



Watchman's Prayer Letter

Christian Friends of Israel

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Better to Trust in the Lord

“Blessed is the man who trusts in Adonai; Adonai will be his security. He will be like a tree planted near water; it spreads out its roots by the river; it does not notice when heat comes; and its foliage is luxuriant; it is not anxious in a year of drought but keeps on yielding fruit” (Jeremiah 17:7-8, CJB).



Security is a fundamental need of all human beings. It transcends race, culture, citizenship, and time. Every person and every nation's peaceful existence hinges on security—this is proverbially *written in stone*. Security, however, seems to vary in definition and origin depending on who you ask and when. It can be found anchored in expressions of economic stability, the ability to possess arms/military to protect one's personal or national right to exist, stable and protected dwelling places, healthy relationships (personal or political), citizenship or political allegiances, etc. Adonai, Hebrew for **LORD**, tells us exactly where we are to find our security, and exactly how to obtain it.

Israel is in its third month of fighting for its right to exist, both on the ground and in the courtroom of public opinion, now shared widely and seemingly without restraint in the media.

Prime Minister Netanyahu has vowed to eradicate Hamas and all threats to its security and peace, including any Iranian-backed proxies like Hezbollah and the Houthis in Yemen. IDF soldiers at great risk have been tirelessly fighting the war in Gaza while mitigating escalation on the northern borders of Israel. To date, over 500 soldiers have died since the October 7th massacre, 186 since the start of the ground offensive in Gaza—all to see Jewish people live secure, free, and in peace in their land.

Woefully, lines are being drawn in the sand again for Israel by nations and nefarious political leaders with counter-biblical agendas. Israel is being heavily pressured to withdraw from Gaza by the US before its war objectives are met while also pushing for a two-state solution. South Africa has taken Israel to the UN's International Court of Justice (ICJ) alleging war crimes and genocide are being committed in Gaza. South Africa has also threatened to cut ties with Israel by closing their Israeli embassy. From how Israel should govern its citizens, to its handling of the war that Hamas started, the actions of some “allies” of Israel are not aligning with their words. If Israel does not concede to demands, some of which are unprecedented, it may become a lone soldier in the *league of nations*. We tend to think of the end-times falling away in terms of the Church, but we are seeing nations fall away from God and their pledged support of all things and people that are godly.

The prophet Jeremiah declared the Word of the Lord to Israel, warning, “A curse on the person who trusts in humans, who relies on merely human strength, whose heart turns away from Adonai” (Jeremiah 17:5, CJB). Our allegiance and commitment is to God, not a country, an army, a political position, left or right, conservative or liberal. If we identify more with these labels, then our hearts have turned away from the One who is our priority. This strong language of “a curse” concerning relying on human strength to save us should be taken seriously, not just for Israel, but even in our personal lives. When the heat comes, and it will, according to Jeremiah 17:8, if we trust in Adonai, “we will not notice,” not because we won't feel it, but because our **eyes and hearts are fixed on what's eternal in the midst of what's passing away**. Let's be like the three Hebrew boys, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in the fiery furnace, and like Daniel in the den of lions. Full of faith, we will weather the coming trials **free from** smoke and **fear** of the roaring lions.

At least 80,000 Israelis are internally displaced within Israel. Sadly, countless people in Gaza have been displaced too, avoiding clashes with the IDF military operation. There's much pain on both sides. Israel has withdrawn many reservists avoiding further economic damage as businesses struggle with staffing and many tourists are still keeping at bay. The hostage situation has been unfathomably difficult to process. There are 136 hostages still captive in Gaza being kept as human shields for Hamas leaders. One hostage family has reached out to CFI for help, pray we will be true Christian friends to this family in their hour of distress. Until **all** the hostages come home, there's an open wound in Israel's heart that needs comforting.

As the world around us shakes from the various instruments of threshing God is allowing during this time—the foundations of our security are being revealed, for good or bad. What do we do as a *moral drought* sweeps over the world and many forsake biblical foundations? Abide! If we trust and abide in Christ, He promises He will keep us bearing fruit and the leaves on our "tree" will be luxuriant. May our trust in Him radiate peace and inspire others to seek Him.

Praying in God's Assurance:

Praise the Lord that we have seen God's help as the Great Watchman of Israel on Israel's frontlines. From the IDF fighting courageously, to being equipped through miraculous generosity from ministries and believers, to volunteers coming to the Land to help and comfort His people in many ways (Psalm 121; Romans 15:27).

Declare that Adonai Tzva'ot, the Lord of Armies, will save Israel, not another country, nor simply military prowess alone. (Jeremiah 17:7; Isaiah 8:12-14; Zechariah 8:7).

Ask God to give divine wisdom and discernment to Israel's leaders on all tiers so that they may align with nations that are unwavering friends of Israel and cut ties with those nations calling for compromise (Jeremiah 17:5; Isaiah 60:12).

Pray for Jews in the diaspora to wake up as history is repeating itself in patterns of anti-Semitic hostility. Intercede that they would not rest in the security of the nations and make haste to come home (Jeremiah 16:14-16; Jeremiah 23:7-8).

Believe for the hostages to return and for displaced families to encounter God afresh in this wilderness season. May they be spiritually restored and find true and eternal refuge in Jesus (Psalm 46:1-6; Hosea 13:5).

Be Prepared for a greater regional conflict should it erupt. Pray that Israel's leaders, armies, civilians, and all those God has brought to serve in the Land will be ready in every way (Ephesians 6:10-18; Matthew 7:24-27).

Ask God to search your own heart to reveal anyone or anything you might be placing your trust in more than you are completely depending on Him. He alone is our portion (Psalm 51:10; Psalm 139:23-24).

Dear Watchmen on the Walls:

We are so grateful that you've chosen to partner with CFI and we stand together with Israel during this crisis time believing in God for victory. We declare, that our help comes from the Lord, the Maker of Heaven and earth. He is our defense—we will not be moved. It's a blessing to connect with you during our times of Zoom prayer. If you've not joined us and would like to, email: prayer@cfijerusalem to receive an invite.

Maranatha!

Suzie Georges

Wall of Prayer Coordinator

