

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

** Please use discretion and 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.

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 iustice. 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 שָׁבַּשְּׁמִים, צוּר יִשְּׂרָאֵל וְגוֹאֲלוֹ, בָּרֵךְ אֶת מְדִינַת יִשְּׂרָאֵל, רֵאשִׁית צְמִיחַת גְּאֻלְּתָנוּ. הָגֵּן עָלֶיהָ בְּאֶבְרַת חַסְדֶּךְ, וּפְרֹשׁ עָלֶיהָ סֻכָּת שְׁלוֹמֶךְ, וּשְׁלַח אוֹרְךְ וַאֲמִתְּךְ לְרָאשָׁיהָ, שָׁרֶיהָ וְיוֹעֲצֶיהָ, וְתַקְּנֵם בְּעֵצָה טוֹבָה מִלְפָנֶיךְ.

חַזֵּק אֶת יְדֵי מְגנֵּי אֶרֶץ קּדְשֵׁנוּ, וְהַנְחִילֵם אֱלֹהֵינוּ יְשוּעָה וַעֲטֶרֶת נִצְּחוֹן הְּעַטְּרֵם, וְנָתַהָּ שָׁלוֹם בָּאָרֶץ וְשִּׁמְחַת עוֹלְם לְיוֹשְׁבֶיהָ.

וְאֶת אַחֵינוּ כֶּל בֵּית יִשְרָאֵל פְּקְד-נָא בְּכָל אַרְצוֹת פְּזוּרֵיהֶם,
וְתוֹלִיכֶם מְהַרָה קוֹמְמִיּוּת לְצִיּוֹן עִירֶךְ וְלִירוּשְׁלַיִם מִשְׁכּן
שְׁמֶךְ, כַּכְתוּב בְּתוֹרֶת משֶׁה עְבְדֶּךְ: "אָם יִהְיֶה נִדְּחֵךְ בִּקְצֵה
הַשְׁמִים, מִשָּׁם יְקַבֶּצְךְ ה' אֱלֹהֶיךְ וּמִשֶּׁם יִקְּחֶךְ. וֶהֱבִיאֲךְ ה'
אֱלֹהֶיךְ אֶל הָאָרֶץ אֲשֶׁר יָרְשׁוּ אֲבֹתֵיךְ וִירְשְׁתָּהּ, וְהֵיטִבְךְ
וְהְרְבַּךְ מֵאֻבֹּתִיךְ" (דברים ל, ד-ה).

וְיַחֵד לְבָבֵנוּ לְאַהֲבָה וּלְיִרְאָה אֶת שְׁמֶךְ, וְלִשְׁמֹר אֶת כֶּל דּבְרֵי תּוֹרֶתֶךְ. וּשְׁלַח לְנוּ מְהֵרָה בֶּן דְּוִד מְשִׁיחַ צִּדְקֶךְ, לִפְדּוֹת מְחַכֵּי קֵץ יְשׁוּעְתֶךְ.

הוֹפַע בַּהֲדַר גָּאוֹן עַזֶּךְ עַל כָּל יוֹשְבֵי תַּבֵל אַרְצֶךְ, וְיֹאמֵר כֹּל אֲשֶׁר נְשָׁמָה בְּאַפּוֹ: "ה' אֱלֹהֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל מֶלֶךְ, וּמַלְכוּתוּ בַּכּל מִשָּׁלָה". אָמֵן 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 plaque and illness,

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

May God lead our enemies under their sway and 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 אַבְרָהָם יִצְחָק וִיַעַקֹב,

הוּא יַבַרֶךְ אֶת חַיָּלֵי צְבָא הַהַגַּנָה לִיִשְּׂרָאֶל

ָּהָעוֹמְדִים עַל מִשְׁמַר אַרְצֵנוּ וְעָרֵי אֵלֹהֵינוּ, הָעוֹמְדִים עַל מִשְׁמַר אַרְצֵנוּ וְעָרֵי אֵלֹהֵינוּ,

ָּתְגָבוּל הַלְּבָנוֹן וְעַד מִדְבַּר מִצְרַיִם,

וּמִן הַיָּם הַגָּדוֹל עַד לְבוֹא הָעֲרָבָה

בַּיַּבָּשָׁה בָּאֲוִיר וּבַיָּם.

יַתַן יִיָּ אֶת אוֹיִבֵינוּ הַקָּמִים עָלֵינוּ

נגָפִים לְפָנֵיהֶם!

הַקְּדוֹשׁ בָּרוּךְ הוּא יִשְׁמֹר וְיַצִּיל אֶת חַיָּלֵינוּ

מְכַּל צָרָה וְצוּקָה,

וּמכּל נגע וּמחלָה.

וִיִשְׁלַח בְּרָכָה וְהַצְלָחָה בְּכָל מַעֲשֵׂה יְדֵיהֶם.

יַדְבֵּר שׂוֹנְאֵינוּ תַּחְתֵּיהֶם,

ּוִיעַטְרֵם בְּכֶתֶר יְשׁוּעָה וּבַעֲטֶרֶת נָצָחוֹן.

וִיקַיַּם בָּהֶם הַכָּתוּב (דברים כ,ד):

"כִּי יְיָ אֱלֹהֵיכֶם הַהֹּלֵךְ עִמָּכֶם,

"לְהַלְּחֵם לָכֶם עִם אֹיְבֵיכֶם לְהוֹשִׁיעַ אֶתְכֶם."

"וָנֹאמַר: "אֶמֶן."

For more on the history of this prayer – see here

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



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

אחינו כל בית ישראל

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	עושה שלום
May the One who makes peace in the high heavens make peace fo	r us, עושה שלום במרומיו הוא יעשה שלום עלינו ועל כל
for all Israel,	ישראל,
And let us say - Amen.	ואמרו אמן.

Hatikva – Israeli National Anthem	<u>התקוה</u>
As long as within our hearts	כָּל עוֹד בַּלֵבָב פְּנִימָה
The Jewish soul sings,	נֶפֶשׁ יְהוּדִי הוֹמִיָּה
As long as forward to the East	וּלְפַאֲתֵי מִזְרָח קָדִימָה
To Zion, looks the eye –	עַיִן לְצִיּוֹן צוֹפָיָה
Our hope is not yet lost,	עוֹד לֹא אָבְדָה תִּקְוָתֵנוּ
It is two thousand years old,	הַתִּקְנָה בַּת שְׁנוֹת אַלְפַּיִם
To be a free people in our land	לָהְיוֹת עַם חָפָּשִׁי בְּאַרְצֵנוּ
The land of Zion and Jerusalem.	אֶבֶץ צִיּוֹן וִירוּשָׁלַיִם



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 אני רוצה לבכות אבל זוכרת That there's a long line now for weeping שיש עכשיו תור ארוך לבכי (In fairness and to my great fortune) I'm off the list (ובצדק ולמזלי) אני מחוץ לרשימות Of those allowed של מי שמותר לה Tears. דמעות. At moments like this, when life empties itself out of all רגעים כאלה כשהחיים מתרוקנים מכל Only one word has meaning: יש משמעות רק למילה אחת Empty. Grandmothers taken prisoner. Babies slaughtered. סבתות נלקחות בשבי. תינוקות נטבחים For some reason I'm reminded of Bialik משום מה אני נזכרת בביאליק I have no right אין לי זכות To weep. לבכות

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

https://tobendlight.com/2023/10/tears-and-rain/?fbclid=IwAR2heZ7rR8FtrVqoTHVncuwzaxrBUa 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.

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." And let us say Amen.

Our Father in heaven, Shechinah source of

— Rabbi Mira Regev

Translated by Rabbi Levi Weiman-Kelman and Rabbi Efrat Rotem

אָבִינוּ שֶׁבַּשָּׁמַיִם, שָׁכִינָה מְקוֹר חַיֵּינוּ, צור ישראל וגואלו חַזַּק וְהוֹשֵׁעֵ אֶת כָּל הָעוֹמְדִים עַל מִשְׁמֶרֶת בֵּיתָם שָׁמְרֵם וְהַצִּילֵם מִכָּל צָרָה וְצוּקָה וְתַּן בְּרֶכָה בְּכָל מַעֲשֵׂי יְדֵיהֶם, שָׁמַע תְּפָלֶּתָם וּתְפָלֶתֵנוּ וְהוֹשִׁיעֵם. שָׁלַח יְשׁוּעָה לְכָל הַנְּצוּרוֹת וְהַנְּצוּרִים בְּבָתֵּיהֶם, מָלֵא אוֹתָם בְּחֹסֶן נַפְּשִׁי אֱמוּנָה וְתִקְנָה וְחָזְקָם בָּרְגָעים הַמַּפְחִידִים הָאֵלֶה. בָּרְגָעים עֲעוֹה בְּרַחֲמֶיךּ לְמַעַן הָאִמָּהוֹת הַדּוֹאֲגוֹת וְהָאָבוֹת הַדּוֹאֲבִים וּלְמַעַן הַתִּינוֹקוֹת וְהַיְּלָדִים הַיּוֹשְׁבִים בַּמִּקְלָטִים. אָנָא זְָכְרֵנוּ בִּרְצוֹנֶךּ, פְּקְרֵנוּ בִּישׁוּעֶתֶךּ, יְקַדְּמוּנוּ רַחֲמֶיךּ כִּי בְּךְ בְּטַחְנוּ הָשֵׁב אֶת כָּל הַחֲטוּפּוֹת וָהַחֵטוּפִים בְּשָׁלוֹם לְבָּתֵּיהֵם בָּלֹא שֶׁיִּשְׁפֵּךְ דָּם נָקִי וּבְלִי שֶׁתִּטֶּמָא נַפְשָׁם בְּמַעֲשֵׁי זְוָעָה ַחַזַּק אַת יִדֵי מָגְנֵי אַרֵץ קַדְשָׁנוּ : החילים והאזרחים. מִי יָתַן וְלֹא יָשָׂא גוֹי אֵל גוֹי חֵרֶב ָוֹלֹא יִלְמְדוֹ עוֹד מְלְחָמָה: אָנַא, אֵל רַחַמַן, יָהֵמוּ נַא רַחַמֵיךּ עַלֵּינוּ, וִיקַיַם בָּנוּ הַכָּתוּב: כִּי זֵרַע הַשָּׁלוֹם הַגַּפֵּן חָתֵן פָּרְיָה וָהָאָרֶץ תִּתֵן אֶת יִבוּלָה וַהְשָׁמֵים יִתְנוּ טַלָּם וָהְנְחַלְתִּי אֶתְכֶם אֶת כָּל אֵלֶה. וָהִייתֵם בַּרֶכָה אַל תִּירָאוּ.

Adonai will guard your going and coming now and forever

