

Watchman's Prayer Letter



Christian Friends of Israel

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Entering the Gates of Prayer

“Lift up your heads, O ye gates, and be ye lifted up, ye everlasting doors for the king of glory shall come in” (Psalm 24:7).

“Every gate challenging the entrance of the word of God in my life must now be lifted up in the name of Jesus” (prayer-meeting-over-blog.org).



As Christians who follow Yeshua (Jesus), we sometimes struggle against the forces of evil that continually want to destroy or harm the Jewish people. It is not easy to dedicate regular times to pray for Israel, but we must. I know that I have to work on this and perhaps, so do you. We engage in a battle against tiredness, fatigue, weariness, the “cares of this world” and many other things vying for our attention. I was very interested to read about excavations in Jerusalem (October 2011) that uncovered an ancient Christian prayer box which the Israel Antiquities Authority reported. “A miniature box decorated with a cross was...uncovered in archaeological excavations of the Israel Antiquities Authority in the Giv’ati car park in the City of David, located in the Walls around Jerusalem National Park. The box, which dates to the Byzantine period (sixth-seventh centuries CE), is adorned on the inside with the drawings of two figures...surrounded by a background lined with gold leaf, and it seems that the artifact was used as a personal prayer” object. While we do not know “what” these early Christians were praying about, it is obvious that they did pray and express their thanks to God and would have brought their petitions before Him. And so, the important point about this little prayer box in today’s Christian world, is that someone, some groups, may have kept their written prayers in a little box like this or perhaps a Scripture from the Torah was written within. Today, Jewish people often write their prayers out and place them in the crevices of the Western Wall as a sign of their faith and belief that God will hear their cries. I used to write out my prayers as a little girl. I had a small brown notebook in which I wrote down my prayers.

Jewish people have three daily Prayer Watches, “...in the morning (*shacarit*), in the afternoon (*minchah*) and at nightfall (*arvith* or *maariv*)...Abraham introduced prayer in the morning, Isaac in the afternoon, and Jacob added one at night” (Nissan Mindel, Keohot Publication society). We know that the writer of 1 Thessalonians 5:17-18 admonishes us to “...**pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances...**”. And so, whatever time we enter the **Gates of Prayer**, God is there, awaiting our petitions and praises. I don’t know about you, but I am convicted that I do not pray enough...and need to pray more. There may be gates in your life right now, challenging you about allowing the Word of God entrance into a disciplined prayer life, especially, on behalf of the welfare of the Jewish people. May you become a conqueror, as we all need to win the battle of fatigue and tiredness...right when we need to be pressing through to the gates and entering in. May God be with us as we persevere to know we are duty-bound to pray to God every day...as in days of old, our places of prayer can become like “small sanctuaries” (Beit Mikdash Me’at). **Let us build that sanctuary of prayer and be found faithful as Watchmen on the Walls of Jerusalem. May all who are looking for His Coming, increase our stamina to pray through, until He Comes, when His House of Prayer will become a House of Prayer for ALL nations! (Isaiah 56:7, NIV).**

Let's Enter the Throne Room of Prayer Together

A few years ago the Education Minister in Israel publically declared that in education, the Bible is the most important school subject in Israel. Naftali Bennett at that time stressed the Bible and faith are the most important topics children should learn in school. He saw the need for Israel to become "a spiritual superpower and export spiritual knowledge to the world." I believe Mr. Bennett was correct in that one day



"...out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem" (Isaiah 2:3, KJV). It has been on my heart to pray for exactly this because it is not enough that Israel be the nation of startups...it needs to be the People of the Bible, what they are called to be. To do so, they must know who they are and their identity in the Lord. They have come from all around the world, many personalities and walks of life. They now need to be unified and they can only be truly unified in the Lord. The Prime Minister also called for more study of the Bible a few years ago, as it is the basis for the Jewish nation's existence and why they are in the Land today. Let's strategically target one specific area this month and that is for an outpouring of God's Holy Spirit upon Israel. A number of Bible believing Jews have been praying for this outpouring for some time now. Let us join our prayers with theirs for a change of heart of all Israel – to follow the Lord God of Israel and to adjust their lives and ways toward His Commandments. The rest will follow.

- **Pray for** a massive overwhelming desire for every person to follow God's Ways. The Jewish people are called to be a "light to the nations" and they cannot fulfill their full calling until this takes place. **"And afterward, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions" (Joel 2:28, NIV).**
- **Pray Earnestly that** the prayers of Israelis crying out to God in prayer will also be heard throughout the Land, not just Muslim calling out to Allah. Last year a proposed bill was put before the Knesset to put an end to Muslim calls to prayer being blasted over loudspeakers across Israel at the wee hours of the mornings when we are all wanting sleep. Most Israelis do not want Islamic practices of prayer imposed upon their lives, when they do not believe in Allah. Eventually, the bill did not prohibit the call of the mu-ezzin, but just the use of loudspeakers to amplify the call and disturb the peace during sleeping hours. **"Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know" (Jeremiah 33:3, NIV).**
- **Fix Your Heart** on prayer for Jewish people fleeing anti-Semitism in America and Europe. God is calling His People home. **"They will follow the LORD; He will roar like a lion. When He roars, His children will come trembling from the west. They will come from Egypt...from Assyria...I will settle them in their homes, declares the LORD" (Hosea 11:10-11, NIV).**
- **Give thanks that** drops of rain have been falling over the past few years among Biblically orientated Orthodox Jews who love the Scriptures more than writings, and love God more than self. These precious people have reached out the hand of friendship to many of us Christians and nothing has been more exhilarating or fulfilling than listening to the Word of God directly from the Hebrew. **"Come now, and let us reason together..." (Isaiah 1:18, KJV).** Let us as Christians not be full of pride and say, "you are unequally yoked" for these holy men of God, that we know well, love God with all of their hearts, and compared to some brothers and sisters, they excel in God's Word, God's compassion, love and righteousness far more than most Christians realize. Continue to pray for them for the full revelation of redemption and for Christians to study more passionately God's Word, as these men do daily.
- **Beseech the Lord for** Biblical education to be the top priority in Israel today, that all learn God's Word and come to know Him. **"Do you not know? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom" (Isaiah 40:28, NIV).**
- **Bless the Lord for** how He is bringing His Word to pass in Israel every day. Not a word He has spoken will be withheld in regard to all of the promises He has made with Israel, and with us. **"It is the same with my word. I send it out, and it always produces fruit. It will accomplish all I want it to, and it will prosper everywhere I send it" (Isaiah 55:11, NLT).**

HUGE PRAYER MEETING – WOULDN'T IT BE WONDERFUL IF WE COULD GET THOUSANDS TO A PRAYER MEETING?

Tens of thousands attended the special Passover Birkat Kohanim (Priestly Blessing) at the Western Wall in Jerusalem's Old City. More than 80,000 people packed the Kotel (Western Wall) plaza in the Old City of Jerusalem Thursday for the bi-annual Birkat Kohanim, Priestly Blessing, ceremony.

Hundreds of Kohanim, members of the priestly class and descendants of the Biblical Aaron, stood adjacent to the Wall and recited the three-verse blessing (Numbers 6:24-26), "The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace."

The ceremony, attended today by Chief Rabbis David Lau and Yitzhak Yosef, Agriculture Minister Uri Ariel Rabbi of the Western Wall, Rabbi Shmuel Rabinovich and others, included two recitations of the blessing and concluded with prayers for the State of Israel and the safety of the IDF and security forces.

"Everybody felt a terrific sense of unity today," said Rabinovich. "Jews from around Israel and around the world participated... the pilgrimage [to Jerusalem] is an impressive testimony to the Jewish people's connection to the ruins of our destroyed Temple, when so many people come to lay their hands on the stones at this place. The inspiring sight of thousands of Jews filling every inch of the plaza reminds one of ancient times, when thousands of pilgrims would come to see and be seen, and of course it is more reminiscent of the Temple than of the destruction."

The modern ceremony was instituted in 1971 by Rabbi Menachem Mendel Gafner, for the fourth Passover following the Six-Day War and the reunification of Jerusalem. Gafner cited a rabbinic legend that a ceremony including more than 300 priests blessing the nation adjacent to the site of the Temple held unique spiritual powers. Thursday's services were led by Rabinovitch and by Gafner's son, Rabbi Mordechai Gafner.

Standing with Israel,

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