Give thanks that Jesus came to the world to comfort His people and to redeem the world.</p>
<p>Monday 2 December</p>	<p>Pray for all those who have been injured by rocket attacks from Gaza or other terror attacks. An elderly Israeli woman recently died due to injuries she sustained from a rocket attack ten months ago. Pray for this woman's family and pray for victims of such attacks who are still in recovery.</p>
<p>Tuesday 3 December</p>	<p>Pray for the soldiers guarding the safety fence on the border with Gaza. Pray for alertness and resilience for these men and women.</p>
<p>Wednesday 4 December</p>	<p>Pray for the release of Avera Mengistu, an Ethiopian young man who entered Gaza in a confused state after his brother's death. Hamas has been keeping him in custody for the past five years.</p>

Thursday 5 December	Many children from Gaza are stirred up in various ways to cause trouble at the border fence with Israel. They are incited and encouraged by each other, TV programs and Hamas supporters. Pray that these children's parents will keep them from rioting and provide a counter-balance to the rhetoric of unrest and violence.
Friday 6 December	Tourism in Israel continues to grow as record after record is broken. According to the Ministry of Tourism one reason for this is the growing number of lodgings and increased affordability of a vacation in Israel. Tourism important to Israel's economy and job market: Give thanks that more and more tourist are coming to Israel.
Saturday 7 December - Sabbath	Abraham. "The LORD said, 'Shall I hide from Abraham what I am about to do?'" Genesis 18:16-33. Israel is the only country in the world whose history was written ahead of time, in God's Word. This is how we know what the LORD is doing and will do with His land and His people. To pray for Israel with this knowledge is to pray for what the prophets foretold.
Sunday 8 December - 2 nd Sunday in Advent	"John bore witness about Him, and cried out, 'This was He of Whom I said, 'He Who comes after me ranks before me, because He was before me.'"" John 1:15. Give thanks that Jesus came to the world to give grace upon grace, to His people and to the whole world.
Monday 9 December	Pray that in the period that Israel is without a new governing coalition, however long that lasts, the country will still be governed decisively and that Israel's enemies will not be able to take advantage of the situation.
Tuesday 10 December	Pray that a good government will come into power in Israel, one that makes the right decisions and allows itself to be led by God.
Wednesday 11 December	Aleh is an organization in Israel that cares for children with multiple serious handicaps, both cognitive and physical. Give thanks that so many children are able to receive help via this organization and pray for sufficient financial means to maintain and where necessary expand Aleh's work.
Thursday 12 December	Iran is continuously building military bases in the countries surrounding Israel. In Syria and Lebanon they do this via Hezbollah and in the Gaza strip via Hamas. Pray that Iran will run out of funds to continue the construction and that the existing bases will be destroyed.
Friday 13 December	A Christians for Israel group is leaving for Israel today. On Tuesday 17 December they will unveil an eleven meter high menorah in Sderot as an encouragement to the residents of the city who are regularly plagued by rocket attacks from the Gaza strip. Pray that the unveiling will go smoothly and that God will protect the city of Sderot from attacks.
Saturday 14 December - Sabbath	Moses. Moses' prayer life is an example to us. "Then the people cried out to Moses, and Moses prayed to the LORD, and the fire died down." (Numbers 11:2). "So Moses prayed for the people." (Numbers 21:7b). The threat to Israel in our time is clear; let our position be clear too, not sitting on the sidelines but actively interceding [for Israel].
Sunday 15 December - 3 rd Sunday in Advent	"But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for Me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days." (Micah 5:2). Give thanks that the Savior of the world came to us through Israel.
Monday 16 December	Give thanks that for the first time since 1980 Egyptian Christians were present for the Feast of Tabernacles. Egypt plays an interesting role in the history of Israel, both in Biblical times and in our time. Egypt is mentioned approximately three hundred times in the Bible.

Tuesday 17 December	There are still countries that are considering moving their embassies to Jerusalem, such as Honduras, Armenia and Nauru. Pray that these countries will actually take the step of moving their embassies and that other countries will follow their lead.
Wednesday 18 December	Pray for Arab Israeli's who support Israel. This often earns them criticism from other Arabs in Israel. Pray that these pro-Israel residents' love for Israel will be blessed and that more of the Arab community will follow their example.
Thursday 19 December	Pray for protection for towns and villages in Judea and Samaria like Tekeo-Daleth and Zufim. These villages are in dire need of materials for protection. Pray that the money for these materials will be made available.
Friday 20 December	12 Pray for the House of Jesus the King Church in Nazareth under the leadership of Pastor Saleem Shalash. It is an Arab church that loves Israel. This congregation is experiencing opposition from the Arab neighborhood around them on several fronts. Pray for the protection of the church and that the congregation may continue to grow.
Saturday 21 December - Sabbath	Hannah. Hannah surrenders to God completely in prayer. "Hannah answered, '...I have been pouring out my soul before the LORD.'" 1 Samuel 1:9-20. Times will become hard for Israel and the Church, much of what we do in our spiritual life will fade because of this. Total surrender in prayer is the answer.
Sunday 22 December - 4 th Sunday in Advent	"For God, Who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness,' has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ." (2 Corinthians 4:6). Today is the last Sunday before Christmas and the Jewish celebration of Hanukkah begins tomorrow. Christmas and Hanukkah are both holidays in which people celebrate God bringing light into the darkness. Pray for blessed holidays for the Jewish people.
Monday 23 December - Hanukkah	Hanukkah commemorates the consecration of the temple in Jerusalem in 164 B.C.. During this period a miracle occurred: a jug of oil that usually would only have been enough to keep the menorah lit for one day lasted for seven days, long enough to make new oil. Give thanks that God caused light to shine in the darkness then and that He does the same today.
Tuesday 24 December - Hanukkah	Hanukkah is also known as the 'Feast of Lights'. Pray that darkness will not stand a chance during this feast of light and that the Jewish people will be able to celebrate this holiday in peace without disruption from violence or anti-Semitism.
Wednesday 25 December - Christmas - Hanukkah	"Again Jesus spoke to the, saying, 'I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.'" (John 8:12). Give thanks that Jesus came to this world and that He has defeated the power of darkness on the cross.
Thursday 26 December - Hanukkah	"He reveals deep and hidden things; He knows what is in the darkness, and the light dwells with Him." (Daniel 2:22). Based on this text, one rabbi has said that the Messiah's name is Light. Pray that the Jewish people will also come to see Jesus as the Light of the world.
Friday 27 December - Hanukkah	Many Israeli soldiers who are not on duty during Hanukkah visit family to celebrate the holiday with them. But there are also 'lone soldiers', soldiers who do not have family to support them in Israel, for example because they are immigrants or orphans. Pray that these soldiers will also have people around them during Hanukkah to celebrate the holiday together.
Saturday 28 December - Sabbath - Hanukkah	Hanukkah is a holiday centered on the preservation of Jewish identity and the Jewish faith. There are many secular Jews nowadays; pray that these Jews will return to their Jewish roots and commit their lives to serving God.

Sunday 29 December - Hanukkah	“Many nations will come and say, ‘Come and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord and to the house of the God of Jacob, that He may teach us about His ways and that we may walk in His paths.’ For from Zion will go forth the law, even the word of the Lord from Jerusalem” (Micah 4:2). The temple that once stood on the Temple Mount is gone. The al-Aqsa Mosque and the Dome of the Rock now stand on the Temple Mount and are prohibited to pray there openly. Pray that the time will come that the Temple Mount will be a place where everyone will openly pray to the God of Israel.
Monday 30 December - Hanukkah	Pray that God will give the Jews in the diaspora a great longing for Israel during the feast of Hanukkah. Pray that they will take steps to make aliyah.
Tuesday 31 December	Pray for all of the young people in the Israeli army. They are expected to take on an incredibly responsible task at a young age and sometimes need to make difficult decisions. Pray that these young adults will receive wisdom to make good decisions and strength to persevere in their important work.
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Wednesday 1 January	Turkey and Russia are working together in Syria to drive back Kurdish troops. Syria, Russia and Turkey are the lands to the north of Israel. Biblically, calamity for Israel always comes from the north. Pray for protection for Israel in this situation where the Lands of the North are working together.
Thursday 2 January	Give thanks for positive counterparts to the BDS movement (Boycott, Disinvestment and Sanctions). Two examples of these are the Beautiful-Diverse-Sensational movement and the Bless-Defend-Serve movement. Both movements show that Israel is an amazing country and that it is important to support Israel.
Friday 3 January	Pray for protection for Israel’s northern borders. The threat in the north continues to grow.
Saturday 4 January - Sabbath	Samuel. Samuel’s prayer life is another example for us (1 Samuel 8:6). We can react to what happens with the people of Israel in the same way as Samuel did. Just as in the time of Samuel, the Lord will give clarity (verses 7-10).
Sunday 5 January	“And the King will answer them, ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.’” Matthew 25:40. Messianic Jews in Israel have founded the Social Delivery Organization. Businesses can donate surplus inventory and other items via this program, which then distributes the goods among the poor in Israel. Pray for a blessing over this program.
Monday 6 January	Christians for Israel trainer Jos van Westing is in Uganda from the 6 th through the 16 th of January. He has been speaking in Africa for many years. This time he will speak in Kampala to pastors from Uganda and Kenya about God’s faithfulness to Israel. Pray for opened hearts and that the pastors will spread this message in their own churches.
Tuesday 7 January	Pray that Israel will continue to do well economically. Things have been going well for Israel on this front in the past few years; something for which to be thankful. Pray that Israel will have sufficient finances to fund all of the security measures and also have money left for other important expenses such as healthcare and education.
Wednesday 8 January	Research from the American Department of the Treasury has shown that Turkey plays an important role for terrorist organizations such as Hamas, who manage their finances from there. Pray that people in Turkey and Turkish businesses who contribute to this will be dealt with. The United States has already announced its intention to impose sanctions on employees of Turkish businesses who transfer money to Hamas.

Thursday 9 January	A recently released United Nations report states that the activities and effects of the BDS movement are fundamentally antisemitic. Give thanks that this has been stated from a very important platform and pray that this statement will lead to measures being taken against BDS.
Friday 10 January	Holocaust memorials in Ukraine are regularly defaced with antisemitic slogans or symbols. Pray that the powers of darkness that move people to do this will be broken.
Saturday 11 January - Sabbath	Elisha. As Elisha prayed, [the result of] his prayer became clearly visible (2 Kings 6:17). Our prayers will need to be full of faith because mighty armies along the northern border of Israel are preparing to destroy the state of Israel. Verse 18 is very inspiring and tells us that God is more than an Conqueror for His people.
Sunday 12 January	"Arise, O LORD! Let not man prevail; let the nations be judged before you!" (Psalm 9:19)
Monday 13 January	Several antisemitic incidents in Australia recently made the news. Jewish children were being bullied at school because they were Jewish. According to an Australian organization that monitors anti-Semitism, more and more Jewish children are being taken out of public schools and sent to Jewish schools because of such antisemitic incidents. Pray that anti-Semitism in schools will be rigorously dealt with in Australia.
Tuesday 14 January	Iran plans to use a series of new advanced centrifuges to enrich uranium. Although Iran is not yet capable of enriching uranium for nuclear weapons according to currently available information, the country continues to take steps in that direction. Pray that Iran will be kept from enriching uranium and that they will not be able to produce nuclear weapons.
Wednesday 15 January	A Swedish political party recently issued a proposal to combat the non-medical circumcision of boys. A majority of the parties in the Swedish parliament agreed to the proposal. The Jewish community in Europe is increasingly confronted with anti-religious legislation, including legislation regarding ritual slaughter. Pray for continued freedom of religion in Europe and that things such as circumcision and ritual slaughter will not be prohibited.
Thursday 16 January	Watchfulness means: not giving into temptations (Matthew 24:4,5,11,23,24). But also: seeing that your spiritual house is not broken into (Matthew 24:42,43). Stay vigilant and pray for strength to stand against temptation, so that in our intercession for Israel we receive understanding from God, and know how to pray for these matters.
Friday 17 January	The Iraqi prime minister has recently accused Israel for the first time of attacks on military targets in his country. It is feared that the Iraqi prime minister's statement will pave the way for a military reaction against Israel from Shiite militias. Pray that this will not happen and pray for wisdom for the Israeli government in dealing with this.
Saturday 18 January - Sabbath	Hezekiah. This king did what was right in the eyes of the Lord (2 Kings 19:14-19). How? By always seeking the Lord in humility and prayer. The beginnings of chapters 18, 19 and 20 show this clearly. So seek the Lord, regardless of your circumstances and whether or not you feel like it. This attitude in life always leads to intercession.
Sunday 19 January	Jerusalem is the junction of heaven and earth. Read Psalm 102:12-22, "But you, O LORD, are enthroned forever; you are remembered throughout all generations. You will arise and have pity on Zion; it is the time to favor her; the appointed time has come" (verses 12-13). Give thanks that we can see the truth of this prophesy in our time. According to a report the Israeli Central Bureau for Statistics released after Rosh Hashanah, there are approximately 14.8 million Jews living around the world. Of that number 6.7 million live in Israel. Pray that many more Jews will make aliyah and come home to Israel.
Monday 20 January	Pray for all Jews who have recently made aliyah. Pray that they will be able to learn Hebrew quickly and find suitable jobs.

Tuesday 21 January	A striking number of Russian Jews have made aliyah over recent years. This is partially due to economic issues and the reduction of democratic freedom in Russia. Give thanks for the Russian Jews who have been able to make aliyah and pray for protection for the Jews who still live in Russia.
Wednesday 22 January	Pray for Christians in the Middle East who live in Islamic countries. Pray for protection and the strength to persevere.
Thursday 23 January	Pray that there will be more interest for Israel in churches and pray for a blessing over the work of Israel committees in various churches.
Friday 24 January	Pray for pastors who go to Israel on study trips with various organizations. Pray that while they are in Israel they will come into contact with the right organizations and individuals who will show them that God has not forgotten His people and that He is bringing His people back to the land of Israel.
Saturday 25 January - Sabbath	Isaiah. It is encouraging to read 2 Chronicles 32. Jerusalem was in great danger because Sennacherib (the king of Assyria) had laid siege to the city to capture it. Then the tide turns to victory for Jerusalem. In verse 20 we read, "Then Hezekiah the king and Isaiah the prophet, the son of Amoz, prayed because of this and cried to heaven." Jerusalem is still being fought over, so pray for the peace of Jerusalem!
Sunday 26 January	"Keep your heart with all vigilance, for from it flow the springs of life" (Proverbs 4:23). Ask the Lord for a pure heart.
Monday 27 January - International Holocaust Remembrance Day	In many countries commemorations will take place in the coming days to honor victims, survivors and rescuers of the Holocaust during the Nazi regime. Pray with Isaiah 40:1-11 for dignified and comforting gatherings.
Tuesday 28 January	In prayer stand against all forms of anti-Semitism: graffiti on Jewish graves and buildings, football supporters in stadiums shouting slogans, falsity about Jews in the media, and twisted humor in cartoons and by comedians.
Wednesday 29 January	Pray for C4I training conferences for young people taking place in in the north and mid-west of Brazil. Pray for Val Nogueira and her team. Val Nogueira is the regional coordinator for South America.
Thursday 30 January	Pray for the representatives of Christians for Israel who are 'ambassadors' for Israel around the world. Pray for them with 2 Thessalonians 2:16-17, "Now may our Lord Jesus Christ Himself, and God our Father, who loved us and gave us eternal comfort and good hope through grace, comfort your hearts and establish them in every good work and word."
Friday 31 January	Pray that the translations of Rev. Glashouwer's Bible study books (<i>Why Israel?</i> , <i>Why Jerusalem?</i> , <i>Why End Times?</i>) will continue to be effective. We often receive reactions from readers around the world, reactions such as this: "I recently read the book <i>Why Israel?</i> by Rev. Glashouwer and I realized what a blessing Israel was and still is to the nations [of the world]."