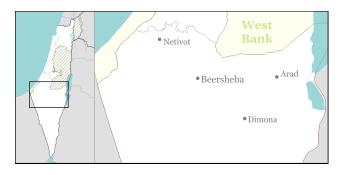
Christian Friends of Israel

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## Dimona

"And another angel came and stood at the altar with a golden censer, and he was given much incense to offer with the prayers of all the saints on the golden altar before the throne, and the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, rose before God from the hand of the angel" (Revelation 8:3-4, ESV).



Quiet, sleepy, but powerful and ready. Dimona, a desert city located just south of Beersheva in the Negev has a population of approximately 35,000+ inhabitants. Named after an ancient biblical town belonging to the Tribe of Judah in the region, "The southernmost towns of the tribe of Judah in the Negev toward the boundary of Edom were: Kabzeel, Eder, Jagur, Kinah, Dimonah, Adadah..." (Joshua 15:21-22, NIV), it was formally reconstituted under Prime Minister David Ben Gurion in 1953 after the founding of the modern state of Israel.

Its initial 36 Jewish founding families migrated from North Africa, primarily Morocco. Later it would also see the arrival of thousands of immigrants from Bene Israel of India's Jewish population after India's independence from British rule in 1947. Their presence was prominently a part of the rich tapestry of locals when our Wall of Prayer team recently visited.

Dimona, home of Israel's main nuclear facility, was the target of not just one, but two of the recent major attacks against Israel. On October 7th, when the murderous terror group Hamas attacked Israel near Gaza, it was their aim to infiltrate Dimona. Had the IDF and intelligence services not intervened against Hamas operatives, Dimona would have been a part of a "second stage" of attacks, according to a Jerusalem Post article.

On April 14, 2024, the Islamic regime of Iran sent over 300 aerial threats including ballistic missiles and drones towards Israel's airspace, again targeting Dimona residents and military bases and armaments. Thankfully by a miraculous show of God's divine protection, accompanied by the fervent prayers of the saints,

99% of the weapons formed against Israel did not prosper. Almost all were intercepted by IDF systems along with the help of allied nations including the USA, Britain, Jordan, and France. Some were even "DOA", dead on arrival, strewn about near the Dead Sea. Isaiah prophesied over the deserts of Israel, "The desert will rejoice, and flowers will bloom in the wastelands" (Isaiah 35:1, Good News Translation). We agree with the prophet who declared God's Word over His covenant Land, indeed we say, the deserts will bloom, not go "boom."

Why target this southern desert town, outside of the obvious attempts at debilitating Israel's nuclear capabilities, and trying to annihilate the Jewish State? On our recent scouting prayer journey to visit Dimona, we found ourselves in the center of "The Incense Route," an UNESCO World Heritage Site, Mamshit National Park, just minutes outside of Dimona's town center is home to one of the important branches of The Incense



Route that linked the Arava, Dead Sea, Petra, and the Gulf of Eilat, with the coastal plain and the Hebron mountains. At this ancient ruin, you'll find the remains of two churches dating back to the 3rd and 4th century. The Western Church, "Church of St, Nilus," is still paved with ancient geometric patterns and ornate imagery of birds and an inscription that reads: "God save your servant Nilus, lover of Jesus, who founded this building. Preserve him and his household." The second, The Eastern Church, also known as the Church of the Martyrs, was part of a monastery complex.

Several receptacles for the bones of martyrs were found in the rooms that flanked its apse (or front of the sanctuary). A feeling of gratitude came over us knowing people suffered for His namesake there. We gave thanks for their sacrifice.



Was it a coincidence that the origins of where incense like frankincense and myrrh were once traded in this region connecting strategic points through Yemen and Oman, passing through Saudi Arabia, Jordan, and ending at the ancient port of Gaza, are being targeted by Israel's enemies? Our anchor scripture found in Revelation is one of several passages that tie the "prayers of the saints" to incense that rises up before God's throne. Another passage in Revelation paints a beautiful eschatological reference to our intercessory prayers, "And when he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each holding a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints" (Revelation 5:8, ESV).

Being historically tied to the Land portion of the Tribe of Judah, and in a symbolic sense-our prayers-perhaps the attacks targeting Dimona are

not just ordinary anti-Semitic warfare, but have a more significant, spiritual, eschatological meaning. If the Adversary can do significant damage to the intercessors and watchmen of Israel and the nations, then the walls of Israel would be breached allowing the plunderers to come in to interfere with those who are preparing the Highway of Holiness for the return of our Messiah. Now is the time to make our intercession all the more fragrant, filling heavenly bowls with our treasured prayers for Dimona and the whole House of Israel.

Like David, we pray: "O LORD, I call upon you; hasten to me! Give ear to my voice when I call to you! Let my prayer be counted as incense before you, and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice" (Psalm 141:1-2, ESV)!

## **Praying for Dimona:**

**Intercede** for the Middle East to be reconnected by the love of God, that incense would arise from these nations that once traded the precious incense of prayers before being taken captive by jihadi Islamic regimes (**Isaiah 19; Acts 1:8**).

**Cover** Dimona and its inhabitants with your prayers of protection of peace. (**Psalm 122**; **46**:**5**).

**Pray** for Dimona to be developed even more to make room for those who are preparing to make what could be the last of the waves of Aliyah. (**Isaiah 58:12**; **Ezekiel 36:10**).



Intercede for the various sectors of the IDF that are based there, personnel and families, that they may come to know the true love of God. Pray also the military infrastructure will be reinforced against any future threats without having to rely on the nations (Psalm 18:2; 121:5-8).

Pray the Negev will once again bloom with the love of God, and the remnant (Isaiah 27:6; 35:1)

Ask for intercessors to be refreshed and armed with new weapons of warfare fit for these final hours of history as the nations rage and plot vain things against the Covenant People and Land. (Luke 18:1; John 16:33).

## **Dear Prayer Warriors:**

Thank you for standing with us on the walls. You are covered by the mighty hand of God that upholds the righteous, especially during this season of intense and fierce warfare against Israel, and His Body all over the world. May His Spirit empower you to continue praying strategically and effectively securing God's promises until His kingdom comes. May the blessing of His presence abide with you always.



Maranatha!
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