

What Does It Mean to Pray for the Peace of Israel?

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Objective: Based on a new war between Israel and the Hamas terrorist organization, most churches have launched a prayer vigil for Israel based on Psalm 122:6. The question becomes what does it mean to pray for the peace of Israel? The objective of this lesson is to bring clarity when it comes to praying for the nation of Israel.

Introduction: Psalm 122:6 “Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: May they prosper who love you.” (NKJV)

- 1) The Declaration: Pray for the peace of Jerusalem.
 - a. In English a declarative sentence is one where the subject is already understood.
 - b. Pray for the peace of Jerusalem is a declarative statement with “you” being the understood subject.
 - i. This declaration includes all believers.
- 2) The Promise: May they prosper who love you.
 - a. “You” in this portion of the verse refers to Jerusalem.
 - b. Those who pray prosper.
 - i. “Prosper” is defined as success.
 1. III John 2
 2. Joshua 1:8
 - ii. The requirement for prosperity in this verse is the love of Jerusalem.
 1. This verse strongly connects love with prosperity.
 - a. You cannot expect prosperity in every area of your life if you struggle to love God’s people.
 - b. I John 4:7-11
 2. In retrospect, there must be a love for the people of Jerusalem and the place of Jerusalem.
- 3) What should I declare in Prayer?
 - a. Psalm 122:7 “Peace be within your walls. Prosperity within your palaces.”
 - b. In praying for Jerusalem, the declaration should be
 - i. “Peace be within your walls.
 - ii. Prosperity within your palaces.
- 4) Why should “I” pray for the peace of Jerusalem?
 - a. Psalm 122:8-9 “For the sake of my brethren and companions, I will now say, ‘Peace be with you.’ Because of the house of the Lord our God, I will seek your good.”
 - b. Why—because of my brethren and companions (friends).
 - c. Why—because of the house of the Lord our God.
- 5) A brief history of the current war (Beginning with October 7, 2023).

- a. Hamas launched a surprise attack on Israel crossing their border crossing over from Gaza (Palestinian controlled land) killing hundreds beginning with 250 young people attending a peace concert musical festival and kidnapping at least 120 people. There were at least 1,000 Hamas terrorists crossing the border fanning out throughout areas of Israel killing more than 900.
 - b. Israel caught off-guard began an offensive against Hamas and the following day declared war.
- 6) What is the stated goal of Hamas?
- a. Hamas' well-documented goal is to wipe out all of Israel. They are not attacking a land, but a people (nation of people).
 - i. Pastor Denisse noted that it was in a sense Hitler all over again trying to wipe out Jews.
 - b. Brigadier General Hossein Salami said, "Our strategy is to erase Israel from the global political map."
 - c. The nation of Iran and terrorist groups Hezbollah and Fatah also have a documented goal of wiping out Israel and Jews in general from the face of the earth.
 - d. The issue for Hamas is not just about control of land (Palestine), it is about wiping out Israel. They do not care about the Palestinians as they have used them as human shields.
 - e. Hamas has:
 - i. Raped teenage girls.
 - ii. Beheaded people including Israeli soldiers.
 - iii. Kidnapped children, babies, the elderly including a Holocaust survivor, and whole families.
 - iv. The kidnapped individuals will be used in a negotiating strategy and human shields.
 - f. The problem for Palestine is that they cannot control Hezbollah, Fatah, or Hamas.
 - i. For the reason stated above, it is the reason Israel has a blockade of the Gaza Strip since 2007 along with Egypt.
 - g. While time will not permit, it is interesting to note that this conflict with terrorist groups, Hitler, and the like all started back with Isaac and Ishmael.
- 7) What Hamas and others throughout history have done to destroy Israel is noted in the Bible.
- a. Psalm 83:1-5 (You should read it from the NKJV and The Passion Translation.) The key is verses 4 and 5.
 - b. TPT verses 4-5 "Our enemies keep saying, 'Now is the time to wipe Israel off the map. We'll destroy even the memory of her existence!' They've made their pact, consulting and conspiring, aligning together in their covenant against God."
 - c. **If Jerusalem is destroyed, the whole premise of the church, the Bride of Christ is destroyed!**

An Expansion and Amplification of Praying for the Peace of Jerusalem:

- 1) Are we praying for the place Jerusalem or the people?
 - a. While the answer includes the place, the people are the key focus.
- 2) Are we praying for the place or the bride?
 - a. Hebrews 12:22-24
 - b. Revelation 3:12-13
 - c. Revelation 19:6-9
 - d. Revelation 21:1-2 and 9
 - e. Ephesians 1:20-23
 - f. Matthew 25:1-13
- 3) Looking at the above-mentioned scriptures, it becomes clear that the following all represent Jerusalem.
 - a. Church
 - b. Bride of Christ
 - c. Jerusalem
 - d. New Jerusalem
 - e. Mount Zion
 - f. Zion
- 4) In essence, when we pray for the peace of Jerusalem, we are praying for the church, the bride of Christ, and Zion which is symbolic of the church.

Putting Psalm 122:6 in context—an alternative viewpoint:

- 1) Psalm 122:6 cannot be properly interpreted without putting it in context to the entire psalm (song).
 - a. While Jerusalem is a place in connection to verse 6, the real meaning if further expanded by looking at verses 1 and 2.
 - i. “I was glad when they said to me, ‘Let us go into the house of the Lord.’ Our feet have been standing within your gates, O Jerusalem.
 - ii. The psalm concludes with the house of the Lord our God.
 - iii. Verse 9 “Because of the house of the Lord our God, I will seek your good.”
- 2) We are praying for the peace of Jerusalem because it is the foundation and center of the church—God’s people.
- 3) Verses 1, 5, and 9 speak of thrones, the thrones of the house of David, palaces (fortresses or citadels), and the hours of the Lord.
 - a. These verses represent the importance of what is in the walls of Jerusalem.
- 4) The key is verse 9— “Because of the house of the Lord our God I will seek your good.”
 - a. Here the house of the Lord our God is top priority which is located in Jerusalem and hence our concern should be to seek good for Jerusalem for the sake of God’s house which is His people.
 - b. You must remember that according to prophetic scripture, the temple of God will be rebuilt on the Temple Mount.

- i. Three faiths lay claim to what is called the Temple Mount—Judaism, Islam, and Christianity.
 - ii. In retrospect, the underlying root of this war between Israel and Hamas is the Temple Mount. If Jerusalem can be wiped off the map and Islam can lay complete ownership and claim to the Temple Mount, it would create a crisis beyond measure for prophetic scripture.
 - 1. Certainly, Hamas, Islam, Hezbollah, Fatah, Yemen, Iran, and any other force that desires the complete destruction of Jews and Jerusalem will fail because the church is praying and no one can stop the word of God which goes out of His mouth. (See Isaiah 55.)
- 5) Amplification: When we pray for the peace of Jerusalem, our foundation should be the protection of God's house which is His people represented by the Temple Mount.
- a. Supporting reference: Psalm 48

Time to Pray!

- 1) The prophet Samuel sets the standard for praying for the people of God.
 - a. I Samuel 12:23 "Moreover, as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the lord in ceasing to pray for you."
- 2) What should we pray? (Refer back to Psalm 122:6-9)
 - a. Remember, you are praying for the natural land and the church—her people.
 - b. Pray Shalom—Psalm 122:6
 - i. Shalom is akin to the benefits of salvation because of sound biblical belief that God is the God of His people. These benefits include:
 1. Prosperity
 2. Health
 3. Wealth
 4. Security
 5. General Well-Being
 - ii. We should pray in these five areas when praying for the peace of Jerusalem.
- 3) Pray Shalom within her walls—Psalm 122:7
- 4) Pray for Prosperity for the palaces (citadels, fortresses, the house of the Lord)—Psalm 122:7
- 5) Pray for the brethren (family) and companions (friends)—Peace be within you—Psalm 122:8
- 6) Pray that those in Zion (the church) will seek the prosperity of Jerusalem—Psalm 122:9