

Israel Prayer Calendar

February - March 2018



CHRISTIANS FOR
ISRAEL
INTERNATIONAL

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Shalom,

We live in extraordinary times! This year Israel celebrates 70 years of independence. Recently the U.S. has announced that it will move its embassy to Jerusalem, confirming that the U.S. sees Jerusalem as the capital of Israel. This provides the correct frame of reference for the coming peace talks. The former frame of reference, "land for peace", has been proven a lie based on its results. Israel has given up land, but received war and terror in return. The Palestinian population is being oppressed by their government. Christians are being driven out of Palestinian territories.

You can read in 2 Chronicles 36:9, 10 just how important the period of 70 years is for Israel and for Jerusalem. Jeremiah prophesied about it in Jeremiah 25:11b - 14 and in Jeremiah 29:10-14. In Ezra 1:1-4 we read about its fulfillment. Amazing! A period of 70 years was prophetically important then and it still is today. Let us watch for an Israel that lives in obedience to God, for a Palestinian population that takes the correct attitude towards Israel, and freedom for the church of Jesus Christ in the Palestinian territories. May the Lord bless you in intercession for this.

Pieter Bénard
Prayer coordinator

February 2018

Thursday 1 February

Pray for the Christians for Israel International conference, which will be held in the Netherlands through February 4th. "Twelve Theses on Israel" will be one topic of discussion. Pray that this Biblical perspective on Israel will be applied in practical education and encouraging activities in the branches worldwide.

Friday 2 February

According to the American ambassador to Israel, David Friedman, there are three points of concern regarding Iran. 1) Iran as a nuclear power that threatens to destroy Israel. 2) Iran as a state that sponsors global terror. 3) Iran as a regional super power that fills the vacuum left by the defeat of IS through Iraq, Syria, and Yemen. These are a good reason to pray for Israel and the Middle East.

Saturday 3 February Sabbath

The state of water resources in Israel is so dire after five very dry years that the levels of Lake Tiberius and the Dead Sea are alarmingly low. Intercede for this serious situation (Jeremiah 10:13 and James 5:17, 18).

Sunday 4 February

There is a Biblical link between confession of sins and receiving rain (1 Kings 8:35, 36). During a time of prayer for rain at the Wailing Wall in Jerusalem one rabbi commented, "I am glad that people are praying in faith and have brought umbrellas." Pray and give thanks that Israelis are confessing sins and looking for an answer from the Lord.

Monday 5 February	The world is not interested in hearing it, but there is a Biblical link between a person does and what he receives as a result of his actions (Galatians 6:7, 8). In the same way we can see objectively how Israel relates to the Lord God, and the Lord God relates to Israel in response. Let this motivate you to pray for Gods people.
Tuesday 6 February	Will you pray for the developing contacts with the Palestinian Authority? Pray that the talks will take place directly, with minimal mediation from other countries. Also pray for a limitation of Iran's influence.
Wednesday 7 February	Pray for Koen & Ira Carlier, our field workers in the Ukraine. Together with their team they do essential work for the Aliyah movement. It is extraordinary that all over the world, from Oceania to Uganda and from U.S.A. to the Netherlands, people are praying for the return of Israel (Zephaniah 3:20).
Thursday 8 February	With all of the commotion around Jerusalem the words from Zachariah 12:2,3 become very up-to-date. Jerusalem is like a cup of trembling for all the peoples around Jerusalem and like a heavy stone for all the peoples. We can remind the Lord God of these words. He will achieve His purpose. Thank God for his salvation and protection (verses 7 and 8).
Friday 9 February	Ds. Willem J.J. Glashouwer recently gave Biblical teaching about Israel in Vietnam. Pray that this teaching may continue to take root. The conference in Vietnam was a great miracle! Also give thanks for the conferences in Australia, New Zealand, and in the Pacific Islands, where Andrew Tucker is active for Christians for Israel.
Saturday 10 February Sabbath	Will you please pray for the English translations of two of Willem Glashouwer's books in the coming time? Their titles are 'Signs of the Times' and 'The book of Revelation'. As soon as these translations are finished the translations to other languages can be started.
Sunday 11 February	Follow the current developments in Israel and Jerusalem, read the words of the prophets and the words of Jesus and allow the Holy Spirit to inspire you so that they can inform your prayers.
Monday 12 February	In 2016 164 Turkish Jews made aliyah to Israel. Last year there were more than 350. Islamic Turkey under president Erdogan turns a blind eye to anti-Semitism. Pray for protection for the Turkish Jews and possibilities for aliyah.
Tuesday 13 February	Pray for Israel from Psalm 25:22 "Redeem Israel, O God, out of all his troubles" and from Psalm 129:5 "May all who hate Zion be put to shame and turned backward."
Wednesday 14 February	Give thanks that the move of the American embassy to Jerusalem has sent a clear signal that Jerusalem is the capital of Israel. Pray that talks will take place with the Palestinian Authority that will provide a clear outcome for all parties.
Thursday 15 February	Give thanks that after the intense protests of ultraorthodox Jews last year, the community center of the Messianic congregation in Dimona was reopened a few months ago. Pray for safety and peace for the Messianic congregations in Israel.
Friday 16 February	At the end of last year batteries of the Iron Dome rocket shield system were placed around heavily populated areas in central Israel, just as they have been in the north and south. Pray for protection from Israel's enemies (Psalm 69:14).
Saturday 17 February Sabbath	Intercede for the Jewish population of Israel, specifically for the Holocaust survivors who in their old age once again experience their existence being threatened while most of the world turns a blind eye.
Sunday 18 February	Thanks to the UN it is abundantly clear how the nations view Israel. The Talmud says, "He who is merciful to the violent will eventually become indifferent to the innocent." Pray that the indifference in the world towards Israel will be changed to severe indictment of those who demean Israel and desire to wipe Israel out by force.
Monday 19 February	According to reports from the Israeli Health Institute 1,8 million Israelis were living below the poverty line last year. Pray for this shocking situation. Much of the budget goes towards the essential protection and defense of the nation, which means cutbacks have to be made on other expenditures that are also badly needed.
Tuesday 20 February	Continue to pray for the protection of the south of Israel. In the past three years 30 tunnels under Israeli soil, dug from Gaza, were discovered and collapsed. Pray that schools and hospitals will be built in Gaza instead of terrorist tunnels.

Wednesday 21 February	When we pray for Israel and the nations, Jeremiah 33:7-9 is a special passage. God is bringing Israel back from captivity. He is cleansing them from unrighteousness. The passage says that the nations will hear of the good that God does for Israel. When the nations hear what God does for Israel, they hear His Word!
Thursday 22 February	Years ago the book, 'Israel, you can't get around it!' was published in the Netherlands. Many countries in Europe and North and South America have experienced this firsthand, but so have countries in the former Soviet Union, Africa, and Asia. Pray that Arab countries may discover this as well!
Friday 23 February	Frank Gaffney of the American 'Center for Security Policy' says this about Iran's involvement in Middle Eastern politics: "This is not a chess game, but a shifting of tectonic plates! Iran is trying to form a Shiite Crescent, in a continuous stretch from the southern end of the Red Sea through Yemen, via Iran, Iraq, Syria and Lebanon to the Mediterranean." This Crescent surrounds the state of Israel. Pray that God intervenes as He did in the time of Queen Esther.
Saturday 24 February Sabbath	Thank the Lord for His unfailing Word. Psalm 69:35, 36 is an example of this. Words like saving, rebuilding, living, possessing, descendants, and inheritance mean exactly what is written.
Sunday 25 February	We see the physical reality, but are also involved in a spiritual battle. The spiritual power over the UN for example is a prince who is close to the 'prince of this world' (John 14:30). Also see Ephesians 2:2b. Watch and pray.
Monday 26 February	The Israeli prime minister Netanyahu has said multiple times that secret talks are taking place with other countries in the region. He said, "I believe that the day is coming when they will bear fruit." Pray for these developments and that God will achieve His purpose.
Tuesday 27 February	Sometimes even some Jews think that God does not keep His promises (Psalm 77:7-9). The answer can be found in Psalm 31:22. We can pray together with them and look forward to the fulfillment of His promises.
Wednesday 28 February	Egypt has the largest Christian population in the Middle East. President al-Sisi tries to make a good impression on the West by occasionally visiting a church, but the Muslim Brotherhood has a strong influence in the country. Pray for Christians in Egypt, such as those in the Coptic Church.

March 2018

Thursday 1 March	It is always fascinating for us as Christians today to read the book of Esther on Purim, just as Jews do in the synagogue. Persia is present-day Iran. Even though the country's name has changed, the urge to destroy the Jewish people is as strong as ever. Pray that God will intervene in a spectacular way as He did centuries ago.
Friday 2 March	Continue to pray for the situation in the south of Israel along the Sinai Desert (Egyptian) border and along the border with the Gaza Strip. There is still much unrest and tension in these border areas.
Saturday 3 March Sabbath	Pray for Israel today using Psalm 33:10,11, "The LORD brings the counsel of the nations to nothing; he frustrates the plans of the peoples. The counsel of the LORD stands forever, the plans of his heart to all generations."
Sunday 4 March	It is encouraging to read 2 Chronicles 32. Jerusalem was in danger because Sennacherib (the king of Assyria) had laid siege to the city to capture it. But then the tables are turned. 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.
Monday 5 March	Pray for protection for Jewish communities worldwide. In Germany many Jews no longer dare to wear a yarmulke and in the Netherlands many Jews do not feel at home anymore.

Tuesday 6 March	Being a watcher, staying alert, interceding... It is not always easy. What we need is discipline, patience, and faith. Continue to intercede. The Lord is your strength!
Wednesday 7 March	It is wonderful to read Isaiah 41:17-20. Man seeks and God answers. He does expect us to see, know, consider, and understand that He has done and created everything. This is also how we can look at the restoration of Israel and give thanks for it.
Thursday 8 March	Chuck Cohen from Jerusalem and director of Intercessors for Israel says, "Both the Old Testament (the Tenakh) and the New Testament are founded on one Bible verse. 'In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.' Because if God has not created everything, what does the rest of the Bible matter?" Give thanks that we have been allowed to believe in the unity of God's Word and thus intercede for Israel.
Friday 9 March	The first verses of Zechariah 12 relate to Chuck Cohen's quote (from yesterday's prayer point). Verse 1: The Lord stretches out the heavens and lays the foundation of the earth. Verse 2: Jerusalem is a cup of trembling for the surrounding peoples. Let us pray to the Creator of heaven and earth to complete His purpose for His people Israel and the city of Jerusalem.
Saturday 10 March Sabbath	Give thanks that we at Christians for Israel are able to reach many pastors and other Christians with our publications, pastors' conferences, the pastors' trips, and preaching on Sundays. Pray for the important development of this ministry.
Sunday 11 March	Read Ezra 10. Ezra was a priest and Biblical scholar who taught the people after their return from exile. He led them to turn back the institutions of their God. Ezra was an example in prayer and confession. Give thanks that the Jews who return to Israel are learning more about who God is.
Monday 12 March	"Christians pay the highest price for the Arab spring", claims Nabeel Yousef of TWR Middle East. "Where dictators have been driven out, Muslim extremists seize power and Christians are oppressed." Pray for the Christian communities in the Middle East.
Tuesday 13 March	Lebanon, a relatively stable nation, is undergoing rapid Islamization. In the past, 50% of the population was Christian; now it is just 20%. Pray for our brothers and sisters in Lebanon, that they may continue to trust in Jesus and stay strong in their faith. Pray that besides the New Testament they may also read the Old Testament and discover Israel.
Wednesday 14 March	While European countries have a hard time with the status of Jerusalem, the Saudi academic Abdulhameed Hakeem calls on the Arab world to accept Jerusalem as a holy city for the Jews. Pray that this call may gain authority in the Arab world!
Thursday 15 March	Pray for the powers of spiritual misdirection in Israel to be broken. Many Israelis are trying to find peace and comfort in the New Age movement, astrology, fortune telling, and various forms of meditation. Pray that they may lay this aside, turn towards God, and find Him.
Friday 16 March	Pray for the power of death to be broken in the Palestinian areas. Terrorists know that after their death or during their imprisonment their families will receive government benefits because they are the family of an Islamic martyr (Isaiah 5:20, 21).
Saturday 17 March Sabbath	Give thanks that when Israel returns to their land the Lord God is there with them! Even when we do not understand all that is happening in and around Israel we can trust in Him. Jeremiah 31:13 says, "I will turn their mourning into joy; I will comfort them."
Sunday 18 March	In Nehemiah 1:4b we read his reaction on receiving the report of the desolation of the city of Jerusalem. "I...mourned for days, and I continued fasting and praying before the God of heaven." In chapter 2 verse 4 we also read that Nehemiah responded to the circumstances with prayer. Let us as intercessors also respond with prayer to that which happens to the people and nation of Israel.
Monday 19 March	Pray that our solidarity with Israel may add to our longing expectance of the return of our Savior Jesus.
Tuesday 20 March	After the Oslo Accords of 1993 many countries have taken up diplomatic relations with Israel in hopes of a permanent peace. Pray that although there is no peace agreement with the Palestinians yet the diplomatic relations will stay strong. Israel has much to offer to other countries!

Wednesday 21 March	Will you please pray for the volunteers and employees of Christians for Israel worldwide? People from C4I affiliates around the world are focused on Jerusalem, the city of the great King, clearly bringing forward Jesus, the Jewish people, and the restored nation of Israel.
Thursday 22 March	Hundreds of times God's Word speaks about the return of Israel, <i>Aliyah</i> . Keywords in this are: <i>restore</i> (your fortune), <i>bring back</i> (to your land), <i>return</i> (to the Lord your God). Thank God for the continuing Aliyah.
Friday 23 March	Naim and Elvira Khoury, who are supported by Christians for Israel, are a husband and wife pastoral team in a Christian congregation in Bethlehem. Pray for God's presence and protection in their lives.
Saturday 24 March Sabbath	Watchfulness is a prerequisite to prayer. Being a watcher or lookout involves alertness. Let us respond with intercession and thanksgiving to the events that we see taking place in Israel.
Sunday 25 March	"When Israel went out of Egypt, the house of Jacob from a people of a strange language, Judah was His sanctuary, Israel His dominion" (Psalm 114:1,2). Give thanks that just as centuries before Israel is once again returning to her own land, fulfilling the words of the Biblical prophets.
Monday 26 March	For years Franz Laslo and his wife have sold Israeli products in Schorndorf, Germany. Last year shots were fired at their store. The couple feels threatened. Pray for protection for them, but also for other Jews and Christians who sell Israeli products.
Tuesday 27 March	Please pray for the trips to Israel that are being organized by Christians for Israel affiliates. Pray that God may touch the hearts of the participants of the various nations. We believe that Israel will be blessed by all peoples (Psalm 11, Romans 15:10, 11).
Wednesday 28 March	Give thanks for the tulip bulbs that Christians for Israel Netherlands distributed all over Israel last year and are now brightening the Israeli landscape (Isaiah 40).
Thursday 29 March	Through Christians for Israel's international affiliates there has been much sowing of the Biblical message about Israel in the past years. Examples of this sowing are conferences, preaching, education, and distribution of books and DVDs via the internet. Pray that it may all fall in good soil and for a rich harvest (Matthew 13:1-9).
Friday 30 March Good Friday	Reading about the Lord Jesus' capture, crucifixion, and passion in Jerusalem is always compelling. The same goes for the words written above the cross, "This is the King of the Jews" (Luke 23:33-49). This makes us conscious of what Jesus did for us.
Saturday 31 March Sabbath	The observance of Passover through April 6 th is a time of sadness (Exodus 2:23), but also a time of joy (Exodus 6:5-7). The attitude of many nations today is the same as that of Egypt then. Pray for Israel and the nations and that God will complete His purpose.