



**"The people walking in darkness have seen a great light;
on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned."
(Isaiah 9:2)**

There was darkness in Israel when Jesus came to earth. The Roman rule weighed heavily on Israel and God had not spoken in a prophetic word for four hundred years. It was in this uncertain and fearful time that Jesus came to earth as the Light and Word of God. God did not desert Israel but gave His Son. There had also been light in the darkness two hundred years before Jesus' coming. The Jews had reconquered the temple from the Greeks and the lampstand in the temple burned in the darkness for eight days on just one small jug of oil.

Light can be hard to find in our time as well. The world only seems to become colder and darker. Yet there is hope. God has shown again and again that He is and gives the Light in the darkness, for Israel and for us. In the coming months, let us pray for light in the darkness and give thanks for the Light that came and will shine forever.

*Greetings,
Christians for Israel Prayer Team*

December 2020

Tue 1 Dec.	Israel had another long lockdown this fall. The number of COVID cases has decreased but the situation is still uncertain. Pray that the Israeli government will make the right decisions regarding the tightening or loosening of particular restrictions.
Wed 2 Dec.	Pray for children and young people in Israel. This pandemic has been and still is a scary time for them. It will likely also be difficult for young people to find jobs after completing their studies. Pray that God will protect, comfort and help the Israeli youth.
Thu 3 Dec.	Tensions still run high within Israel's government. Netanyahu and Gantz are often completely at odds with each other. Pray for better cooperation and pray that Israel will be governed decisively and well.
Fri 4 Dec.	Many Israelis have lost their jobs because of the corona virus and unemployment rates are high. Because people are unemployed, tensions are rising at home too. Pray that they will find new jobs and that they will feel comforted and strengthened by God. Pray that God will provide in this situation.
Sat 5 Dec.	Pray for the elderly in Israel. Due to corona they generally receive fewer visitors. Pray for comfort when they are lonely. Also pray for a blessing over the work of organizations that are starting

	programs to combat the loneliness as Hineni (humanitarian restaurant) and the Jerusalem Foundation (Café Europa coffee meetings for survivors).
Sun 6 Dec.	“Humble yourselves before the Lord, and He will lift you up.” (James 4:10) Pray that as a side effect of the coronavirus pandemic people will reflect on the meaning of life and the existence of God. Pray that many in Israel – and outside of Israel as well – will come to faith in God.
Mon 7 Dec.	Pray for the Lone Soldiers in Israel. These are soldiers who do not have any family in Israel because they immigrated on their own or because they are orphans. Pray that they will not be lonely and that they will receive enough support from the community to carry out their responsibilities.
Tue 8 Dec.	Organizations in Israel that usually work with many foreign volunteers are having a hard time as a result of the coronavirus. Pray that these organizations will be able to continue with their work regardless. Give thanks for the work of Hineni, a soup kitchen in Jerusalem, which was able to continue operating through help from people from other organizations.
Wed 9 Dec.	Tensions have been high recently between certain groups of orthodox Jews and the Israeli government over corona measures that many orthodox Jews consider too extreme. This in turn has caused fury from the rest of the population towards the orthodox community. Pray that the various groups will find common ground and there will be more unity within the population of Israel.
Thu 10 Dec.	The Israeli government must fix a national budget by the end of December or there will automatically be new elections. Until now the parties in the government have not been able to come to an agreement. Pray that there will be a breakthrough and that these uncertain times will not be further complicated by new elections.
Fri 11 Dec. Hanukkah	In the coming week the Jewish people celebrate Hanukkah. It is the celebration of the re-consecration of the temple, in which the lampstand and jug of oil play a significant role. Over the coming days a daily verse about oil will be featured in this prayer calendar, linked to a relevant prayer topic. Pray for a blessed Hanukkah for the Jewish people.
Sat 12 Dec. Hanukkah	“They will come and shout for joy on the heights of Zion; they will rejoice in the bounty of the LORD – the grain, the new wine, and the olive oil, the young of the flocks and herds. They will be like a well-watered garden, and they will sorrow no more.” (Jeremiah 31:12) This verse is about the return of the people of Israel to the land. God will give them everything they need in the land, both physically and spiritually. Give thanks for this wonderful promise.
Sun 13 Dec. Hanukkah	“They drove out many demons and anointed many sick people with oil and healed them.” (Mark 6:13) Give thanks that Jesus came to earth to bring deliverance and healing. Give thanks that He still delivers and heals and that He engages people to do this work. Pray for Messianic Jews in Israel. Pray that they will be a blessing to their fellow Jews.
Mon 14 Dec. Hanukkah	“Pleasing is the fragrance of your perfumes; your name is like perfume poured out. No wonder the young women love you!” (Song of Solomon 1:3) The Song of Solomon is about the love between two humans, but also about the love between God and His people. Give thanks that God made a covenant with Israel and that He blesses the world through Israel.
Tue 15 Dec. Hanukkah	You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.” (Psalm 23:5) Pray that this beautiful Bible verse will be fulfilled in Israel: that the Jewish people will live in safety, despite being surrounded by enemies, and that the nation may live under God’s blessing.
Wed 16 Dec. Hanukkah	“When the Almighty was still with me and my children were around me, when my path was drenched with cream and the rock poured out for me streams of olive oil.” (Job 29:5-6) In this verse Job describes the prosperity he experienced before everything was taken from him. Pray

	for all Jews who, like Job, have lost everything due to war or other reasons. Pray that God will bless them again as He did Job.
Thu 17 Dec. Hanukkah	“So Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and from that day on the Spirit of the Lord came powerfully upon David.” (1 Samuel 16:13a) About three thousand years after this remarkable event, the angel Gabriel told Mary that David’s throne would be given to her Son. Pray that Jesus will return quickly to rule on the throne of David.
Fri 18 Dec. Hanukkah	“You did not put oil on my head, but she has poured perfume on my feet.” (Luke 7:46) In this verse Jesus stands up for the sinful woman who entered the home of Simon the Pharisee to anoint Jesus. The woman had spent a fortune on the anointing oil. Pray that we will also give the best of ourselves to Jesus.
Sat 19 Dec.	This year marks 25 years since the former prime minister of Israel, Yitzak Rabin, was murdered by a Jewish right-wing extremist. Rabin was an important contributor to the realization of the Oslo Accords and was killed by the right-wing extremist for this. Pray for all those who work for peace in the Middle East, both on the Israeli and the Palestinian/Arab side.
Sun 20 Dec.	“The LORD works righteousness and justice for all the oppressed.” (Psalm 103:6) Not all Palestinians are against Israel or against peace with Israel. Yet the voices of dissenters are rarely heard and are suppressed by Hamas and the Palestinian Authority. Pray for all Palestinians who suffer under the authority of their own government and pray that their situation will improve.
Mon 21 Dec.	The Palestinian negotiator and PLO secretary general Saeb Erekat was recently treated for coronavirus in an Israeli hospital. Here Israel is choosing humanity instead of ruthless politics. Pray that humanity and peace between Israel and the Palestinians will increase.
Tue 22 Dec.	In the past 77 years of its existence Israel has developed itself substantially. Areas that used to be swampy or extremely dry have been transformed to fertile farmland and new towns and cities have sprung up all over the country. Give thanks for these remarkable developments and pray that Israel will prosper even more. “‘The days are coming,’ declares the Lord, ‘when the reaper will be overtaken by the plowman and the planter by the one treading grapes. New wine will drip from the mountains and flow from all the hills, and I will bring my people Israel back from exile. They will rebuild the ruined cities and live in them. They will plant vineyards and drink their wine; they will make gardens and eat their fruit. I will plant Israel in their own land, never again to be uprooted from the land I have given them,’ says the Lord your God.” (Amos 9:13-15)
Wed 23 Dec.	Pray for a blessing over the work of the Jaffa Institute, an Israeli organization that helps needy children. The corona crisis has caused poverty to rise in Israel. Pray that many children will be able to receive help.
Thu 24 Dec.	It has rained a lot in Israel in the past year. Rain is a great blessing there because it is often extremely dry in Israel. Pray that it will rain a lot this winter as well. “Do any of the worthless idols of the nations bring rain? Do the skies themselves send down showers? No, it is you, LORD our God. Therefore our hope is in you, for you are the one who does all this.” (Jeremiah 14:22)
Fri 25 Dec. Christmas Day	“A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit. The Spirit of the Lord will rest on him.” (Isaiah 11:1-2a) Give thanks that Jesus, the Savior of the world and the Hope of Israel and the nations, came to earth.
Sat 26 Dec.	Jesus was one hundred percent Jewish and was circumcised on the eighth day. Yet Christians often forget this and separate Jesus from Judaism and sometimes even see Judaism as an obsolete religion. Pray that Christians will not forget that the Messiah is Jewish and pray for more love for the Jewish people among Christians.

Sun 27 Dec.	“Lord, you establish peace for us; all that we have accomplished you have done for us.” (Isaiah 26:12) Give thanks for the peace deals Israel has made with a number of Arab countries. Pray that other countries will follow suit.
Mon 28 Dec.	Now Israel and several Arab countries have signed peace agreements, the Palestinians have lost some of their support. New helpers are presenting themselves however, Turkey among them. Pray that instead of choosing a new protector the Palestinians will look for peace with Israel.
Tue 29 Dec.	Nasrallah, the Lebanese leader of Hezbollah, has condemned countries that have undertaken normalization with Israel and has threatened to take revenge on Israel for the death of a Hezbollah soldier who died during an Israel air-strike in Syria. Pray that Hezbollah will not proceed to attack and that Hezbollah’s influence in Lebanon will decrease.
Wed 30 Dec.	“For the Lord your God is the one who goes with you to fight for you against your enemies to give you victory.” (Deuteronomy 20:4) Some experts believe that Iran will be capable of manufacturing a nuclear weapon before the end of the year. Pray that Iran’s plans for this will fail and that Israel and the rest of the world will be protected from this.
Thu 31 Dec. New Year’s Eve	“Lord, you have been our dwelling place throughout all generations. Before the mountains were born or you brought forth the whole world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.” (Psalm 90:1-2) The year 2020 is ending, but God remains. He will stay with the people of Israel and also with you, to eternity. Give thanks for this.

January 2021

Fri 1 Jan. New Year’s Day	“Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom.” (Psalm 90:12) Pray for wisdom for the coming year; for yourself, for pastors and ministers, for our government and also for the government of Israel. We do not know what this year will bring, but we do know that we can trust in the God Who helps us.
Sat 2 Jan.	The Turkish president Erdogan recently gave a speech in which he called Jerusalem a Turkish city. It seems more and more as though Erdogan wants to resurrect the Ottoman Empire. Turkey is increasingly hostile towards Israel. Pray for protection for Israel from Turkish aggression.
Sun 3 Jan.	Pray for a more balanced attitude in the United Nations and European Union towards Israel. These bodies are still extremely critical of everything Israel does, which results in unjustified condemnations of Israel, particularly in the United Nations.
Mon 4 Jan.	Pray for a good relationship between Israel and the United States. Give thanks that the U.S. has been able to do a lot for Israel over the past several years.
Tue 5 Jan.	In 2018 the United States moved its embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. Since then other countries have followed. Yet there are also many countries whose embassies are still in Tel Aviv, such as all countries who are members of the European Union. Pray that more countries will move their embassies.
Wed 6 Jan.	Pray that all false teaching about Israel, including replacement theology and preterism (which teaches that Jesus has already returned to earth) will disappear from the church.
Thu 7 Jan.	A number of churches in the Netherlands have acknowledged in an official confession that the church was negligent in combatting the persecution of Jews during World War Two. Give thanks for this step and pray that it will lead to healing in the relationship between Jews and Christians.
Fri 8 Jan.	Pray for the pastors and church leaders in your country. Pray that in their preaching and prayer, they will bring attention to God’s plan for Israel.

Sat 9 Jan.	Pray that children and teens in the church will learn about Israel's special position in God's plan. Pray that this will be taught and discussed in Sunday schools, catechisms, clubs, and youth groups.
Sun 10 Jan.	Research has shown that young people in western countries know less and less about the Holocaust. Some even think that the Holocaust was set up by Jews. Pray that these gross prejudices and ignorance will be cleared away by good education or information campaigns.
Mon 11 Jan.	Several European states have recently contributed financially to meetings between Palestinian organizations and the International Criminal Court. These organizations presented themselves as independent human rights movements but were really Palestinian organizations and some have ties to terrorist movements. Pray that European states will become more critical when deciding what to support and that they will not allow themselves to be deceived.
Tue 12 Jan.	Sderot is a city in Southern Israel that is often under rocket fire from Gaza. Many children in Sderot are traumatized. Pray for the children of Sderot, for their traumas to be healed.
Wed 13 Jan.	Not long ago Facebook's Mark Zuckerberg announced that all content on Facebook denying the Holocaust will be classified as hate speech that will not be tolerated. Give thanks for this decision that could make a significant contribution to combatting Holocaust denial, especially if other social media platforms follow suit.
Thu 14 Jan.	The restoration of Israel and the battle for it among the nations is very much connected to the coming of Jesus and His Kingdom of peace and righteousness. Let's always keep this in mind when we pray for the future of Israel as a land and a people.
Fri 15 Jan.	The Jewish population of Europe is in sharp decline. At the moment the population is at the same level as one thousand years ago. In the past 50 years Europe lost 60% of its Jewish inhabitants. One reason is the increase in antisemitism. Pray for protection for the Jews of Europe.
Sat 16 Jan.	In 2020 over 16,000 Jews made aliyah. Aliyah has continued despite the corona crisis. Give thanks for this and pray that aliyah will continue.
Sun 17 Jan.	Pray for everyone who has made aliyah. Besides needing to learn a new language, they also have to find jobs. Pray that this will go well.
Mon 18 Jan.	In the beginning of November 140 young adults from Ukraine made aliyah to Israel. These olim left on a flight Christians for Israel sponsored to mark the organization's 40 th anniversary in 2020. Pray that these young adults will find their place in Israel and will be a blessing to the country.
Tue 19 Jan.	Pray for protection for Israel on all of its borders: the borders in the south, in the heartland and in the north. Pray that God's angels will be around Israel to turn away assaults.
Wed 20 Jan.	The fields surrounding towns in the south of Judea are regularly set on fire. This puts homes in danger and people have to evacuate. Things calm down somewhat in the winter but pray that these practices will stop for good.
Thu 21 Jan.	Pray for Israeli people living in southern towns near the Gaza Strip. These towns often have to deal with rocket attacks from Gaza. Pray for God's protection for these towns. Pray for the people living in Israeli towns in the heartland of Israel as well. They also have to deal with regular attacks by armed Palestinians.
Fri 22 Jan.	The Israeli navy successfully tested a new rocket system this past fall. Although there was no significant threat from the sea at that time, Israel wants to remain alert there as well. Pray from Israel's protection from any threat from the sea.
Sat 23 Jan.	Winter is the rainy season for Israel. Last winter there was significant rainfall which is very good for the country. At the same time the rain also brings the danger of flooding, especially in the south of the country. Last year seven people died due to such flooding. Pray that there will be less flooding and no casualties this year.

Sun 24 Jan.	"I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my loving eye on you." (Psalm 32:8) Recently the Israeli army discovered a very important terrorist tunnel in Southern Israel near the border with Gaza. Give thanks that this tunnel has been discovered and pray that threats like this one will always be detected in time.
Mon 25 Jan.	Give thanks for Christians for Israel's 20 th anniversary in Belgium. Thanks to the live streams many Christians in Flanders are being reached. Give thanks for these opportunities.
Tue 26 Jan.	Christians for Israel Tanzania recently organized a prayer week and many Christians from various churches participated. There were also Bible studies about the Biblical role of Israel. Give thanks for this initiative and pray for the team in Tanzania.
Wed 27 Jan.	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.
Thu 28 Jan. Tu BiShvat	Today is TuBiShvat (New Year of the Trees). This feast is based on Leviticus 19:23-25. It is a holiday on which children and adults plant trees or seedlings and fruit is eaten. Pray that this will be a year of good harvests for Israel.
Fri 29 Jan.	"Be patient then, brothers and sisters, until the Lord's coming." (James 5:7-8) Let us take this exhortation and encouragement to heart, and realize that we may be expecting Him Who will make all things new, especially in the restless time we live in.
Sat 30 Jan.	Today please pray for the field workers of Christians for Israel in Ukraine. They often have to do their work in exhausting and dangerous circumstances. Pray for the groups of volunteers that distribute food parcels in the Jewish communities.
Sun 31 Jan.	"Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours." (Mark 11:24) Pray that the international work of Christians for Israel will continue to grow. Pray that Christians for Israel teams will rise up in more countries and that through conferences and online work the message of God's faithfulness to His people will be spread even further.