

Prayers for the State of Israel and the Israel Defense Forces

For the State of Israel

<i>Avinu Shebashamayim,</i>	אָבִינוּ שֶׁבַשְׁמַיִם,
<i>tzur Yisrael v'go-alo,</i>	צוּר יִשְׂרָאֵל וְגוֹאֲלוֹ,
<i>bareich et m'dinat Yisrael,</i>	בָּרַךְ אֶת מְדִינַת יִשְׂרָאֵל,
<i>reishit tz'michat g'ulateinu.</i>	רֵאשִׁית צְמִיחַת גְּאֻלַּתֵּנוּ.
<i>Hagein aleha</i>	הִגֵּן עָלֶיהָ
<i>b'evrat chasdecha,</i>	בְּאֶבְרַת חַסְדֶּךָ,
<i>ufros aleha</i>	וּפְרוֹס עָלֶיהָ
<i>sukat sh'lomecha.</i>	סֻכַּת שְׁלוֹמֶךָ.
<i>Ush'lach orcha vaamit'cha</i>	וּשְׁלַח אוֹרְךָ וְאֲמַתְךָ
<i>l'rasheha, sareha v'yo-atzeha,</i>	לְרֵאשִׁיהָ, שְׂרִיָּהּ וְיוֹעֲצֶיהָ,
<i>v'takneim b'eitzah</i>	וְתַקְנֵם בְּעֵצָה
<i>tovah milfanecha.</i>	טוֹבָה מִלְּפָנֶיךָ.
<i>Chazeik y'dei m'ginei</i>	חַזֵּק יָדַי מִגִּנֵּי
<i>eretz kodsheinu,</i>	אֶרֶץ קְדֻשָּׁנוּ,
<i>v'hanchileim y'shuah v'chayim.</i>	וְהַנְחִילֵם יְשׁוּעָה וְחַיִּים.
<i>V'natata shalom baaretz,</i>	וְנָתַתְּ שְׁלוֹם בְּאֶרֶץ,
<i>v'simchat olam l'yoshveha.</i>	וְשִׂמְחַת עוֹלָם לְיוֹשְׁבֶיהָ.
<i>Amen.</i>	אָמֵן.

O Heavenly One, Protector and Redeemer of Israel, bless the State of Israel which marks the dawning of hope for all who seek peace. Shield it beneath the wings of Your love; spread over it the canopy of Your peace; send Your light and truth to all who lead and advise, guiding them with Your good counsel. Strengthen the hands of those who defend our holy land, grant them deliverance, and adorn them in a mantle of victory. Establish peace in the land and fullness of joy for all who dwell there. Amen.

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem; may those who love you prosper! Let there be peace in your homes, safety within your borders. For the sake of my people, my friends, I pray you find peace. For the sake of the house of the Eternal our God, I will seek your good.

(PSALM 122:6-9)

For the Israel Defense Forces

מִי שְׁבַרְךָ אֲבוֹתֵינוּ, אֲבָרָהֶם יִצְחָק וַיַּעֲקֹב,
וְאֲמוֹתֵינוּ, שָׂרָה רַבֵּקָה רָחֵל וְלֵאָה, הוּא יְבָרְךָ
אֶת חַיְלֵי צְבָא הַהֲגָנָה לְיִשְׂרָאֵל וְשָׂאֵר מְגִנָּי
עִמָּנוּ, הָעוֹמְדִים עַל מְשֻׁמְרֵתָם. יִשְׁמְרֵם הַקְּדוֹשׁ
בְּרוּךְ הוּא וַיִּצְיֵלֵם מִכָּל צָרָה וְצוֹקָה וּמִכָּל נִגְעַ
וּמַחֲלָה, וַיִּשְׁלַח בְּרָכָה בְּכָל מַעֲשֵׂה יְדֵיהֶם. וַיִּקְיֵם
בְּהֶם הַכְּתוּב: "וְכִתְתּוּ חֲרֻבֵיתֵיהֶם לְאַתִּים,
וַחֲנִיתֵיתֵיהֶם לְמוֹמְרוֹת; לֹא יִשְׂאוּ גוֹי אֶל-גּוֹי

חָרַב, וְלֹא יִלְמְדוּן עוֹד מִלְחָמָה: וַיֵּשְׁבוּ אִישׁ
 תַּחַת גַּפְנוֹ וְתַחַת תְּאֲנָתוֹ וְאִין מִחְרִיד
 (מִיכָה ד:ג): וְנֹאמַר: אָמֵן.

Mi shebeirach avoteinu Avraham, Yitzchak, v'Yaakov, v'imoteinu, Sarah, Rivkah, Rachel, v'Leah, hu y'vareich et chayalei tz'va hahaganah l'Yisrael ush'ar m'ginei ameinu, haom'dim al mishmartam. Yishm'reim hakadosh baruch hu v'yatzileim mikol tzarah v'tzukah u'mikol nega umachalah v'yishlach b'rachah b'chol maaseih y'deihem. Vikuyam bahem hakatuv: "V'chit' tu charvoteihem l'itim, vachanitoteihem l'mazmeirot; lo yis'u goy el goy cherev, v'lo yil'm'dun od milchamah: V'yash'vu ish tachat gafno v'tachat t'einato v'ein macharid": V'nomar: Amen.

May the One who blessed our ancestors Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, Sarah, Rebecca, Rachel, and Leah, bless the soldiers of Israel's Defense Forces, and all who stand guard in order to protect our people. May the Holy One, blessed be God, protect them and save them from all troubles and afflictions, from all sickness and injury, and send blessing to all their endeavors. May the words of the prophet come to fruition through them: "And they shall beat their swords into ploughshares and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. And each one shall sit under the vine and under the fig tree and none shall be afraid (MICHA 4:3)," and let us say, Amen.

For Israeli Soldiers or Civilians Being Held Captive

Our God, the One who raised Joseph up from the pit, be "a refuge for the oppressed, a refuge in times of trouble" (PSALM 9:10).

Send complete rescue and full redemption to those held captive by the enemy: [insert names].

Strengthen their spirit and bring them our prayers that they be protected from all harm.

Implant understanding in the heart of the enemy that they may return the captives in wholeness of body and spirit.

Grant wisdom to the Israel Defense Forces that they may secure freedom for the captives without loss of life.

Grant strength of spirit and courage of heart to all the sons and daughters of Abraham, Sarah, and Hagar to release bonds of captivity and allow us all to live in freedom.

“They shall call upon Me, and I will answer them; I will be with them in distress; I will rescue them, and honor them” (ADAPTED FROM PSALM 91:15).

SHALOM RAV al Yisrael amcha
tasim l'olam,
ki atah hu Melech Adon
l'chol hashalom.
V'tov b'einecha l'vareich
et amcha Yisrael
b'chol eit uv'chol shaah bishlomecha.

שְׁלוֹם רַב עַל יִשְׂרָאֵל עֲמֶךָ
תְּשִׂים לְעוֹלָם,
כִּי אַתָּה הוּא מֶלֶךְ אֲדוֹן
לְכֹל הַשְּׁלוֹם.
וְטוֹב בְּעֵינֶיךָ לְבָרֵךְ
אֶת עַמְּךָ יִשְׂרָאֵל
בְּכֹל עֵת וּבְכֹל שָׁעָה בְּשְׁלוֹמֶךָ.

Baruch atah, Adonai,
ham'vareich et amo Yisrael bashalom.

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה, יְיָ,
הַמְּבָרֵךְ אֶת עַמּוֹ יִשְׂרָאֵל בְּשְׁלוֹם.

GRANT ABUNDANT PEACE to Israel Your people forever,
for You are the Sovereign God of all peace.
May it be pleasing to You to bless Your people Israel
in every season and moment with Your peace.

Blessed are You, Adonai, who blesses Your people Israel with peace.

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה, יְיָ, הַמְּבָרֵךְ אֶת עַמּוֹ יִשְׂרָאֵל בְּשְׁלוֹם.
Baruch atah, Adonai, ham'vareich et amo Yisrael bashalom.

Prayer for Israel

Sovereign of All the World —
accept our plea on behalf of the state and people of Israel;
pour forth Your blessing on the land and all who call it home.

May Your laws of kindness guide its people;
and may the teaching of Your prophets
live within their hearts and ours —

“Only to do justice,
and to love goodness,
and to walk humbly with your God.” (Micah 6:8)

Awaken Your spirit in the Jewish people and the whole human family;
implant within us all patience and mutual respect;
uproot from our midst hatred, violence, coercion, and exploitation.

We pray for strength of body and spirit to journey to the land,
and to be a true friend of the land and its people — a lover of Zion.

May life there become “*shevet achim gam yachad* . . .
brothers and sisters dwelling together.” (Psalm 133:1)

And in every corner of the earth,
spread Your shelter of peace over the House of Israel.

Strengthen the will and stamina of Israel’s soldiers;
fill with courage the hearts of those who shield the land.

Let their spirits be resilient
and their use of arms pure.

Valiant in war, ever-striving for peace —
may they overcome all enemies,
as You guard them in the shadow of Your wings.

For this, and this alone, we pray:
Make peace in the land;
may all its inhabitants be blessed;
and may this vision of Your prophet soon be achieved —
“Nation shall not lift up sword against nation;
Neither shall they learn war anymore.” (Isaiah 2:4)

Amen.

by Rabbi Sheldon Marder, from Mishkan
HaNefesh (CCAR Press, 2015).

מִי שְׁבַרְךָ אֲבוֹתֵינוּ אֲבָרָהֶם יִצְחָק וְיַעֲקֹב,
וְאִמּוֹתֵינוּ שָׂרָה, רִבְקָה, רָחֵל וְלֵאָה,
הוּא יְבָרֵךְ אֶת חֵילֵי צֹה"ל
וְאֲנָשֵׁי כּוֹחוֹת הַבְּטָחוֹן
הַנִּלְחָמִים לְמַעַן בְּטָחוֹן יִשְׂרָאֵל וּשְׁלוֹמָהּ.
יִתֵּן לָהֶם יי עֹז לְצֵאת חוֹשִׁים
בְּגֵד אוֹיְבֵינוּ הַקָּמִים עֲלֵינוּ,
וְרוּחַ אִיתָנָה לְשִׁמּוֹר עַל עַרְכֵיהֶם וְעַל צַלְמָם
בְּעֵת מִבְּחָן זֶה.
יְגַן יי עֲלֵיהֶם מִכָּל צָרָה וּמִצּוּקָה,
לְמַעַן יָשׁוּבוּ בְּשָׁלוֹם וּבְשִׂמְחָה
אֶל מְשֻׁפְחוֹתֵיהֶם וְאֶל חֲבָרֵיהֶם,
וּלְמַעַן יִמְשִׁיכוּ וַיִּפְרְחוּ כְּבָנֵי אָדָם וְחָוָה
וּכְאֲזָרְחֵי מְדִינָתָם.

May the One who brought blessings to our fathers
Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob,
and to our mothers
Sarah, Rebecca, Rachel, and Leah,
bless the soldiers of Israel's Defense Forces,
and all who stand guard in order to protect the Land of Israel.
Give them strength against our enemies,
and strengthen their spirit
to preserve their highest moral values at this time of trial.
Protect them from all troubles and afflictions,
so that they will return in peace and joy to their families and friends,
and may they prosper as human beings and citizens in their land.

From Lchol Zman v'Eit, CCAR Officiant's Manual
Written by Rabbi Yoki Amir

Peace, Please
By Rabbi Karyn Kedar

We gather together,
in faith and with hope
to pray for peace
and for the safety of the people of Israel.

Help us, O Holy One
and protect us in our hour of need.
Touch our hearts
lest they hardened with despair.
Guide our thoughts
lest they are overcome with fear.

Bring healing to the wounded,
strength to those in mourning,
courage to those in fear,
wisdom to those who lead.

Yedid nefesh, beloved one,
reveal Yourself
and fill the world with Your light.
Spread over us the shelter of Your peace.
Be quick, God of love, for the time has come.
Have mercy upon us, Eternal One of peace.

Three Readings by Alden Solovy

War on Simchat Torah

On the ground,
We rejoice with the Torah.
In the air,
The missiles fly.
On the ground
The attack has come, as well.
Some still dance
With the Torah,
While others shelter in place.

We are at war,
Even as we remember
The blessings of G-d's word,
Even as we pledge
To be true to our faith
And to live according
To G-d's instructions.

כי נר מצוות ותורה אור ודרך חיים
For mitzvot are a lamp
And Torah is light
And the way of life. (Proverbs 6:23)

G-d of Israel,
Bless this nation
And protect us
Even as the sirens blare
And combat has come
To our streets.

Let peace be close at hand,
So that we dance
In the gardens and the groves,
In the heights and in the deserts
Once more

In joyous celebration
Of Torah and life.

For the Soldiers of the IDF

Rock of Israel,
Our sons and daughters,
Our brothers and sisters,
Our family and friends,
Have been called to serve,
In the name of peace and justice,
In the name of sovereignty and survival,
To defend and to protect our land
From violence and assault,
From kidnappers and terrorists,
From missile and mortar,
From those who would destroy our nation and our people.

We stand with the defenders of Israel.
We honor the guardians of Zion.
We hold dear the sentries of Am Kadosh.

G-d of Old,
We know the price of safety,
We know the cost of security.
Bless the injured and wounded
In every generation
With Your healing hand.
Bless the dead and the bereaved
With Your love and consolation.
Bless the heroes of our past
And the heroes of the future
With a share in the world to come.

Source of Peace,
Keep our soldiers safe,
And let our soldiers keep us safe,

So that they return in life and in health
To the loving arms of our people.

Israel: A Meditation

Israel,
You are my people.
You are my heart and you are my hope.
We waited together at the mountain
When G-d revealed the Holy Word.
We wandered together through the desert
On the path to sacred soil.
We watched the sea part.
We heard the heavens roar.
We stood at the doorway to freedom,
At the border of a Promised Land.

Israel,
You are my destiny.
You are my joy and you are my truth.
We were victorious at Jericho,
Unyielding at Masada.
We defied empires
For Torah.
We defied kings
For justice and freedom.
We've traveled the earth,
Wandered the millennia,
Refugees of the ages,
Homeless and hopeful,
Waiting to return
To native ground.

Israel,
You are my brother in history,
My sister in fortune,
The mother of my courage,
The father of my heart,

The child of my longing,
And the light of generations.
To you I pledge my right arm
And my voice in song.
To you I pledge my soul.
To you I pledge my spirit.

Israel,
You are my nation.
You are my inheritance.
You are my home.

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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.”

And let us say Amen.

— Rabbi Mira Regev

Translated by
Rabbi Levi Weiman-Kelman
and Rabbi Efrat Rotem

אָבִינוּ שֶׁבְּשָׁמַיִם, שְׁכִינָה מְקוּרַת חַיֵּינוּ,
צוּר יִשְׂרָאֵל וְגוֹאֲלוֹ
חֲזֵק וְהוֹשֵׁעַ אֶת כָּל הָעוֹמְדִים
עַל מִשְׁמַרְתּוֹ בֵּיתָם שְׁמָרָם
וְהַצִּילֵם מִכָּל צָרָה וְצוּקָה
וְתֵן בְּרָכָה בְּכָל מַעֲשֵׂי יָדֵיהֶם,
שְׁמַע תְּפִלָּתָם וְחַפְּלָתָנוּ וְהוֹשִׁיעֵם.
שְׁלַח יְשׁוּעָה לְכָל הַנְּצוּדוֹת וְהַנְּצוּרִים בְּבִתְיָהֶם,
מָלֵא אוֹתָם בְּחֶסֶן נְפְשֵׁי אֲמוּנָה וְחִקּוּהָ וְחֲזֵקֵם
בְּרָגְעִים הַמִּפְחִידִים הָאֵלֶּה.
עֲשֵׂה בְרַחֲמֶיךָ לְמַעַן הָאֲמָהוּת הַדּוֹאֲגוֹת
וְהָאֲבוֹת הַדּוֹאֲבִים וּלְמַעַן הַתִּינוּקוֹת וְהַיְלָדִים
הַיּוֹשְׁבִים בַּמְקַלְטִים.
אֲנֵי זְכַרְנוּ בְּרַצוֹנְךָ, פָּקְדָנוּ בִישׁוּעָתְךָ,
יְקַדְּמוּנוּ רַחֲמֶיךָ כִּי בָּךְ בְּטַחְנוּ.
הֲשֵׁב אֶת כָּל הַחַטּוּפוֹת
וְהַחַטּוּפִים בְּשָׁלוֹם לְבִתְיָהֶם
בְּלֹא שִׁישְׁפּוּךָ דָּם נָקִי וּבְלִי שְׁתַּטְּמָא נְפִשָׁם
בְּמַעֲשֵׂי זָוָעָה
חֲזֵק אֶת יְדֵי מְגִנֵי אֶרֶץ קְדְשֵׁנוּ:
הַחִיָּלִים וְהָאֲזֻרָחִים.
מִי יִתֵּן וְלֹא יִשָּׂא גּוֹי אֶל גּוֹי חָרָב
וְלֹא יִלְמְדוּ עוֹד מִלְחָמָה:
אֲנֵי, אֵל רַחֲמָן, יִהְיֶה נֹא רַחֲמֶיךָ עָלֵינוּ,
וְיִקְרָם בְּנוֹ הַכְּתוּב:
כִּי זָרַע הַשָּׁלוֹם הִגְפֵן תִּתֵּן פְּרִיָּה
וְהָאֶרֶץ תִּתֵּן אֶת יְבוּלָהּ
וְהַשָּׁמַיִם יִתְּנוּ טָלָם
וְהַנְּחַלְתִּי אֶתְכֶם אֶת כָּל אֵלֶּה.
וְהֵייתֶם בְּרָכָה אֶל תִּירְאוּ:
וְנִאֲמַר אָמֵן

יְהוָה יִשְׁמַר צִאתְךָ וּבּוֹאְךָ מֵעַתָּה וְעַד עוֹלָם

התנועה
הרפורמית