

Christian Prayer During Israel-Palestine War

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"Forever loving and forgiving God, the world that you have created is torn and broken due to the inability of the people of your creation to get along and there is no health in us. We seem to love conflict and it rages on between nations and peoples.

We have divided ourselves into groups and we have bordered our lives up with walls which we have declared are unmovable and which we have named. The names we have given are many: country, land, nationality, race, religion, chosen, follower, disciple, atheist, apostate.

And we have rejected, misused and even thwarted the understanding of your holy scriptures to our benefit - whether Jewish: "Whoever blesses Israel will be blessed and whoever curses Israel will be cursed;"(1) Islamic: "We believe in that which has been bestowed from on high upon us;"(2) or Christian: "If God is for us, who can be against us."(3)

Even those who believe in you God have allowed the fundamental belief which should hold us together to separate us. We each declare that you are the one true God. Our Jewish brothers and sisters declare, "Here, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one."(4) Our Islamic brothers and sisters say, "In the name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate, Say, He is God, the One God."(5) And with our Christian brothers and sisters, as people of the New Testament, we proclaim, "There is one God."(6)

Yes, we are brothers and sisters, children of the one God. Yet, we do not act with brotherly and sisterly love. We are siblings in constant conflict and we have failed to grow up and put aside our childish ways and walk in your light together. There is no health in us.

Wars rage on, atrocities continue and there is a blatant disregard for human life. Brothers and sisters are called upon to take sides and it is winner-take-all. There is no health in us and there is no end in sight.

Only you, God, in your infinite love and mercy can show us the way to peace. It cannot be found in us. Your human creation has tried, has failed and will continue to fail.

Separation, anger, hatred, war, killing, and yes, even terrorism and rape and murder will continue to be the outcome when victory is determined by might makes right, us versus them, winners defeat losers, my faith shall conquer your faith and when we continue to forget your books which are considered holy and proclaim, 'my God is not your God', or, 'our God loves us more than he loves you and wants us to eradicate you'. Oh, Lord God, there is no health in us.

In your infinite love and mercy grant us your grace. Find a way to look down upon your people with a redeeming heart. Only you, God, in your infinite love and mercy can show us the way to peace. It cannot be found in us. Your human creation as tried, has failed and will continue to fail unless you, the one true God, whom Jews, Islamic and Christians worship; show us the way.

As Christians, we believe in the Messiah and the Resurrection of Christ, that he is the light of the world and the Prince of Peace. As disciples of Jesus, send forth your Advocate, the Holy Spirit, to direct our path, to lead the way, that the road to peace will be shortened due to our commitment and our love.

Bring hope to the hopeless, bind up the broken-hearted. May there be release to the captives - to those held hostage and in bondage. May comfort come to those who endure unspeakable loss and may all who are blind to the utter failure of humanity and your creation see - see that you, O God, love all your children.

We pray that our Lord Jesus will reveal himself in these times: for us – when we do not know the way, and through us – that we might show others his saving grace, so brothers and sisters could truly love one another. In his name we pray. Amen"

1 The Holy Bible, The Book of Numbers 24:9.

2 Ayah al-' Ankabut (The Spider) 29:46.

3 The Holy Bible, The Book of Romans 8:32.

4 The Holy Bible, Deuteronomy 6:4.

5 Quran Al-Ikhlās, (The Unity), Chapter 112.

6 The Holy Bible, First Timothy 2:5.