

THE CHALLENGE OF PRAYING IN TIME OF WAR

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in Jerusalem.

*(This article written in the midst of battle in
Gaza is still applicable as we enter but a 'lull'
in the on-going war - Ed.)*

If you were living during the Second World War and did not yet know all the atrocities that Hitler committed would you have been able to hear the Lord ask you to pray for Him to pull the German army into Russia, knowing that it would cost millions of lives and untold suffering? This is precisely what Reese Howells and his group of intercessors heard from the Lord and prayed. The result is well known; the German army was decimated in Russia and never recovered. Many millions of lives were lost, but God saved the world from a much worse blood bath, and Israel from annihilation; for that was Hitler's plan – to come down into Palestine and finish the Jews off.

London's Telegraph withdrew its 'support' of Israel in the current operation because *"There comes a point beyond which an operation of this sort becomes... morally unjustifiable,"* it said. *"The humanitarian crisis in Gaza is so severe that a cease-fire is essential, irrespective of whether Israel feels it has achieved its military objectives."* *"By this logic,"* writes David Horowitz, editor in chief for Jerusalem Post, *"Britain should have thrown in the towel in its war against Germany by September 18, 1939 - 17 days into WWII. Instead, Winston Churchill fought*

on for five long years at an awful - but morally justifiable - cost in Allied and enemy civilian lives."

Praying in time of war can be a real challenge; it takes a real knowledge of God and His purposes, to be able to stand before Him until those purposes are fulfilled. But most of the Church is used to walking in compromise with the World and its spirit of Humanism so much so, that it can only utter half hearted diluted prayers for 'some kind of good' to come out of this for 'both sides'.

Yet, the purposes of God are clear. The Bible clearly shows that the restoration of Israel and its salvation involves not just a spiritual side. Israel's restoration to the Land is physical also in God's dealing with her enemies. Why is this important? Because there is salvation in no other but Yeshua, the King of Israel. Zechariah 12 shows both sides of this very clearly. Read this chapter and you will see one other thing; that God both fights for Israel and uses her to fight her enemies as well. (Zechariah 12:6 - 8) The result will be that the nations around us will know clearly that He alone is God, and many will turn to Him (Ezekiel 36:35-36) If you need more background, read Ezekiel 35 and 36, you will find the same two points there.

Are you ready to boldly stand before the Lord and pray for Israel's salvation from its enemies? (Below you will find how to pray for Hamas and for the innocent civilians it is holding captive as human shields). Please note that we are not trying to cover every aspect of praying for everything, but only sharing those points the Lord is emphasizing to us at this time.

Prayers for Israel's Leadership and for God's overruling authority

"In that day will I make the governors of Judah like an hearth of fire among the wood, and like a torch of fire in a sheaf; and they shall devour all the people round about, on the right hand and on the left: and Jerusalem shall be inhabited again in her own place, even in Jerusalem." Zechariah 12:6 Notice that the focus of this verse is connected with the welfare of Jerusalem and her wellbeing.

1. Father, we ask you to put fire, conviction and vision in our leaders' heart. Strengthen them to withstand the world's pressures and lead them to do what is in your purpose at this time.
2. We pray that you will give our leaders the courage to do what is necessary to defeat the Hamas so that both peoples, the Jews and the Palestinians are free from that death loving and death dealing spirit.
3. Lord, as the King of Israel and the one who bears the governmental authority over Israel on your shoulders (Isaiah 9:6), overrule any decisions that are not of you; lead your people to triumph and salvation.

Prayer for the war on the ground

"Moab is my wash pot; over Edom will I cast out my shoe; over Philistia will I triumph." (Psa 108:9)

4. Lord, give Israel a tangible, strategic and specific victory on the field so that Hamas despairs from its purpose; to destroy Israel. Don't let this war be for naught, as terrible as it is, let it accomplish your full purposes through it.
5. Lord may the nations around us and of all the earth know that you alone are God at the end of this war.

Praying for our enemies and for the Palestinians caught in between

Someone asked me my opinion of how to pray for our enemies (Hamas). Musab Hassan, a former member of Hamas, said there will never be lasting peace between Israel and Hamas. *"The Hamas leadership, including my father, they're responsible; they're responsible for all the violence that happened from the organization. I know they describe it as reaction to Israeli aggression, but still, they are part of it and they had to make decisions in those operations against Israel (for) which there was the killing of many civilians."*

There is one solution, and that is that many in Hamas will see the light as this young man and turn to the Savior who is also the King of Israel. That is the solution, that is God's desire and that is the only way.

Lord, we pray that you will reveal yourself to our enemies just as you revealed yourself to Musab Hassan. Lord, we remember that he had this revelation when he was under Israeli authority, in prison. Give thousands in Hamas this revelation as Israel's army is in Gaza.

Lord, break the hold of this terrible spirit that has invaded the Palestinian people and release them from this bondage.

Lord, let many in Hamas see the truth just as Musab Hassan did, let your truth free them from this terrible spirit, which so hates you and your people.

Father, preserve those innocent Palestinian populace who are being held captive by Hamas, let them despair from this path of death and turn to you, O living God.

Father, come to the Christians still left in Gaza and protect them, provide for them. Lord, breathe upon them and encourage them to stand before you in these difficult moments.