

Watchman's Prayer Letter



Christian Friends of Israel

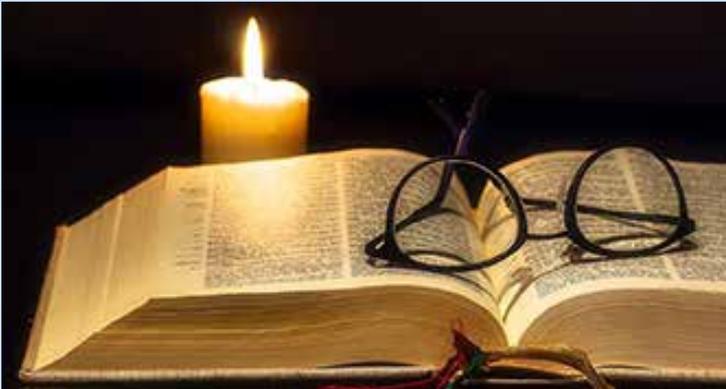
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A Place of Prayer

“...these I will bring to my holy mountain and give them joy in my house of prayer. Their burnt offerings and sacrifices will be accepted on my altar; for my house will be called a house of prayer for all nations” (Isaiah 56:7, NIV).



At this present time, the most coveted piece of real estate on the earth to which Jewish people turn to pray – from wherever they are on earth – is being contested. Islam believes this is their holy site alone and that the Jewish people have no right to worship there. The historical facts tell us that this is indeed, a Jewish Temple site, in the past, and definitely, for the future. It is fraught with tension at this moment. It is a type of dichotomy, because the Temple Mount is built on solid rock, and yet the site trembles. The Temple Mount represents the promises made to the Jewish people about God's Holy Hill. “Some of God's

promises have to be fought for. The Jebusites who controlled Jerusalem told David, “You'll never get in here!” (2 Samuel 5:6, NLT)... To make matters worse, Jerusalem was hundreds of feet above David's army and the only way up was through a water cistern, which meant wading through muck. ‘Nevertheless David took the stronghold of Zion (2 Samuel 5:6-7).’ (Word for Today) According to the Book of Samuel, this once Jebusite fortress, called the “stronghold of Zion” was conquered by King David, then renamed, and partially rebuilt, by him as the “City of David”. **“Nevertheless David Took the strong hold of Zion: the same is the city of David” (2 Samuel 5:7, KJV).** As we learn from Israel's King, we notice the word “*nevertheless*”. Even though a pagan entity was inhabiting the sacred site, David took it anyway. He stood on the promises of the Torah (God's Eternal Word) which told him in his heart, that God wanted him to affirm Jerusalem. David could see in his heart, even though the promises seemed far away, at the time, that Messiah would one day come, and rule the nations from this Holy Mountain. The Great Messianic Temple which will be built, will become a House of Prayer for Israel and all the nations who come up to Jerusalem to pray. Jerusalem truly is the “stronghold of Zion”, the navel of the earth, and a strong fortified mountain. It is God's elevated observation point from which it has earned the title “*the holiest place in the whole world*”. A place where **ONLY God Almighty**, the One True God of Israel, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the God of Israel and the God and Father of the Lord Jesus (Yeshua) will be worshipped. There will be no bowing down to Allah when Yeshua returns. All knees will bow to the God of Abraham. This “place of prayer” will one day no longer be a “mixture” of religions, but one people, whether from Israel or from the nations, all worshipping the One True God, the LORD. This makes all other gods angry, and anger is the driving force behind today's Islamic violence. The world cannot worship “two Gods”. There is only ONE. Temple Mount is His Holy Ground designated for His Throne alone. It is a hard thing for many to swallow, but this is absolute Biblical truth. It is what every hungry soul thirsting for authentic and sound belief needs to accept and confess.

By the time this Watchman's Prayer Letter arrives to your home computer, Tisha B'Av will be over. Rabbi Avrohom Chaim Feuer is very helpful in helping non-Jewish people understand the day of Tisha B'Av. Rarely spoken about among gentiles, he tells us that it is observed to mourn the loss of the Temples in Jerusalem,

but to have joy for knowing that it will rise again in the days to come. For certain, for the Jewish people, it was the loss of feeling God's presence that was so painful as it was definitely a place of prayer, spirituality, and a place of holiness and miracles. Three times a year, a Jewish person was required to ascend to the Temple Mount to behold every aspect of Jewish life – planning the year, where one faced while praying, where one would go for justice or to learn Torah, where one would bring their tithes and offerings. We are living in the days of the rebuilding of the Temple. Here in Jerusalem Jewish people are talking about it and want it built speedily. As a Christian, you may say, "so what's that to me...I don't really care!" Maybe not, but if you don't realize that God has put it into the hearts of His Jewish People to "build"...then you are missing a great sign of the Coming of Messiah (for us it is the return of Jesus (Yeshua). If I were living in the nations, outside the borders of this miraculous Land of Israel, I would be watching very closely what is happening on the Temple Mount. It is a sign.



Destruction of Temple of Jerusalem (1867) (CC BY 3.0, by Francesco Hayez, via Wikimedia)

Let's Go to our Prayer Closets and Pray



With the Jewish people being able to pray on the Temple Mount, the "status quo" has changed; however, many harsh stipulations are still in place for Israelis to be able to pray there freely. Immediately Moslems shouted that they would take over the Western Wall. Israelis marched on **Tisha B'Av** praying for the building of the Third Temple. The book of **Nehemiah** can help us, as Christians, learn about how to seek the welfare of Jerusalem. When Nehemiah challenged his countrymen to arise and rebuild, it took much leadership as he taught them to fear the Lord God. The command to "**Restore**" then, is the same as now, only this time, there is a deep meaning behind the Temple Mount and the Jewish people being restored to what is rightfully theirs. Things have not changed because **"...Wherever you turn, they will attack us"**

(Nehemiah 4:12, NIV). Today, everywhere you turn fanatics in Islam are there turning on the Jewish people. This is not prejudice against one people over another. I love the Arabic people and I have a number of good friends among them, but those who are extremists and militant about their ideology, fit the same category as Nehemiah faced when he returned from Babylonian exile to lead the people back to their spiritual roots: Jerusalem. He faced spiritual opposition.

- **Pray fervently** that the Temple Mount tensions will subside and that the prophesied "holy war" would fall to the ground. **"For I will defend this city, to save it, for mine own sake and for my servant David's sake"** (2 Kings 19:34, KJV).
- **Thank God** that He can peel back the layers of the present situation, help us see how He is at work in the situation and that blessings lie ahead. As Islam extends its struggle for control in Jerusalem and fans the flames of hatred, speak the promises of God. **"Those who trust in the LORD are like Mount Zion, which cannot be shaken, but endures forever"** (Psalm 125:1, NIV).
- **Praise the Lord** for the beginning of prophetic breakthroughs regarding the Temple Mount. Without harassment for a few days, Jewish visitors could pray openly and without being attacked. Metal detectors had returned the Temple Mount to the heart of Zionism, but now they have been removed. **"I was glad when they said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the LORD.' Our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem!"** (Psalm 122:1,2, NASB).



- **Beseech His Name** that challenges and redemption are interlinked. With every challenge Israelis face, they seem to work on inculcating those traits within themselves, and emulating those strengths they grow. An unprecedented number of Jewish people ascended the Temple Mount on Tisha B'Av. This alone tells us that times are changing. Jewish people are hungry spiritually and GOD will be the One who will bring it about. ***“I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them” (Ezekiel 36:27, NKJV).***
- **Offer Thanksgiving** that the Knesset approved a bill to ensure Jerusalem remains the undivided capital of the Jewish state. This makes the partitioning of Jerusalem almost impossible with this new move, which would harm the nation's capital. ***“Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for He is good!” (Psalm 118:1).***
- **Pray the Promises** that one day there will be no screams of “Allahu Akbar” but “Baruch Haba B'Shem Adonai” (Blessed is He Who comes in the name of the Lord). **Fatah**, a terrorist organization, has declared a campaign for Jerusalem to take control of the Temple Mount. ***“Therefore thus says the Lord GOD: ‘Surely I have spoken in My burning jealousy against the rest of the nations and against all Edom, who gave My Land to themselves as a possession...’” (Ezekiel 36:5).***
- **Lift Up your Voice with Strength** as we pray for all Christians to know the truth and to have the first-hand opportunity to see some of the issues Israel faces today. Coming to Israel is one way to play out in one's own eyes, what biased media often distorts. Briefings from spokespeople in Israel and security personnel welcome the opportunity to help visitors see how they protect those who wish to pray and how they are trying to prevent any more bloodshed from attackers who enter the compound chanting anti-Semitic calls for bloodshed. Continue to watch the road to Zion and strengthen your ranks of prayer partners to continue to “watch over Jerusalem”. ***“Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: ‘May they prosper who love you’” (Psalm 122:6, NKJV).*** The promise is great.

Lastly, Rick Ridings, a Jerusalem pastor, has posted further prayer points amid the Temple Mount tensions. You can read them at www.succathallel.com. Many are on edge as the Temple Mount trembles. I love the way some Godly Jewish scholars and rabbis think. They know pain will come but they push through the pain (such as in childbirth) in their spirits and see that in the end, God **will be** glorified in Israel and in the world arena of nations. They long, as do we, for the day when ***“...the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea” (Habakkuk 2:14, KJV).*** Just as water protects the sea beds, so the final comprehension of who the God of Israel is, that He is alive and that He is in control will be abundantly available for every person on earth! And so just as many God-fearing Israelis, we too, want to look past the coming trials and see the end result: the Coming of the Lord to a physical city on earth: JERUSALEM!

Until He Comes,

Sharon Sanders

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Christian Friends of Israel
invites you to celebrate

Israel's 70th Birthday
April 16-19, 2018
in Jerusalem

Contact: events@cfijerusalem.org