

SAMPLE PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN CHURCHES — for Israel and the Return of the Hostages —

Father, we come before You as Isaiah 62 watchmen on the walls of Jerusalem to lift up the people of Israel to You this day. We join our prayers to theirs on this Weekend of Prayer for protection, deliverance, and victory. As watchmen we will not hold our peace day or night and will give You no rest until Your work is done and You have established Jerusalem a praise in the earth.

Lord, we pray first for the government of Israel, especially Prime Minister Netanyahu, the Cabinet, the Knesset, and every advisor. We pray that You would shine Your light and truth upon Israel's leaders and grace them with Your wise counsel.

Lord, please bless and supernaturally strengthen the Israel Defense Forces in body, mind, and spirit. Protect and rescue them from every trouble or distress as they go forth to defend their families and eradicate this terrorist enclave on their border. Help them preserve innocent lives and give their leaders divine strategies as You did David and his mighty men.

We also lift up each hostage to You. Father, safeguard and preserve the captives, shower compassion on them, deliver them from darkness, remove them from their bondage, heal their wounds, and return them speedily to their families. We pray according to Isaiah 35:10 that they will return "with singing unto Zion; they will obtain gladness and joy and sorrow and sighing shall flee away."

Father, the people of Israel are grieving. They have lost mothers, fathers, children, and friends. Entire communities have been destroyed. Many have been assaulted and are suffering from deep trauma. Lord, we ask that according to Isaiah 51:3 You comfort Your people, Israel.

We also acknowledge that many innocents are caught in the crossfire of this war both in Israel and in Gaza. Lord, we pray for them. We pray that You would give them the grace to call out to You amid the horrors of war. We ask for supernatural encounters that will bring peace and salvation. Let Your love and light be known even in the darkest of places.

Lord, the enemy is a liar and the father of all lies. We are seeing his lies disseminated in the press, the United Nations, on college campuses, on social media, and everywhere humanity is providing him with a platform. Lord, we ask You to shut down every lying tongue that would seek to justify this violence and carnage against Israel and the Jewish people.

We declare that no weapon formed against Your people will prosper, and every tongue that rises against them we condemn. Father, give people a hunger for truth—and amplify the voices of truth wherever they are found.

Lord, You instruct us to pray for our enemies, so we lift up the terrorists who perpetrated this terrible massacre and are so filled with the poison of rage and deception that they seek to destroy and will be destroyed by it. We pray that any heart seeking truth will find You and will be given the chance to repent and turn from their evil ways.

Lord, we also lift up the Jewish people of the diaspora—those in our country. We ask that You protect them according to Psalm 91. We also pray that as the spirit of antisemitism is raising its ugly head, as not seen in our generation, Your people Israel would seek You for their encouragement and comfort. May our prayers and support bring comfort to them that they are not alone.

Lord, in accordance with Psalm 122:6–9, we pray for the peace of Jerusalem and that all who love her would be secure in this hour.

Finally, we join our Jewish friends in affirming that the Lord God of Israel is King and His dominion is absolute. Oh Lord, above all, be glorified as the God who takes what the enemy meant for evil and turns it for good.

In Your mighty name we pray. Amen.