

~ Prayer for Israel ~  
Shabbat, August 1, 2009  
Nebraska House of Prayer

*The Earnest Prayer of a Righteous Person has great Power and Wonderful Results. James 5:16*

"Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord." 1 Corinthians 15:58

**Brothers, my heart's desire and my prayer to God for the Israelites, that they may be saved. Rom. 10:1**

**- Hindrances to Prayer -**

a) **Anxiety:** Phil 4:6; b) **Disobedience:** Deut 1:43-45; Deut 3:26; 2 Sam 22:27, 41-42; Jer 11:10-11; Lam 3:8,39,41-44; Mic 3:4; c) **Doubt:** James 1:5-8; d) **Failure to Heed God's Law:** Prov 28:9; Zech 7:12-13; e) **Failure to Pray:** 1 Sam 12:23; Hos 7:7; James 4:2 f) **Failure to Remain in Jesus:** John 15:7; g) **Faithlessness:** Heb 11:6; h) **Forsaking God:** Chron 15:2; Prov 1:24-31; i) **Haughtiness:** Job 35:12; James 4:6 & 10; j) **Hypocrisy:** Ps 78:36 & 37; Ezek 33:31; Matt 15:1-9; Mark 12:38-40; k) **Idolatry:** Jer 11:10, 11 & 14; Ezek 14:1-3; Ezek 20:31; Zeph 1:4-6; l) **An Improper Husband-Wife Relationship:** 1 Pet 3:7; m) **Insincerity:** Deut 4:29; n) **Irreverence:** Mal 1:7-10; o) **Losing Heart:** Luke 18:1; p) **Meaningless Repetition:** Matt 6:7; q) **Praying Contrary to God's Will:** 1 John 5:14; r) **Pretentiousness:** Matt 6:5; s) **Refusal to Help the Poor:** Prov 21:13; t) **Selfishness:** James 4:3; u) **Self-Righteousness:** Luke 18:9-14; v) **Sleepiness:** Matt 26:40-44; w) **Unconfessed Sin:** Ps 66:18; Isa 59:1-2; John 9:31; James 4:8; x) **Unfaithfulness:** Hos 5:6 & 7; Mal 2:11-14; y) **An Unforgiving Spirit:** Matt 6:14 & 15; Mark 11:25; z) **Wickedness:** Prov 1:24-31; Prov 15:8; Prov 15:29; Isa 1:15 & 16; Isa 59:1-2

**Why we pray for Israel:** Israel is still the apple of God's eye and His inheritance, close to His heart (*Psa.148:14; Zech.2:8; Deut.32:8-11; Rom.11:29; Psa.33:11-12*); God commands us to give Him and ourselves no rest until He establishes Jerusalem and makes her the praise of the earth (*Isa.62:1,6-7*); God commands us to seek the spiritual and physical good of the Israeli people and to pray for the peace of Jerusalem (*Psa.122:4,6-9; Rom.15:25-27; 1:16; 2:9-11*)

**TEACHING: Tisha B'Av – The 9<sup>th</sup> of Av, sunset July 29<sup>th</sup>** is the saddest day on the Jewish calendar. On this day, the first temple in Jerusalem was destroyed by the Babylonians some 2,500 years ago. On this same day, the second temple was destroyed by the Romans close to 2,000 years ago. Throughout Jewish history, this day has been marked by suffering and anti-Semitism. The expulsion decree issued by King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella of Spain in 1492, which forced all the Jews of Spain to flee or convert to Christianity took effect on the 9th of Av. Some of the most horrible Crusade massacres of Jewish communities took place on the same day. On the 9th of Av we also read the book of Lamentations, that terribly poignant description of the destruction of the First Temple written by Jeremiah, an eye-witness to the events he describes. The Book of Lamentations begins with the Hebrew word "Eicha" meaning "how?" We chant the Book of Lamentations out loud in the synagogue, sitting on the floor with the lights dimmed and the tune used is an ancient, mournful one. **Spoken by a Jewish man,** "I understood that this was exactly how we are supposed to mourn the Temple on Tisha B'Av. We are supposed to cry over the loss of the unity and peace throughout the entire world. We are supposed to lament the disappearance of the Divine Presence and holiness from our lives in Israel. We are supposed to be pained by the destruction of our spiritual center, which served to unify the entire Jewish nation. We're supposed to feel as if something very precious has been taken away from us forever. We are meant to cry, to be shocked and angry, to break down. We are supposed to mourn over the destruction of the Temple, to cry over a magnificent era that has been uprooted from the face of the earth. The incredible closeness that we had with God -- that feeling that He is truly within us -- has evaporated and disappeared into thin air. On this day we fast and pray, we remember our terrible history and ask G-d to bring Messiah and rebuild the Temple as quickly as possible."

**Prayer Focus: That the Jewish people would return to God and cry out for the Messiah;** "And I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and supplication. They will look on me, the one they have pierced, and they will mourn for him as one mourns for an only child, and grieve bitterly for him as one grieves for a firstborn son. **Zechariah 12:10;** I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob' **Matthew 22:32;** Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days." **John 2:19;** "If you will return, O Israel, return to me," declares the LORD. "If you put your detestable

idols out of my sight and no longer go astray, **Jeremiah 4:1**; I will give them a heart to know **me**, that I am the LORD. They will be my people, and I will be their God, for they will return to me with all their heart. **Jeremiah 24:7**; "Even now," declares the LORD, "return to me with all your heart, with fasting and weeping and mourning." **Joel 2:12**; Therefore tell the people: This is what the LORD Almighty says: 'Return to me,' declares the LORD Almighty, 'and I will return to you,' says the LORD Almighty. **Zechariah 1:3**; This is what the LORD says— your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel: "**I am** the LORD your God, who teaches you what is best for you, who directs you in the **way** you should go. **Isaiah 48:17**; He humbled you, causing you to hunger and then feeding you with manna, which neither you nor your fathers had known, to teach you that man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD. **Deuteronomy 8:3**; You gave your good Spirit to instruct them. You did not withhold your manna from their mouths, and you gave them water for their thirst. **Nehemiah 9:20**; he rained down manna for the people to eat, he gave them the grain of heaven. Psalm 78:24; Then Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty. John 6:35; This is the bread that came down from heaven. Your forefathers ate manna and died, but he who feeds on this bread will live forever." **John 6:58**

**Prayer Focus: For the Messianic Congregations in Israel and the Diaspora:** That God would grant to congregations within Israel and the Diaspora: boldness and passion for the Son of God (*Eph.6:18*); divine conviction falling on the preached word (*John 16:8*); unity among leadership (*John 17:21*; *Rom.15:7-8*); provision (financial, legislative, property) (*Rom.15:25-27*); That God would continue to establish peace and evangelism in Israel (*1 Tim.2:1-4*); That God would accomplish the spiritual return of the Jewish people to Messiah and the physical return of the Jewish people to the land of Israel (*Isa.49:5-6*)

**For the Church:** God's faithful servants would be moved to prayer and compassion over Israel's condition (*Psa.102:13-17*)

Current Happenings:

#### **1. True Peace in Israel:**

**Prayer Focus:**

Pray that the LORD will move strongly to put an end to this violence once and for all, bringing peace to those who live in the south of Israel, including the Palestinian people.

**Scripture:** “*And I will make you to this people a fortified bronze wall; and they will fight against you, but they shall not prevail against you; for I am with you to save you and deliver you, says the LORD. I will deliver you from the hand of the wicked, and I will redeem you from the grip of the terrible*” (Jeremiah 15:20–21).

#### **2. Senior Fatah Official: We Won't Recognize Israel**

**Prayer Focus:**

Pray that the Lord will move in defense of His people and His land, particularly impressing on the nations of the world what an impossible situation this creates for Israel as she desires peace and coexistence.

**Scripture:** “*Arise, O God, plead Your own cause; remember how the foolish man reproaches You daily. Do not forget the voice of Your enemies; the tumult of those who rise up against You increases continually*” (Psalm 74:22–23).

#### **3. EU to Penalize Exports from Settlements?**

**Prayer Focus:**

Pray that EU Court will rule in favor of Israel, setting a policy that will allow Israeli exports to reach European destinations without unfair or crippling taxes.

**Scripture:** “*Arise, O LORD, do not let man prevail; let the nations be judged in Your sight*” (Psalm 9:19).

#### **4. Israel Opens Gaza Crossing for Power Plant Equipment**

**Prayer Focus:**

Pray that relief will reach the Palestinian people who are suffering and in need; pray that the world will recognize the efforts of the nation of Israel to cooperate in bringing them assistance.

**Scripture:** “*I know that the LORD will maintain the cause of the afflicted, and justice for the poor*” (Psalm 140:12).

## **5. US to Israel: Curtail Growth in Judea/Samaria/and East Jerusalem**

The special U.S. envoy to the Middle East, George Mitchell has spearheaded U.S. President Barack Obama's efforts to pressure Israel into a construction freeze in Judea and Samaria, but Netanyahu has so far maintained that building for 'natural increase' must be allowed. U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton reportedly told EU officials last week that Israel would soon agree to a freeze. *Whoever curses you, I will curse. (Genesis 12:3)*

**Prayer Focus:** Pray for an end to the unreasonable and unfair pressure from the US and other nations intended to control growth and development within the nation of Israel and particularly in the city of Jerusalem.

**Scripture:** *"In that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: 'Do not fear; Zion, let not your hands be weak. The LORD your God in your midst Mighty One, will save; He will rejoice over you with gladness, He will quiet you with His love, He will rejoice over you with singing'" (Zephaniah 3:16–17).*

## **6. Rumors of War: Iran's Nuclear Plants and Hezbollah in Lebanon**

U.S. Defense Secretary Robert Gates is expected to tell the Israelis that Obama is serious on ending Iran's nuclear program, and that his offer to Iran for negotiations is not open-ended. Revolutionary Guards said on Saturday that Iran would respond to an attack from Israel by hitting the country's nuclear facilities, state television station *Al Alam* reported. "If the Zionist Regime attacks Iran, we will surely strike its nuclear facilities with our missile capabilities," said Guards commander-in-chief Mohammad Ali Jafari. **Nasrallah threatens to hit Tel Aviv :** Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah says that his group will not hesitate to attack Tel Aviv should Israel strike the movement's stronghold in Beirut.

**Prayer Focus:** Pray that the Iranian nuclear program will be brought to a swift end; may the LORD intervene against those who admittedly desire to wipe Israel off the map.

**Scripture:** *"Do not keep silent, O God! Do not hold Your peace, and do not be still, O God! For behold, Your enemies make a tumult; and those who hate You have lifted up their head. They have taken crafty counsel against Your people, and consulted together against Your sheltered ones. They have said, 'Come, and let us cut them off from being a nation, that the name of Israel may be remembered no more'" (Psalm 83:1–4).*

*"Because, indeed, because they have seduced My people, saying, 'Peace !' when there is no peace — ..."* **Ezekiel 13:10** *Do not rejoice over me, my enemy; When I fall, I will arise; When I sit in darkness, The LORD will be a light to me. I will bear the indignation of the LORD, Because I have sinned against Him, Until He pleads my case And executes justice for me. He will bring me forth to the light; I will see His righteousness.* **Micah 7:8-9**

## **7. Heart-healing Seaweed Gel Gets US \$282 Million Deal**

### **Prayer Focus:**

Praise the LORD for this amazing development that potentially will save millions of lives; may the developers prosper and may the LORD receive glory as the originator of all healing.

**Scripture:** *"Bless the LORD, O my soul; and all that is within me, bless His holy name! Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits: Who forgives all your iniquities, who heals all your diseases" (Psalm 103:1–3).*

## **8. Genetically Altered Goats Could Help Fight Alzheimer's**

### **Prayer Focus:**

Pray for the success of this project; also pray that the international community will recognize the blessing that is theirs through the efforts of God's chosen people.

**Scripture:** *"I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name great; and you shall be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse him who curses you; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed" (Genesis 12:2–3).*

**9. New Israeli Ambassador Michael Oren presented his credentials to President Obama this week. His entry in the White House Guest Book that day is worth noting:** "As the grandson of Jewish immigrants who found shelter from oppression in this promising land; as the son of a World War II veteran who fought for freedom from Normandy to the Rhine; and as a scholar who studied and taught at some of America's premier institutions, I am honored to represent my ancestral homeland, the State of Israel, to the country of my birth." "For more than two hundred years, since the Founding Fathers considered making Moses and the Exodus the Great Seal of the Republic, the revival of the Jewish state has been a cherished American dream. John Adams, Abraham Lincoln, Woodrow Wilson, Theodore Roosevelt, and, of course, Harry Truman—all were champions

of Jewish statehood in the Land of Israel.” “This legacy is now yours, Mr. President, and I pledge my paramount efforts to join you in upholding the historic United States-Israel alliance.”

**Prayer Focus:** Paul’s admonition to pray “*for kings and those in authority, that we might live peaceable a quiet lives in all godliness and holiness.*” (I Timothy 2:1-2).

**Scripture** God says: “*My son, if you accept my words and store up my commands within you, turning your ear to wisdom and applying your heart to understanding, and if you call out for insight and cry aloud for understanding, and if you look for it as for silver and search for it as for hidden treasure, then you will understand the **fear of the LORD** and find the knowledge of God. For the LORD gives wisdom, and from his mouth come knowledge and understanding.*” (Proverbs 2:1-6).

**10. Prayer Focus: Pray for the IDF and the Borders of Israel:** Messianic Jews in Israel launch special pre-army program: The IDF is drafting thousands of new recruits into its ranks this summer, including about 150 highly motivated Messianic Jewish believers, some 28 of whom recently participated in a pre-army prep program started by Messianic veterans called Netsor (Hebrew for "to guard"). For Messianic Jews, military service in the IDF is not only a mandatory civil duty, it is a religious obligation right out of the New Testament. The program teaches the young people about to enter the IDF what the Bible says about military service, including the admonition of *Romans (13:1-7)* not to resist political authority, because it is "the ordinance of God." *Colossians (3:22-23)* also teaches that a believer in Jesus must strive to be a faithful servant of one's superiors, not for personal aggrandizement but to serve God. "I am a soldier of God," Boris, a young Israeli believer headed for an elite combat unit, told *The Jerusalem Post*. "I will do my best during my service in the IDF to serve God spiritually and physically."

**Netanyahu’s son joins the IDF:** The eldest son of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu began his three-year enlistment in the IDF and will report for duty. Although there were reports that, like most Israeli kids, he wanted to be in a combat unit like his father was, his father’s status and the fact that 18 year-old Yair Netanyahu must be accompanied by a bodyguard would have made his participation in a combat unit difficult, as he would almost certainly have been the target of kidnapping attempts and other dangers. *Pray that he will come into contact with believers.*

**IDF celebrates 61 years since founding** “The IDF is in the best imaginable condition,” said Peres. “If we were told when the country was established that we would have to fight in nine battles, and we aren’t allowed to lose them, we would probably despair. However, to the contrary, the IDF prevailed and held its own.”

**Scripture:** Those who *trust in the LORD* are like Mount Zion, Which cannot be moved, but abides forever. As the mountains surround *Jerusalem*, So the LORD surrounds His people From this time forth and forever. **Psalms 125:1-2**

**11. Prayer Focus: For the Arab population in Israel and throughout the world to fall in love with the God of the Bible and be reconciled with the Jewish people.** *For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16* Pray for God-fearing visionary leadership. “Where are the God-fearing individuals of visionary greatness and deep commitments to truth and non-violence? According to a senior British official, Palestinians are the world’s largest per capita recipients of foreign aid. Yet corruption and mismanagement by their leaders have siphoned off too much from the intended recipients.” David Harris, Executive Director, American Jewish Committee (AJC) A Muslim civil liberties group is launching a campaign to hand out 100,000 free copies of an expensive Arabic-English copy of the Qur'an to our American elected officials and influential policy makers. The Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) and the group's executive director said the project was inspired after hearing people in his office heard Obama's speech to the Muslim world last month, in which Obama talked about seeking "a new beginning between the United States and Muslims around the world." **Scripture:** (Isaiah 5:20-21) *Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; Who put darkness for light, and light for darkness; Who put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter! Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes, And prudent in their own sight!*

**Pray for: ~ Nebraska Family Council Israel Prayer Tour ~ May 12-24, 2010**