



# OnWatch

## Jerusalem

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## WATCHING FROM THE RAMPARTS



*“I will climb up to my watchtower and stand at my guard post...” (Habakkuk 2:1, NLT).*

***What are you to Me, O Tyre, Sidon (Lebanon) and all the regions of Philistia (Gaza)? Are you rendering Me a recompense? But if you do recompense Me, swiftly and speedily I will return your recompense on your head” (Joel 3:4).***

“As the prophecy continues, it goes on to speak of the Lord specifically executing vengeance against those from the regions of Lebanon and Gaza who have engaged in violence against the people of Israel.” (Joel Richardson) “The known history of **Gaza** spans 4,000 years. **Gaza** was ruled, destroyed and repopulated by various dynasties, empires, and peoples. Originally a Canaanite settlement, it came under the control of the ancient Egyptians for roughly 350 years before being conquered and becoming one of the Philistines’ principal cities.” (Wikipedia) Early in our years upon arrival in Israel, we took a trip to the Gaza Strip, in a United Nations vehicle. For the first time, our eyes were opened to the games people play. No doubt, the common people who live there have suffered, but they have suffered because of Hamas and other terrorist organizations stealing the money, electricity, food and benefits that Israel provides the people in Gaza. We were told one thing: the terrible way Israel treated them. However, what we saw in the hospitals even back in 1985 was the opposite. Starving babies looked plump and well fed. Families who wanted to visit their relatives across the border were crying for them but when we got in our van and left, we noticed they did too. All along we were fed a constant menu of made up stories so that we would return (they thought we were tourists), and tell the story of how mistreated they were.

We have sympathetic hearts for those families who truly need help, but many are afraid to speak up because Gaza is full of terrorists and where they are, you do not speak up loudly. Although Gaza has been an environment promoting the growth of hatred for Israel, even when Israel tries to help them, they still hate. Because of this deep-seated root of hatred, which eventually turns to murder, it has become a hot bed of



Map of Gaza Strip (CC BY-SA 3.0, by Gringer, via Wikimedia)

hostility and fertile ground for rock hard feelings and militancy. No matter what Israel tries to do to help the people, she is in turn, threatened with annihilation and death from Hamas and its related terrorist organizations embedded deep within the soil of this former Philistine territory. Because the hot bed is truly threatening to overflow its bitterness and anger into Israel we need to pray fervently for calm and peace in the area. As Israel faces serious trouble, we need to find supernatural strength to endure the battle in the spirit through this year of Israel's 70th anniversary celebrations. While Israel plans to celebrate its 70th anniversary activities, her enemies plot her demise. Among the 30,000 Gazans who recently massed near the Israeli border were a people prepared to make trouble for Israel. No matter what Israel did or did not do, she would be blamed and made to look like murderers. Nothing could be further from the truth. Look for the truth in the news.



## LET US GO TO THE THRONE ROOM TOGETHER

- **Pray Fervently that** Gazans will put down their weapons, and plans to invade Israel through illegal entry, mass demonstrations, and evil plans to rush her borders. Israel desires peace and would like to offer education, development, industry and much more, if only the residents of Gaza would sit at the table and truly work for peace.
- **Intercede for calm and peace** to be the canopy over the Gaza border with Israel.
- **Beseech the Lord to guard the security fence** because if He is not guarding the fence, the watchman stays awake in vain. (Psalm 127:1)
- **Cry out to the Lord for** Israel to find ways of defending the Land and People without a slaughter on either side. "If it had not been the Lord who was on our side, Let Israel now say ***"if it had not been the Lord who was on our side, When men rose up against us, then they would have swallowed us alive..."*** (Psalm 124:1-3).
- **Pray that all Israel** will trust in the Lord and turn to Him. Then, they will be like an unmovable rock as God surrounds His People. ***"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"*** (Psalm 125:1-2, NIV).
- **Thank the Lord for** taking care of the Christians in Gaza wherever they may be. May their light within their hearts, speak to the darkness in so many people's lives around them. ***"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven"*** (Matthew 5:16, KJV). Pray that those who remain there will be able to share the gospel and change hearts from rage into love.

Keep Watching from the ramparts until He Comes,

**Sharon Sanders**

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