

Celebrate ISRAEL, God's Chosen

A 7-Day Interactive Prayer Guide for Israel by Intercessors for America



In 2018, Israel celebrates its 70th Anniversary as a modern Jewish state. Festivities throughout the nation are taking place, marking the amazing establishment and independence of Israel. The observances will also highlight “the tie between biblical Israel and modern Israel, the unbreakable bond between the modern State of Israel and ancient nationalism, between 2018 and biblical times, between heavenly Jerusalem and earthly Jerusalem,” according to the Israeli culture ministry. As our Israeli friends commemorate 70 years of their modern nation, **let's lift them up in prayer.**

Use the **prayer journal** on each page in this guide to jot down any insights and words from the Lord during your prayer time. Ask God to bring revelation of Himself as Messiah to them, and greater revelation of His heart for Israel to you.



7 Days of Prayer for the Jewish State and its People.

DAY ONE

Today, pray for Jewish people to know Christ as Messiah. Pray for revelation to understand that Jesus has come to make them whole in fulfillment of all the prophecies. Make notes below on what God reveals to you during your prayer time.

Zechariah 12:10 (NIV)—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.

White House Correspondent William Koenig, passionate about Israel, has spent years as a journalist chronicling the fulfillment of biblical prophecies, the current state of the American-Israeli relationship and events in Israel with a biblical perspective. He writes, “The fulfillment of Bible prophecy is always exciting to those who follow the news of the day closely, as we watch with great interest and expectation the Lord Jesus Christ’s return. In the meantime, let’s continue to use the greatest tool ever given, the Word of God, to point Jews and Gentiles to the hope that is only possible through Yeshua.”

Revelation 19:10—At this I fell at his feet to worship him. **But he said to me, “Don’t do that! I am a fellow servant with you and with your brothers and sisters who hold to the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For it is the Spirit of prophecy who bears testimony to Jesus.”**

Observant Jews are waiting for the Messiah—seeking and watching. They know from Old Testament prophecies about the coming of a Messiah who will deliver them—they just don’t recognize that it is Jesus. Pray for opportunities for Jewish people to understand the fulfillment of the prophecy in Christ and accept Him as Lord.

Prayer Journal Notes



DAY TWO

Pray for the protection of the Jewish people and Israel. Situated geographically among countries who are bent on their destruction, Israelis live in a state of constant alert. Pray for physical protection of the nation, its people, its defenses, and its land. Pray Genesis 12:3 today. Write down any spiritual insights you receive in the prayer journal section below.



Pray for America as Israel's Friend

Pray for the United States and our leaders to honor Israel and treat Israel with respect. Pray that every American administration would recognize Israel's independence as a nation, and act as a close ally.

Specifically lift up the current friendship between President Trump and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. As Scripture says in **Genesis 12:3**, those who bless Israel will be blessed by God. Those who curse Israel will be cursed. Pray for many more nations to follow the example of the U.S. by supporting Israel's nationhood and Jerusalem as capital.

Who are the 3 Biggest Threats to Israel?



Iran

Iran, and Supreme Leader Sayyid Ali Hosseini Khamenei, have made no secret of their desire for the demise of Israel. In fact, their position is that "the destruction of Israel is

non-negotiable." Iran cannot be satisfied with a peace agreement between Israel and others in the region because the only result suitable to them is total annihilation of the Israeli nation. Knowing that this nation, Iran's nearly successful pursuit of nuclear weapons poses a serious threat to Israel.



Hezbollah

Hassan Nasrallah is the Secretary General of Hezbollah, a terror organization pressing in on Israel from the north. Situated in southern Lebanon, Hezbollah,

which literally means "party of God" in Arabic, is the ruling faction there, and has, like Iran, made a pledge to "destroy Israel." With tunnels, bunkers, arms, and a large number of missiles ready across the border in Lebanon, Hezbollah is a very real threat to Israel in the north. Hezbollah is funded by Iran and Venezuela.



Hamas

Led by Khaled Mashal, operating in Palestinian territories, Hamas is an Islamic terror group with a singular focus: the destruction of Israel and its people. Hamas's

trademark suicide bombings, kidnappings, car bombings, and rocket launches into Israel are all methods of terror attacks that occur all too often. Enabled by cross-border tunnels from Palestinian settlements into Israel, these attacks are a constant drumbeat of violence for Israeli citizens, made possible by funds from Iran and Qatar.

Prayer Journal Notes

DAY THREE

Pray that anti-Semitism throughout the world would be challenged and not tolerated. Where there is hatred, pray for love. Where there has been injury, pray for pardon. Where there is prejudice, pray for acceptance. Pray Isaiah 41:12-13 today for Israel. Write down any spiritual insights you receive in the prayer journal section below.



Anti-Semitism still exists throughout the West

Nearly 75 years after the end of the Holocaust, a resurgence in anti-Semitism has risen in the world. Surprisingly, in western nations, anti-Jewish movements have gained a foothold and have grown. Here are two prevalent anti-Semitic efforts that exist beyond the Middle East and right in our own backyard.

The BDS Movement

BDS stands for “boycotts, divestments and sanctions” and is the worldwide anti-Semitic movement to harm Israeli businesses, products, and artists, as well as those who support them through targeted economic action. The BDS movement tries to link today’s Israeli policies for maintaining its statehood to racist South African Apartheid policies. They use terms like “ethnic cleansing” and “apartheid” to describe Israel’s statehood. Called the “Durban strategy,” the global movement to punish Israel for protecting its borders from Palestinian invasion extends far beyond the Middle East to many western nations, including the United States. You may have heard of musicians who have cancelled concert dates in Israel due to BDS pressure (Lorde, Coldplay), or pro-Israel spokespersons for Israeli products receiving pressure to step down due to aggressive BDS action (Scarlett Johansson for SodaStream). As stated by Dr. Mitchell Bard of The Jewish Virtual Library, the BDS has a “zero-sum approach to everything Israeli, they make no attempt to address issues of reconciliation and coexistence. Moreover, they do not acknowledge any Palestinian responsibility or accountability.” Some mainline American church denominations (including Presbyterian Church USA, United Church of Christ, the United Methodist Church, and the Mennonite Church of the USA) have divested their funds away from Israeli companies they say “impact Palestinian suffering.”

College Campuses

In addition to using BDS as a major catapult for anti-Semitic policies, swastika graffiti, smear campaigns on Zionist speakers or books, and physical threats against Jewish people are happening with [more frequency](#) on college campuses. The BDS movement is largely an economic movement, but the anti-Semitism that results from this worldwide crusade extends into teachers teaching false history about Israel, [exclusion of Jewish student organizations](#) on campus, and aligning [feminism](#) and other social justice efforts with support for Palestinians. “[Pinkwashing](#)” is an independent film made to portray *purported* LGBT institutional bias in Israel, a country that describes itself as LGBT-fair. The Pinkwashing movie has been shown on campuses across the nation to promote the false premise that oppression of gays is a parallel to “oppression” of Palestinians, attempting to ally gays (and blacks from Black Lives Matter) in an anti-Israeli movement disguised as general anti-oppression. This movie has been a tool to mobilize the LGBT community to rally against Israel.

Prayer Journal Notes

The United Nations

As a global body hostile to the nation of Israel, the United Nations has allowed terrorist nations and rogue groups to berate Israel—just for its existence. In fact, 30% of all UN General Assembly resolutions target the State of Israel. Author Shraga Simmons reports that “the UN General Human Rights Council has condemned the Jewish State more than the other 192 nations combined.”



U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations **Nikki Haley (above)** has been a welcome change as an outspoken friend to Israel in the United Nations. Pray for other nations to step out and defend Israel’s right to exist as well.



DAY FOUR

Pray for Aliyah, which is the coming home of Israelis around the world to resettle in their ancient homeland. Pray for those who make the journey to experience God's protective care in their travels to Israel. Pray Isaiah 43:5-7 over those relocating through Aliyah. Share your thoughts in the prayer journal box below.



John Hagee

John Hagee founded Christians United for Israel in 2006 as a way for American Christian churches to show support to the nation of Israel. Now, with membership of over 4 million people, CUFI is one of the largest pro-Israel organizations in the world. Educating believers on Israel, standing vocally in solidarity with Israel as an organization, and providing support for Israel through letter writing and email campaigns to Congressional members, CUFI's commitment to Israel is firm in an increasingly anti-Israel world.

What is Aliyah and why is it happening?

In 1948, 800,000 Jewish people lived in the land that became modern Israel. Today there are well over 6 million. Every year, Israel adds to its Jewish population through Aliyah—the “coming home” of the Israeli people to their biblical land. In the year 2015, 27,000 people made the immigration to Israel under the nation’s “Law of Return.” To make Aliyah means to move to Israel to become an Israeli citizen.

Operation Exodus USA operates to assist Jewish people who wish to make Israel their homeland. Debra Minotti, head of Operation Exodus USA, explains why Jews want to return “home.” Some are elderly and want to die in their homeland. Others are young and want to raise their family in the nation of their roots. Still others are hoping to be a part of defending Israel as a nation. Whatever the reason that Israel is calling them back, Operation Exodus USA and other groups like them, are helping Jews return.

“The Lord is working out His promises to Jewish people right before our very eyes. And we have yet to see the greatest and most glorious aspects of what He will do.” -Wendy Beckett



Debra Minotti

Head of Operation Exodus USA, a ministry that partners with the Jewish agency for Israel, and

other Jewish organizations, to help fund and organize the Aliyah of Jews all over the globe. As a Christian organization, they seek to bless God's chosen people by returning them home to their ancestral homeland. She sees it as an opportunity to work alongside God to fulfill His prophecies regarding the Jewish people. “It is deep joy and there's a cost to standing with Israel and it's intense, but I love it,” explains Minotti.



Richard Hellman

Attorney and Washington insider Richard Hellman created the **Christians' Israel Public Action Campaign**

(CIPAC) in 1989 as a means of representing the welfare of biblical Israel to our legislative bodies in the United States. In fact, it is the only publically registered lobby on behalf of Christians and Jews who recognize the people and state of Israel as the fulfillment of biblical prophecy. CIPAC carefully follows legislation that affects Israel, promoting the interests of the Israeli nation and obeying the biblical mandate to honor Israel.

Prayer Journal Notes

DAY FIVE

Pray for Messianic Jews, who know the truth about Christ and follow him as the Messiah. Pray for them as they worship Christ as Lord, the completion of their promise from God. Pray Colossians 1:9-12 for our Jewish brothers and sisters in Christ. Write a prayer for them in the journal box at the bottom of this page.



'Messianic Jews' recognize Christ as the Messiah!



Messianic Judaism is a movement of Jewish people who believe that Yeshua (Jesus's original name in Hebrew) is the Messiah of Israel and the Savior of the world. Messianic Judaism is not an alternative form of Judaism, but true biblical Judaism. Jews who have recognized the identity of Christ as Messiah are happy to share their discovery with other fellow Jews. The Messianic Movement is not new, but is again gaining steam, particularly in the US and in Israel. According to [Jewish Voice](#), "There is an inseparable connection between the Jewish People getting saved and the restoration of the nations. The Jewish People are not just another people group. They're the gauge of God's biblical timetable." Pray for our brothers

and sisters in Christ who are sharing the good news of the fulfillment of the prophecies to Jewish friends around them. Pray for their boldness for great fruit from their outreach, and for the increase in numbers in the nation of Israel. Jews for Jesus is one such organization that has a dynamic ministry to Jewish people, introducing them to the Messiah, and showing them how to integrate their Jewish traditions and roots with Christianity. Today, [David Brickner](#) (pictured above) leads Jews for Jesus USA.

Pray for these additional voices of Messianic Judaism today



Jonathan Bernis

As President and CEO of [Jewish Voices](#), a Messianic Jewish ministry, Bernis uses his own faith journey as a

Jewish Christian to reach out to Jews who have yet to recognize the fulfillment of the prophecies in Jesus. The goal of Jewish Voices is to see all of Israel saved for Christ. They have a multimedia approach for the message, as well as physical outreaches to meet the needs of hurting Jews in impoverished areas.



Rabbi Larry Feldman

The [Messianic Jewish Alliance of America](#) (MJAA) is the world's largest association of Jewish and non-Jewish believers in Christ, who have a

shared vision for Jewish revival. Rabbi Larry Feldman serves as President of MJAA. Their outreach methods include conferences, youth gatherings, concerts, and humanitarian aid. [Joel Chernoff](#) also serves on the Executive Board of MJAA as CEO and General Secretary.



Susan Michael

The American Christian Leaders for Israel (ACLI) is a project of the US branch of the [International Christian Embassy Jerusalem](#), which in the US is led by Susan Michael. The ACLI seeks to provide... "a unified voice of truth to the American public in support of Israel and the Jewish people."

The ACLI is a collective of Christian leaders who have a greater voice together than alone in their support of Israel. The campaign projects are targeted to demonstrate the strong support that the Israeli nation has in the Christian leadership community.

Prayer Journal Notes



DAY SIX

Pray for the government of Israel and its leaders. Pray for strong leadership in Prime Minister Netanyahu, and for honorable governance and for wise decisions by the Knesset. Pray the promises of Isaiah 35:5-10 over Israel and our world. Record your thoughts in the prayer journal box below.



Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu

Benjamin Netanyahu has been serving the Israeli people as Prime Minister for multiple terms. Formerly, he served as the Israeli Ambassador to the US, and as the Israeli Ambassador to the United Nations, head of the Conservative Likud Party, and Finance Minister. Pray for Netanyahu, who has an affection for the United States, a boldness to lead his nation in these perilous times, and a heart for the Israeli people. Pray for his family—wife Sara, sons Yair and Avner, as well as daughter Noa.

Pray for Israel’s governmental leaders.

Israel’s form of government is similar to that of the United States, in that there are three branches, Legislative, Executive, and Judicial. The Knesset is the sole elected governing body of the Legislative Branch, with representatives of multiple parties holding seats. The Executive Branch is headed by the governing leader, the Prime Minister. Ministers of specific areas of government serve under the Prime Minister, much like our U.S. secretaries of various departments. The Judicial Branch is similar to our court system. One difference is that Israel has both a President and a Prime Minister.



Reuven Rivlin

The President of Israel performs mostly ceremonial duties relating to the Jewish people around the world and the state of Israel.



Yuli Edelstein

Speaker of the Knesset Edelstein said in a speech recently, “The ‘first step’ of the prophesied redemption

for the Jewish people starts with Christian supporters of Israel.” Edelstein hails from Ukraine; he was a former Aliyah activist and Hebrew teacher in Moscow. He emigrated to Israel through Aliyah in 1987. His parents have converted to Christianity.



Yahuda Glick

American-born Knesset Member Yahuda Glick, member of the Likud Party, is keenly appreciative of the Christian friends of Israel in the United

States. He has called Christian supporters of Israel around the world “a miracle.” Glick was the target of a kidnapping and shooting by Hamas in 2014. Pray specifically for Glick who lost his wife Yafi to a massive stroke at the end of 2017.



Sharren Haskel

Sharren Haskel is a Knesset Member who has said that “to see the Christian support of Israel is an amazing, growing

phenomenon” and she is grateful for it. Pray for her and all the members of the Knesset.

Prayer Journal Notes

DAY SEVEN

Pray for the celebrations in Israel commemorating 70 years as a modern nation. Pray for continued protection of the nation of Israel, and for more nations to recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel. Pray for more allies to rise up in defense of Israel in the next 70 years! Pray Isaiah 60:3 for Israel. Write your thoughts in the journal box at the bottom of this page.



Celebrate 70 years of God's faithfulness to the tiny but mighty nation of Israel!

We know about biblical Israel from the Bible. Over many, many years, Israel, as a nation and a people, fell prey to conquering invaders. Many Jews fled, were forced to leave, or tried to stay under hostile rulers. Modern Israel is located roughly on the same site as the ancient land of the Israelites. In the late 1800s, with growing anti-Semitism around the globe, the Zionist movement began at the first Zionist Congress in 1897 in Switzerland. Theodore Herzl, an Austrian journalist, was one of the first leaders of the Zionist movement. His vision for a modern state of Israel was shared with secular and religious Jews around the world. The city of Tel Aviv was founded in 1909, after Jews began to congregate there through Aliyah. The Balfour Declaration in 1917 provided support and the facilitation of the creation of a national homeland for the modern Jewish people. After the devastation of the first and second world wars, the Aliyah movement grew, and emigration to Israel increased in greater numbers. In 1948, with much opposition from Palestinians, the nation of Israel was born.

Read more about God's faithfulness to the Israeli people and miracles in the founding of Israel [here](#).

Israel's Friends and Enemies By the Numbers

74 Percentage of Americans who have a favorable view of Israel

64 Percentage of Americans who say that between the two, their "sympathies" are more with Israel than the Palestinian Authority

21 Percentage of Americans who have a favorable view of the Palestinians

19 Percentage of Americans who sympathize more with the Palestinians

16 Percentage of Americans who sympathize with both

Source: A February 2018 Gallup poll of 1,044 U.S. adults

Prayer Journal Notes



The American Embassy in Jerusalem

The new American Embassy will be moving to Jerusalem from Tel Aviv in 2018 in recognition of the official capital of Israel. Although this has been promised by many previous presidents, no action had ever been taken.

When addressing critics of moving the U.S. embassy to Jerusalem, Ambassador to the UN Nikki Haley responded firmly, "You don't have to like that decision. You don't have to praise it. You don't even have to accept it. But know this: That decision will not change."

The move will likely happen in stages, with staff relocating to Jerusalem before the building is complete. Pray for the transition, for embassy staff, and for all who will work on the new building.

DAY OF REFLECTION

Why should Christians care about Israel? What does the nation of Israel in the Bible and today's modern remnant matter to believers in Christ? Meditate on these Scriptures to better grasp God's heart for the nation of Israel, and how we can also follow the Father in his love for the Jewish people.



God calls the Jewish people "My beloved."

From the beginning of creation in Genesis, God exhibited His holy desire to fellowship with His creation. Humans were created for that—the companionship of our Creator. As the fall happened in the Garden of Eden, and the perfect fellowship was broken, God has been wooing us back into right relationship with Him. As demonstrated through His faithful love and pursuing of the nation Israel, God reveals His character to us. He continues to express His love for His people throughout the Old Testament, and illustrates this through the stories of love and redemption in the Bible. The love God has for the people of the nation Israel is an example of the love God has for all of us. You can see the themes in the Bible— His care, His protection, His discipline, His favor, His wrath, His longsuffering, His redemption and His love toward Israel. Toward us. We love Israel because God loves Israel. Read and pray on these Scriptures to understand and share God's love for his people Israel.

Let Israel say: "His love endures forever!" [Psalm 118:2](#)

For you are a people holy to the Lord your God. The Lord your God has chosen you out of all the peoples on the face of the earth to be his people, his treasured possession. The Lord did not set his affection on you and choose you because you were more numerous than other peoples, for you were the fewest of all peoples. But it was because the Lord loved you and kept the oath he swore to your ancestors that he brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the land of slavery, from the power of Pharaoh king of Egypt.

[Deuteronomy 7:6-8](#)

Since you are precious and honored in my sight, and because I love you, I will give people in exchange for you, nations in exchange for your life. [Isaiah 43:4](#)

As he approached Jerusalem and saw the city, he wept over it and said, "If you, even you, had only known on this day what would bring you peace—but now it is hidden from your eyes." [Luke 19:41-42](#)

Prayer Journal Notes



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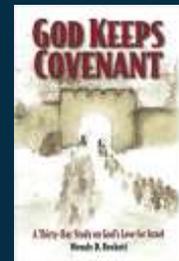
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<https://www.ifapray.org/promo/celebrating-israel-special-report-prayer-guide/>

Additional Reading

[God Keeps Covenant](#)



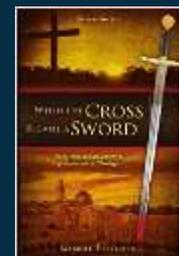
A 30-Day Study on God's Love for Israel by Wendy Beckett.

[Eye to Eye](#)



Facing the Consequences of Dividing Israel by Bill Koenig.

[When the Cross Became A Sword](#)



A primer on the origin and consequences of Replacement Theology by Merrill Bolender.