

A Prayer for Israel at War

Too long have I had my dwelling among those who hate peace.
I am for peace, but when I speak, they are for war.

We lift up our eyes to the hills. From where does help come?
Help comes from the LORD (FATHER, Matthew 6:9), who made heaven and earth.
Behold, he who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.

If it had not been the FATHER who was on our side – let Israel now say – if it had not been the FATHER who was on our side when people rose up against us, then they would have swallowed us up alive, when their anger was kindled against us; then the flood would have swept us away, over us would have gone the raging waters.

Our help is in the name of the FATHER, who made heaven and earth!

Those who trust in the FATHER are like Mount Zion, which cannot be moved, but abides forever.

As the mountains surround Jerusalem, so he surrounds his people, from this time forth and forevermore.

For the sceptre of wickedness shall not rest on the land allotted to the righteous, lest the righteous stretch out their hands to do wrong.

Do good, O FATHER, to those who are good, and to those who are upright in their hearts!
But those who turn aside to their crooked ways, lead away with evildoers!

Peace be upon Israel!

“Greatly have they afflicted us from our youth” – let Israel now say – “Greatly have they afflicted us from our youth, yet they have not prevailed against us.”

The FATHER is righteous; he has cut the cords of the wicked.
May all who hate Zion be put to shame and turned backward.
Let them be like the grass on the housetops, which withers before it grows up.

Out of the depths we cry to you, O FATHER! Hear our voices!
Let your ears be attentive to our pleas for mercy!

O Israel, hope in the FATHER from this time forth and forevermore.

For he has chosen Zion; he has desired it for his dwelling place:

"This is my resting place forever; here I will dwell, for I have desired it.
I will abundantly bless her provisions; I will satisfy her poor with bread.
There I will make a horn to sprout for David; I have prepared a lamp for my anointed. His enemies I will clothe with shame, but on him his crown will shine."

For there he has commanded the blessing, life forevermore.

May the FATHER bless you from Zion, he who made heaven and earth!

This prayer was written by James Whitman of the Centre for Judaic Christian Studies.

All the verses are taken from the Psalms of Ascent – Psalms 120-134.