

Pray for Israel 14 March 2011

☞ **God is Sovereign**

The earth is experiencing another season of intense shakings, from the recent devastating earthquakes in New Zealand and Japan, to the numerous political uprisings in an ever-increasing number of countries in the Middle East.

This is what the Lord Almighty says: 'In a little while I will once more shake the heavens and the earth, the sea and the dry land. I will shake all nations, and what is desired by all nations will come, and I will fill this house with glory,' says the Lord Almighty.

Haggai 2:6,7

'Be strong, all you people of the land,' declares the Lord, 'and work. For I am with you,' declares the Lord Almighty. 'This is what I covenanted with you when you came out of Egypt. And my Spirit remains among you. Do not fear.'

Haggai 2:4b,5

From Psalm 46:

Though "the nations are in an uproar" and "kingdoms are falling" [verse 6],

God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging [vv. 1-3].

He says, "Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth." [v. 10]

Even though there appears to be "chaos" all around us, our "job" is to stay focused on being still with God and knowing that He is sovereign, to stay "tuned" to hear His voice, and when we don't know how to pray strategically, simply pray that His will be done here on earth. Ultimately, God is working to cause people to seek and know Him.

☞ **Israel's Security**

With the upheaval caused by the forced resignation of Egyptian President Mubarak by the Muslim Brotherhood faction, and subsequent ripples of political demonstrations in the surrounding countries of Libya, Yemin, Bahrain, Oman, Jordan, and potentially Saudi Arabia, Iran's Palestinian proxy, the local branch of the Muslim Brotherhood known as Hamas, is causing the Fatah leaders to reassess their relationship with the U.S. In order for them to survive, "they must cut a deal with Hamas. And to convince Hamas

to cut a deal, they need to abandon the US.” [Caroline Glick, Column One, 27 February 2011]. The Palestinian Authority has now accepted the legitimacy of Hamas control over Gaza. This can only mean for Israel an increase in terror attacks which we, in fact, are experiencing. Rocket attacks from Gaza into southern Israel continue, and due to unrelenting incitement against Israel, targeted terror attacks against lone individuals or families seem to be increasing, as evidenced by Saturday’s brutally vicious murders of 5 members of a family in Itamar.

The initial findings of the investigation into the terrorist massacre in the Israeli town of Itamar in Samaria Friday night show that the Fatah ‘Freedom Fighters’ stabbed the Fogel family’s sleeping **three year old** in the heart and slashed the throat of his **three-month-old** sister. [Arutz 7 13.03.2011]

Nothing justifies this kind of barbaric act. Please pray for the surviving 2 children who escaped. They will need intensive trauma therapy and the healing that only God can give. They were a religious family, so pray that this will draw them closer to God and not drive them away. Also, please keep the security guard in prayer who did not pay heed to the warning that a breach had been made. He didn’t see anyone and thought it was just an animal that had triggered the alert.

Related to this event is the continued incitement in the media, mosques, and schools to kill, maim, and annihilate the Jews. Please pray that the practices would be fully exposed and the PA leadership would be held accountable for this by the world community, and that it would stop!

During last month’s revolution in Egypt, the Gaza-Sinai border was breached and the military junta now leading Egypt has failed to reseal it. This could lead to massive amounts of weaponry to be smuggled into Gaza.

Please pray that

- the border is resealed
- accurate and timely intelligence is received by Israel in order to thwart intended terror attacks and kidnappings
- the security services would be alert and discerning of any terror attempts
- Israeli authorities are able to find the murderers of the family in Itamar and bring them to justice
- the plans of the enemy will be exposed
- the Israeli government would do whatever it takes to protect Israelis

- call on the Lord to protect the people of Israel

☞ **Israel's Leaders**

Prime Minister Netanyahu has been refraining, so far, from conceding on the issues with the Palestinian Authority. Please keep him in prayer that he

- remains strong and steadfast in his position to not give up **any** land to the PA, as it is the God-given inheritance of the people of Israel
- not allow himself to be influenced in any way by any opposition to his standing according to Scriptural principles
- will be prevented by God from compromising in any way that would jeopardize Israel
- will be given Divine wisdom and discernment, as well as God's strategy as to how to proceed in leading Israel, and that he will listen to it
- come to a greater understanding that his position is God-given and seek a committed relationship with the Giver

Pray that the Lord will continue to expose those leaders who are corrupt and bring them to justice and that He would raise up leaders who will walk in righteousness. Pray that God will prevent distracting and divisive interference by leaders who are selfishly motivated.

Ask God to give wisdom and discernment to all the leaders and **His** strategy to the military leaders, particularly with respect to being prepared for any major attacks that could occur, whether by man or nature.

🔗 **Israel's Relations with the International Community**

Israeli Apartheid Week is being held soon for the 7th year in a row. During the week, anti-Israel activists take to college campuses with lectures and exhibitions accusing Israel of brutality and oppression against Palestinian Authority Arabs. Please pray that

- authorities would actually cancel these type of demonstrations
- timely and accurate intelligence would be obtained to prevent any injuries
- that the deceptiveness of these demonstrations would be exposed and that people would believe the truth. These times of incitement very clearly call good evil and evil good.

Continue to keep Israel's relationship with the United States in prayer. Pray that President Obama would stop pressuring Israel to

concede to not building new housing and for any concessions that would compromise Israel's security or integrity.

Pray that Israel's leaders would realize that they do not have to be dependent upon the United States as the relationship forces us to have to do things in ways that do not necessarily benefit Israel.

Pray that Israel's leaders would start to have the dominant attitude and perspective of acting in the best interests of Israel, not acting in a defensive posture and being unduly influenced by world opinion.

🔗 No Continuation of Building Freeze

The Palestinian Authority continues to demand a continuation of the building freeze in Jerusalem neighborhoods as a condition for participating in the peace talks.

The Palestinian Authority and Arab countries reject Israel's claim to Jerusalem and have demanded that all parts of the city that were once under Jordanian control be given to the PA to be used as the capital of a new Arab state. The PA's seat of power is currently in Ramallah.

Under the Obama administration, the United States has largely backed PA demands, and has criticized Israel for allowing Jews to build new homes throughout the city. France, Russian, and Jordan, to name a few, are urging the Israeli government to reconsider its granting building permits of 240 apartments in Jerusalem, so as to not hinder the reengagement of the stalled peace talks.

Please pray for Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to stand up to continual international pressure to continue the freeze of building new homes. New homes are a necessary element for natural population growth and for Israel, to accommodate all the new immigrants that the Lord is bringing home.

I will also enable you to dwell in the cities, and the ruins shall be rebuilt. The desolate land shall be tilled instead of lying desolate in the sight of all who pass by. So they will say, "This land that was desolate has become like the garden of Eden; and the wasted, desolate, and ruined cities are now fortified and inhabited." Then the nations which are left all around you shall know that I, the Lord, have rebuilt the ruined places and planted what was desolate. I, the Lord, have spoken it, and I will do it.

Ezekiel 36:33-36

🌀 Economic Growth and Stability

Please continue to pray that countries that have decided to boycott Israeli goods will change their minds and no other countries will follow them. There needs to be a growing and stable economy to support all those whom the Lord has gathered and is gathering to Israel as He promised to do.

In addition, please pray for the people and governments of your own countries to support Israel economically and politically.

Pray that the Lord will continue to give creative and innovative ideas to Israelis that are simple to make and needed by everyone.

🌀 The Release of Gilad Shalit

Please continue to be steadfast in prayer for Gilad Shalit who has been held hostage since he was abducted by Hamas terrorists in a cross-border raid near the Kerem Shalom Crossing in the south of Israel in June 2006. Numerous deals have been reported to having come close to an agreement in the past several years, only to fall through at the last minute, with Hamas backing out when Israel refused to hand over a list of top-ten terrorists. Israel has, in the past, agreed to free up to 1,000 terrorist prisoners, including many with blood on their hands. Those which Israel has refused to free are serving multiple life sentences for murderous attacks on numerous citizens.

Please pray for a creative solution to obtain his immediate release that is not ultimately at the cost of more lives by releasing vengeful terrorists. Pray for the protection of Gilad's mind while being held hostage, and for divine revelation of his Messiah.

☼ Rain

We are very thankful to the Holy One of Israel to have blessed us with enough rain over the last couple of weeks to raise the level of the Kinneret by 4cm, but this is still far from what is needed to replenish the Kinneret, which is still recovering from five consecutive dry years. Please pray that the Lord would send abundant sustained rain and more snow this year to fill the aquifers, preferably without flooding.

Thank you so very much for your commitment to stand with Israel in prayer. It is a wonderful encouragement for all of us here in the Land. May the Holy One of Israel bless you to overflowing in your walk with Him.