

From Rabbi Russ Resnick, UMJC

Together, we are continuing to extend two hands of support to Israel during these perilous days—one hand extended with material aid and the other hand extend to Hashem in prayer. Feel free to share these prayer requests with your communities on Shabbat (feel free to adapt as needed):

- Protection and swift release of all the hostages.

May the One who blessed Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, Aaron, David and Solomon bless, watch and guard every one of those being held as hostages in Gaza, among others of our brothers and sisters of the House of Israel that are situated in distress and in captivity.

May the Holy One, blessed be he, grant mercy upon them, take them out from darkness and gloom, break their chains, redeem them from their ordeals and return them quickly to the comfort of their families. “Let them praise the Lord for his kindness, and his wondrous deeds for the children of man” (Psalm 107:8). And let the words of Isaiah the prophet, proclaimed by Messiah, be fulfilled, “to declare liberty to the captives . . . to set at liberty those who are oppressed” (Isa 61:1/Luke 4:18).

And let us say, Amen!*Adapted from the Ashkenaz Siddur, sefaria.org.*

- Wisdom, guidance, and skill for all those seeking the return of the hostages.
- Protection for children and civilians on both sides of the conflict.
- Comfort for grieving families on both sides of the conflict.
- Healing of body and healing of soul for the wounded.
- Strength and protection for medical and rescue personnel.
- Wisdom for Israel’s political and military leaders.
- Resolute support from Israel’s allies, including the United States.
- Confusion and discord in the ranks of Israel’s enemies.
- Safety and protection for IDF troops throughout this entire conflict.

May the One who blessed our fathers, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, bless the soldiers of the Israel Defense Forces, as they stand guard upon our land and the cities of our God, from the border of the Lebanon to the Wilderness of Egypt and from the Great Sea to the approach of the Arava—on land, in the air, and in the sea.

May the Holy One, blessed be he, guard and rescue our soldiers from all trouble and distress and from all affliction and illness; and send blessing and success in all the work of their hands.

May the Lord cause our enemies that rise against us to flee from before us. May he sow confusion and discord into their councils and render their weapons powerless.

May he crown the defenders of Israel with the crown of salvation and with the wreath of victory. And through them let the words be fulfilled: “For it is the Lord your God who walks with you to fight for you against your enemies to save you” (Deut 20:4).

And let us say, Amen.

Adapted from the Ashkenaz Siddur, sefaria.org.

Thank you, and may the peace of Messiah Yeshua be upon us all this Shabbat.