



Israel at War - Prayers to Mark Ceremonies and Small Group Conversations with your Students

** Please note that not all of these prayers work for every environment or for every denomination. Different versions of the prayers, and translations are utilized by different denominations and communities. Please feel empowered to translate these prayers in the way that works for your educational environment.

Prayer for the State of Israel, The Chief Rabbinate of Israel

Translation by Rabbi Ed Snitkoff, adjusted for gender parity

Our Parent in Heaven, Protector and Redeemer of Israel, bless the State of Israel which marks the dawn of our deliverance. Shield it beneath the wings of Your love. Spread over it Your canopy of peace; send Your light and Your truth to its leaders, officers, and counselors, and direct them with Your good counsel.

Strengthen the defenders of our Holy Land; grant them salvation and crown them with victory. Establish peace in the land, and everlasting joy for its inhabitants.

Remember our siblings, the whole house of Israel, in all the lands of their dispersion. Speedily let them walk upright to Zion, the city, to Jerusalem Your dwelling-place, as it is written in the Torah of Your servant Moses: "Even if you are dispersed in the uttermost parts of the world, from there the Lord your God will gather and fetch you. The Lord your God will bring you into the land which your fathers possessed, and you shall possess it."

Unite our heart to love and revere Your name, and to observe all the precepts of Your Torah. And send us the son of David, the Messiah of Your justice, to redeem those who wait for Your salvation.

Shine forth in Your glorious majesty over all the inhabitants of Your world. Let everything that breathes proclaim: The Lord God of Israel is Royalty; God's majesty rules over all." Amen.

תפילה לשלום המדינה

אָבִינוּ שֶׁבַּשָּׁמִיִם, צוּר יִשְּׂרָאֵל וְגוֹאֲלוֹ, בָּרֵךְ אֶת מְדִינַת יִשְּׂרָאֵל, רֵאשִׁית צְמִיחַת גְּאֻלְתֵנוּ. הָגֵן עָלֶיהָ בְּאֶבְרַת חַסְדֶּךְ, וּפְרִשׁ עָלֶיהָ סֻכַּת שְׁלוֹמֶךְ, וּשְׁלַח אוֹרְךְ וַאֲמִתְּךְ לְרֵאשִׁיהַ, שַׂרִיהַ וִיוֹעֲצִיהַ, וְתַקְּנֵם בְּעָצַה טוֹבַה מִלְפַנֵּיךְ.

חַזֵּק אֶת יְדֵי מְגִּנֵּי אֶרֶץ קָדְשֵׁנוּ, וְהַנְחִילֵם אֱלֹהֵינוּ יְשׁוּעָה וַעֲטֶרֶת נִצְּחוֹן הְּעַטְרֵם, וְנָתַהָּ שָׁלוֹם בָּאָרֶץ וְשִׂמְחַת עוֹלָם לִיוֹשָׁבֵיהַ.

וְאֶת אַחֵינוּ כָּל בֵּית יִשְׂרָאֵל פְּקֶד-נָא בְּכָל אַרְצוֹת פְּזוּרֵיהֶם,
וְתוֹלִיכֵם מְהֵרֶה קּוֹמְמִיּוּת לְצִיּוֹן עִירֶךְ וְלִירוּשָׁלַיִם מִשְׁכֵּן
שְׁמֶךְ, כַּכָּתוּב בְּתוֹרַת משֶׁה עַבְדֶּךְ: "אָם יִהְיֶה נִדַּחַךְ בִּקְצֵה הַשָּׁמִיִם, מִשָּׁם יְקַבֶּצְךְ ה' אֱלֹהֶיךְ וּמִשָּׁם יִקְּחָךְ. וֶהֵבִיאֲךְ ה' אֱלֹהֶיךְ אֶל הָאֶרֶץ אֲשֶׁר יָרְשׁוּ אֲבֹתֶיךְ וִירְשְׁתָּהּ, וְהֵיטִבְךְ וְהָרְבָּךְ מֵאֲבֹתֵיךְ" (דברים ל, ד-ה).

וְיַחֵד לְבָבֵנוּ לְאַהֲבָה וּלְיִרְאָה אֶת שְׁמֶךּ, וְלִשְׁמֹר אֶת כָּל דּבְרֵי תּוֹרָתֶךּ. וּשְׁלֵח לָנוּ מְהֵרָה בָּן דִּוִד מְשִׁיחַ צִּדְקֶךְ, לִפְדוֹת מְחַכֵּי קֵץ יְשׁוּעֶתֶךְ.

הוֹפַע בַּהֲדַר גְּאוֹן עֻזֶּךְ עַל כָּל יוֹשְׁבֵי תַּבֵל אַרְצֶךְ, וְיֹאמַר כֹּל אֲשֶׁר נְשָׁמָה בְּאַפּוֹ: "ה' אֱלֹהֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל מֶלֶךְ, וּמַלְכוּתוּ בַּכּל מַשַּׁלָה". אמן סֵלָה.

For more on the history of this prayer – please see here: https://www.myjewishlearning.com/article/praying-for-the-welfare-of-the-state-of-israel/

Prayer for the Members of the Israel Defense Force

The One who blessed our forefathers

Abraham, Isaac and Jacob,

God will bless the fighters of the Israel Defense Force,

who stand guard over our land and the cities of our God from the border of the Lebanon to the desert of Egypt, and from the Great Sea unto the approach of the Aravah.

on the land, in the air, and on the sea.

May God cause the enemies who rise up against us

to be struck down before them.

May the Holy Blessed One, preserve and rescue our fighting men and women from every trouble and distress

and from every plague and illness,

and may God send blessing and success in their every endeavor.

May God lead our enemies under their sway, and may God grant them salvation and crown them with victory.

And may there be fulfilled for them the verse:

For it is the Lord, your God, Who goes with you to battle your enemies for you, in order to save you.

And let us say, Amen.

<u>תפילה לחיילי צה"ל</u>

מִי שֶׁבֵּרַךְ אֲבוֹתֵינוּ אַבָרַהַם יִצְחַק וִיעַקֹב,

הוא יְבָרֵךְ אֶת חַיָּלֵי צְבָא הַהָגַנָּה לְיִשְּׂרָאֵל

ָּהָעוֹמְדְים ְעַל מִשְׁמֵר אַרְצֵנוּ וְעָבִי אֱלֹהֵינוּ,

ָמִגְבוּל הַלְּבָנוֹן וְעַד מִדְבַּר מִצְרַיִם, וּמִן הַיַּם הַגָּדוֹל עַד לְבוֹא הַעַרָבָה

ַבַּיַּבָּשָׁה בָּאֲוִיר וּבַיָּם. בַּיַּבָּשָׁה בָּאֲוִיר וּבַיָּם.

יָתֵן יְיָ אֶת אוֹיְבֵינוּ הַקָּמְים עָלֵינוּ

נָגָפִים לִפְנֵיהֶם!

הַקָּדוֹשׁ בָּרוּךְ הוּא יִשְׁמֹר וְיַצִּיל אֶת חַיָּלֵינוּ מִכֶּל צַרַה וְצוּקָה,

וּמְכָּל נֶגַע וּמַחֵלָה,

ָוִישְׁלַח בְּּרָכָה וְהַצְלָחָה בְּכָל מַעֲשֵׂה יְדֵיהֶם.

יַדְבֵּר שׂוֹנְאֵינוּ תַּחְתֵּיהֶם, ויעטָרם בָּכָתֵר יִשׁוּעה וּבעַטֵרֶת נצחוֹן.

וִיעַטְוֵ ם בְּכֶּלֶנוֹ יְשׁוּעָוֹה וּבַאֲטֶוֶ וֹּנְ נְצָּוֹוֹ וִיקַיֵּם בַּהֶם הַכַּתוּב (דברים כ,ד):

"כִּי יְיָ אֱלֹהֵיכֶם הַהֹּלֵךְ עִמָּכֶם,

ָלְהִלָּחֵם לָנֶכֶם עָם אֹיְבֵיכֶם לְהוֹשִׁיעַ אֶתְכֶם."

"וָנֹאמַר: "אָמֵן."

For more on the history of this prayer – see here





https://opensiddur.org/prayers/collective-welfare/nations/military-personnel/mi-sheberakh-for-the-welfareof-israel-defense-forces-soldiers/

Mi Sheberach Prayer for Captives

The One who blessed our ancestors,

Avraham, Yitshak, and Yaakov, Yosef, Mosheh, and Aharon,

David and Shlomo.

may God bless and safeguard and preserve the captives:

(insert name of captive(s))

among their siblings in the House of Israel who are in trouble and captivity. In the merit of the prayers of this holy assemblage who pray for them.

may the blessed Holy One shower compassion over them,

and deliver them from darkness and strife,

remove their bondage.

deliver them from their afflictions,

and return them speedily to their families.

Let them give thanks to God for God's lovingkindness.

and for the miracles to the children of Adam.

And establish for them that what is written.

"And the ransomed of God shall return, and come with singing unto Zion, and everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; They shall obtain gladness and joy, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away." (Isaiah 35:10) and let us say, Amen.

מי שברך לשבויים

ּמִי שֶׁבַּרַךְ אֲבוֹתֵינוּ

אַבְרָהָם יִצְחָק וְיַעֲקֹב יוֹסֵף מֹשֶׁה וְאַהְרֹן

דוד וּשָׁלֹמֹה

הוא יָבַרֶךְ וְיִשְׁמֹר וְיָנָצֹר אֶת הַשָּׁבוּיִים:

(שמות של השבויים)

ַבָּתוֹךְ שָׁאַר אֲחֵינוּ בֵּית יִשְּׂרָאֵל הַנְּתוּנִים בְּצַרָה וּבְשָׁבְיַה.

ָבַעַבוּר שֶׁהַקָּהָל מִתְפַּלֵל בַּעֲבוּרָם,

ָהַקַּדוֹשׁ בַּרוּךְ הוּא יִמַּלֵא רַחֲמִים עַלֵיהֶם,

וְיוֹצִיאֵם מֵחֹשֶׁךְ וְצַלְמַוֵת,

וּמוֹסָרוֹתֵיהֶם יַנַתֵּק,

וּמִמָּצוּקוֹתֵיהֶם יוֹשִׁיעַם,

וישׁיבַם מָהַרה לְחֵיק מִשְׁפָּחוֹתֵיהֵם.

"יודוּ לה׳ חסדּו

וְנִפְּלְאוֹתַיו לְבָנֵי אֲדַם" (תהלים קז:לא)

ויקיַם בּהֶם מַקְרא שֶׁכּתוּב:

וּפָדוּיֵי ה׳ יִשׁוּבוּן וּבַאוּ צִיּוֹן בִּרְנַה וְשִּׂמְחַת עוֹלַם עַל" רֹאשָׁם שָּׁשׂוֹן וְשִׂמְחַה יַשִּׂיגוּ וְנַסוּ יַגוֹן וַאֲנַחַה" (ישעיהו

לה:י)

וָנֹאמַר אמן.

For more on this prayer – see here:

https://opensiddur.org/prayers/collective-welfare/trouble/captivitv/mi-sheberakh-for-those-in-captivitv-orwhose-whereabouts-are-unknown/

Acheinu - Our Brothers And Sisters

Traditionally, this prayer is recited after the Torah reading

Our brothers, sisters, siblings, the whole house of Israel, who are in distress and captivity who wander over sea and over land. May the Divine have mercy on them, and bring them from distress to comfort, from darkness to light, from slavery to redemption, now. swiftly, and soon.

And let us say: Amen

<u>אחינו כל בית ישראל</u>

אחינו כל בית ישראל, הנתונים בצרה ובשביה, העומדים בין בים ובין ביבשה, המקום ירחם עליהם, ויוציאם מצרה לרווחה, ומאפלה לאורה, ומשעבוד לגאולה, השתא בעגלה ובזמן קריב.

ונאמר אמן

Oseh Shalom - The One Who Makes Peace

May the One who makes peace in the high heavens make peace for us, for all Israel.

And let us say - Amen.

עושה שלום

עושה שלום במרומיו הוא יעשה שלום עלינו ועל כל ישראל,

ואמרו אמן.

Hatikva - Israeli National Anthem

As long as within our hearts The Jewish soul sings, As long as forward to the East To Zion, looks the eye -Our hope is not yet lost, It is two thousand years old, To be a free people in our land

The land of Zion and Jerusalem.

התקוה

כָּל עוֹד בַּלֵּבָב פָּנִימָה נְפֶשׁ יָהוּדִי הוֹמַיַּה וּלְפַאֲתֵי מְזְרַח קַדִּימַה עיַן לְצִיּוֹן צוֹפִיַּה עוֹד לֹא אָבְדָה תִּקְוָתֵנוּ הַתִּקוָה בַּת שָׁנוֹת אַלְפַּיִם ּלְהְיוֹת עַם חָפְשִׁי בְּאַרְצֵנוּ אָרֵץ צִיּוֹן וירוּשׁלַיִם





Prayers Written in the Wake of the Current War in Israel

Dr. Ruhama Weiss, "I Want to Weep" (October 8, 2023)

I want to weep but then I remember
That there's a long line now for weeping
(In fairness and to my great fortune) I'm off the list
Of those allowed
Tears.

At moments like this, when life empties itself out of all Content

Only one word has meaning:

Empty.

Grandmothers taken prisoner. Babies slaughtered.

For some reason I'm reminded of Bialik

I have no right

To weep.

אני רוצה לבכות אבל זוכרת שיש עכשיו תור ארוך לבכי (ובצדק ולמזלי) אני מחוץ לרשימות של מי שמותר לה דמעות.

רגעים כאלה כשהחיים מתרוקנים מכל תוכו

> יש משמעות רק למילה אחת ריק

סבתות נלקחות בשבי. תינוקות נטבחים משום מה אני נזכרת בביאליק אין לי זכות לבכות

Tears and Rain: A Prayer for Success in War – Alden Solovy

https://tobendlight.com/2023/10/tears-and-rain/?fbclid=lwAR2heZ7rR8FtrVqoTHVncuwzaxrBUa XZ-m2aT3ksMc-UCVTloEyV3SDHqI

We prayed for rain,

And we got tears.

Yes, we said the ancient words -

משיב הרוח ומוריד הגשם

Masheev ha'ruach u'moreed hagashem -

Acknowledging G-d as the One

Who makes the rain fall

And the wind blow,

But we got tears,

So many tears

Flowing like rain

That would not relent.

Tears for the dead.

Tears for the wounded.

Tears for the kidnapped,

And tears for the captives.

Tears for the soldiers.

Tears for the reservists.

Tears for our sons.

Tears for our daughters.

Tears for our friends.

And tears for our families.

Tears for our nation.

Tears for our people.

So many tears.

So many tears.

G-d, who makes the rain fall,

G-d, who makes tears on earth,

Send us Your tears from heaven,

But only if You send them

As blessings,

Only if You send them as signs

That You will be with us

As we defend our nation,

That You will be with us





As we fight to end the terror That dwells in our midst, The terror that still lurks at our doorstep. © 2023 Alden Solovy

The following prayer is for the healing of the wounded, the release of the captives, and the safe return of those who are missing to their homes. It was written by Rabbi Mira Regev and inspired by a prayer for





times of war by the Rabbis Yehoram and Oded Mazor. From the Israeli Reform Movement.

Our Father in heaven, Shechinah source of life, Rock and redeemer of Israel, strengthen and deliver all who stand on guard protecting their homes, safeguard and save them from any trouble and distress and bless their actions, hear their prayers and ours and deliver them. Save those who are trapped in their homes, grant them inner strength, faith and hope, bolster them in these terrifying times. Send Your mercy to the anxious mothers and hurting fathers and the children sitting in shelters. May it be Your will to remember us, to take notice of us, to meet us with compassion for we trust in You.

Return all those kidnapped safe and sound to their homes, without the spilling of innocent blood, without their souls becoming tarnished by horrific acts.

Strengthen those who protect our Holy Land, soldiers and civilians alike.

We pray "nation shall not lift sword against nation and they will study war no more". Compassionate God, please, arouse Your mercy for us, and may the verse be fulfilled: "from the seed of peace the vine shall produce its fruit, the land shall produce its yield, and the skies shall provide their moisture. I will bestow all these things upon you, and you shall be a blessing, have no fear."

- Rabbi Mira Regev

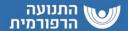
And let us say Amen.

Translated by Rabbi Levi Weiman-Kelman and Rabbi Efrat Rotem



אַבִינוּ שָׁבַשַּׁמַיִם, שָׁכִינַה מַקוֹר חֵיֵינוּ, צור ישראל וגואלו חזק והושע את כל העומדים עַל מִשְׁמַרֵת בֵּיתַם שַׁמַרֵם והצילם מכל צרה וצוקה ותן ברכה בכל מעשי ידיהם, שָׁמַע תִּפְלַתַם ותִפְלַתֵנו וְהוֹשִׁיעֵם. שַׁלַח יִשׁוּעַה לְכַל הַנִּצוּרוֹת וְהַנָצוּרִים בְּבַתֵּיהֵם, מַלֶא אוֹתַם בָּחֹסֶן נַפְּשִׁי אֱמוּנָה וְתִקְוַה וְחַזְקַם בַּרָגַעִים הַמַּפְחִידִים הַאֵלֵּה. עשה בַּרחמיך למען האמהות הדואגות וָהַאַבוֹת הַדּוֹאֵבִים וּלְמַעַן הַתִּינוֹקוֹת וְהַיָּלַדִים הַיּוֹשָׁבִים בַּמִּקְלַטִים. אָנַא זַכְרֵנוּ בִּרְצוֹנֵךְ, כַּקּדֵנוּ בִּישׁוּעַתֶךְ, יַקַדָּמוּנוּ רַחֲמֵיךָ כִּי בָּךְ בַּטַחָנוּ. הַשָׁב אֵת כַּל הַחֲטוּפוֹת והחטופים בשלום לבתיהם בָּלֹא שֵׁיִשָּׁפֶךְ דָּם נָקִי וּבְלִי שֵׁתִּטָּמָא נַפִּשָּׁם בִּמַעשׂי זוַעַה : חַזֵּק אֵת יִדֵי מִגְנֵי אֵרֵץ קַדְּשָׁנו הַחַיַלִים וָהַאַזְרַחִים. מי יַתַן וַלֹא יַשָּׂא גוֹי אַל גוֹי חַרֶב וָלא יִלְמָדוּ עוֹד מִלְחַמַה: אָנַא, אֵל רַחַמַן, יָהֵמוּ נַא רַחַמִיךּ עַלִינוּ, וִיקַיַּם בַּנוּ הַכַּתוּב: כִּי זָרַע הַשָּׁלוֹם הַגֶּפֵן תִּתֵן פִּרְיַה וָהַאַרֵץ תִּתַן אֱת יִבוּלַהּ והשמים יתנו טלם וָהָנָחַלְתִּי אֵתְכֶם אֵת כַּל אֵלֵה. וָהָיִיתֵם בָּדַכָה אַל תִּידַאוּ.

Adonai will guard your going and coming now and forever



וָנֹאמַר אָמֵן