

A Prayer for Israel in this Time of War

By Rabbi Naomi Levy

God, our Strength and Protection, we pray for the State of Israel in this devastating time of war, shock and grief. Our hearts are breaking, God. We pray for the lives of the innocent civilians who have been heartlessly kidnapped by Hamas, bring them home, watch over them, God. We pray for the lives of the soldiers who have been taken captive, we pray for their safe return, shelter them, God. We pray for the souls of the innocent victims who were brutally slaughtered. Send comfort and strength, God, to the grieving. Send healing to the injured, and strength and wisdom to their doctors and nurses. We pray for all our brothers and sisters in Israel in this time of tragedy and crisis.

Watch over Israel, God, spread Your shelter of peace over the land and over all our brothers and sisters who live there. Shine Your light upon Israel's leaders, officers, and advisers, help them to overcome all divisiveness and to act with clarity and determination. Protect the men and women who defend Israel, let them be safe and may they be victorious over the Hamas terrorists who attacked our people. Watch over them, God. Hear their prayers. Bring peace, God. Let it rain down from the heavens like a mighty storm. Let it wash away all hatred and bloodshed. Peace, God, please, God.

God of the brokenhearted, God of the living, God of the dead, gather the souls of the victims into Your eternal shelter. Let them find peace in Your presence, God. Their lives have ended, but their lights can never be extinguished. May they shine on us always and illuminate our way.

Amen.

A Prayer from Rabbi David Wolpe:

El Maleh Rachamim — Compassionate God,
We pray not to wipe out haters but to banish hatred.
Not to destroy sinners but to lessen sin.
Our prayers are not for a perfect world but a better one
Where parents are not bereaved by the savagery of sudden attacks
Or children orphaned by blades glinting in a noonday sun.
Help us dear God, to have the courage to remain strong, to stand fast.
Spread your light on the dark hearts of the slayers
And your comfort to the bereaved hearts of families of the slain.
Let calm return Your city Jerusalem, and to Israel, Your blessed land.
We grieve with those wounded in body and spirit,
We Pray for the fortitude of our sisters and brothers,
And ask you to awaken the world to our struggle and help us bring peace.

Prayer of Mothers for Life and Peace

Jointly written in 2014 by Rabbi Tamar Elad-Appelbaum (who is Israeli) and Sheikha Ibtisam Maḥameed (who is a Palestinian citizen of Israel), and was translated into English by Rabbi Amichai Lau-Lavie.

מלך חפץ בחיים הרופא לשבורי לב ומחבש לעצבותם שמע נא תפילת אמהות שאתה לא
בראתנו על מנת שנהרוג זה בזה ולא על מנת שנחיה בפחד, כעס ושנאה בעולמך אלא על מנת
שנדע לתת רשות זה לזה לקיים את שמך שם חיים, שם שלום בעולם

صلاة مشتركة اله الحياة الذي يُشفي القلوب الحزينة والمتألّمة استمع لو سمحت الى صلاة الأمهات لأنك لم .
تخلقنا لكي نقتل بعضنا بعضاً وليس لكي نعيش بحالة من الخوف, الغضب والكراهية في عالمك هذا لكي
نسمح لبعضنا البعض أن نذكر أسمك اسم الحياة, اسم السلام في العالم

God of Life Who heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds, May it be
your will to hear the prayer of mothers. For you did not create us to kill each
other, Nor to live in fear, anger or hatred in your world, But rather you have
created us so we can grant permission to one another to sanctify Your name of
Life, your name of Peace in this world.

על אלה אני בוכיה עיני יורדה מים על ילדים בוכים מפחד בלילות על הורים אוחזים
עולליהם וייאוש ואפלה בלב מעל שער אשר נסגר ומי יקום ויפתחהו טרם פנה יום

على جميع هؤلاء أنا أبكي دوماً أبكي خوفاً على الأطفال في الليالي يحمل الآباء أطفالهم الصغار واليأس والظلام
في قلوبهم على البوابة التي أغلقت والتي لا نعرف من سوف يقوم بفتحها

For these things I weep, my eye, my eye runs down with water. For our children
crying at nights, For parents holding their children with despair and darkness in
their hearts. For a gate that is closing and who will open it while day has not yet
dawned.

ובדמעות ובתפלות שאני מתפללת כל הזמן ובדמעות כל הנשים שכואבות את הכאב החזק
בזמן הקשה הזה הריני מרימה את ידי למעלה אנא ממך אדוני רחם עלינו שמע קולנו ה' אלהינו
בימי הרעה האלה שלא נתייאשו נראה חיים זה בזה ונרחם זה על זה ונצטער זה על זה ונקווה
לזה לזה

وبالدموع والصلوات التي أصلبها طيلة الوقت وبدموع النساء اللواتي يشعرن بهذا الألم القوي في هذه الأوقات
العصيبة أنا أرفع يدي اليك يا ربي أن ترحمنا لنعيش مع بعضنا البعض ونشفق على بعضنا البعض ونواسي
بعضنا البعض نأمل الخير لبعضنا البعض

And with my tears and prayers which I pray, And with the tears of all women who
deeply feel the pain of these difficult days I raise my hands to you please God
have mercy on us. Hear our voice that we shall not despair. That we shall see life
in each other, That we shall have mercy for each other, That we shall have pity on
each other, That we shall hope for each other.

ונכתוב את חיינו בספר החיים למענך אלהים חיים. תן שנבחר בחיים. כי אתה שלום וביתך
שלום וכל אשר לך שלום וכן יהי רצון ונאמר אמן

ولكي نكتب قصة حياتنا في كتاب الحياة من أجلك يا اله الحياة امنحنا أن نختار الحياة لأنك السلام ومنزلتك
السلام وكل ما لديك سلاماً إذن الله لنقل آمين

And we shall write our lives in the book of Life. For your sake God of Life. Let us
choose Life. For you are Peace, your world is Peace and all that is yours is Peace,
And so shall be your will and let us say *Amen*.