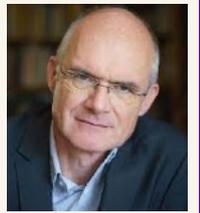


# CANOPY OF PRAYER

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## Dear Praying Friends

**"Pray for the peace of Jerusalem!" (Psalm 122:6). This is one of the clearest calls to prayer in the Bible. Along with 1 Timothy 2:1-2,** perhaps also the most specific instruction to pray. While Paul's letter to his disciple Timothy is "(so) that we may lead peaceful and quiet lives", the psalmist goes even further: "May it be well all around for those who love you!" (V 6)

We talk about peace in Jerusalem, for the Jewish people and the land of Israel, before the living God "for the sake of my brothers and friends" (Psalm 122:8). Prayer for Israel has much wider consequences than any other intercession as we will see in a moment.

## Open ears to the Word of God



I long to see praying believers who have a newspaper in front of their eyes and their ears wide open to God's Word. Actually, any news service that reports from the Middle East in a trustworthy way can help you. That's what we try to supply. On our website [gerloff.co.il](http://gerloff.co.il) you will find a link to our Newsticker <https://gerloff.co.il/newsticker/> at the top left of every page. There we siphon off from the internet what is being reported very topically. (In the English version just switch back and forth at the top right by clicking on the flags). These are often the sources of German-language newsmakers. My dream is that these headlines will be used by pray-ers to be up to date with current events under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. You will find there in the English version, completely uncensored, the headlines from the settlers' station "Arutz-7" to the "Kehila News" of the Messianic Jews and in between a whole range of Israeli mainstream media.

So it is possible that within minutes we have access to the ears of our Father in Heaven when terrorists break out of prison, rockets fall on Israel from Gaza, or Iran makes terrible threats. When we read that a Druze policeman has been killed, we pray for the non-Jews who risk their lives alongside the Jewish people. We learn about the inner turmoil of Israeli society and how the chosen people decide insane things while fleeing from their God. And we see how they are repeatedly used as scapegoats or guinea pigs in a world that is breaking down due to its rebellion against its Creator. As a matter of course, in the media dealing with Israel, the dislike of the Jewish people is a

theme, no matter whether it manifests itself as anti-Judaism, anti-Semitism or anti-Zionism. It is crucial for prayer that we keep a cool head and open ears for the Word of God in this emotionally very overloaded debate.

**The following key points should be kept in mind:**

**First,** the nation of Israel is the only nation on earth with a biblically guaranteed existence (Jeremiah 31:35-37). In practice, this means that those who fight the Jewish people are first and foremost threatening themselves, because they are fighting against God. History has proven this time and again.

**Secondly,** Abraham was chosen to be a blessing for "all the families of the earth" (Genesis 12:1-3). In plain language, anyone who disregards Israel, declares it secondary or even rejects it, is thereby opposing God's plan of blessing and salvation for this world.

**Thirdly:** Psalm 2 describes the rebellion of the nations against "the Lord and his Messiah" with astonishing topicality. The request "Ask me, and I will give you nations for an inheritance" (verse 8) applies to the Messiah, but also to his followers when they pray. This is evident when the exalted Messiah takes up this verse from the Psalm in Revelation 2:26+27. It is unmistakable: Prayer for Israel has a worldwide dimension. Let's do it!

**Let us pray:**

1. at the beginning of the rainy season we ask for physical rain and also spiritual rain - for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit according to Isaiah 44:3.
2. we thank the God of Israel that he does not sleep or slumber and ask for protection from rocket attacks, balloons with incendiary devices and other terrorist attacks. (Psalm 121:4)
3. we pray for the Jewish people and their government to have one mind and walk in the fear of God according to the promise of Jeremiah 32:38-40.

## The people have voted, and Germany now has a new government, right?

Wrong! The election has taken place (26/9), but now the coalition-building process starts which could last several months. The two centre parties both did badly, the SDP got 25.7% and Angela Merkel's CDU got 24.1%. So both would need two smaller parties to get a majority and form a government and they will compete with each other to do this now. The two most likely smaller parties are the Greens (14.8%) and the business-friendly FDP (11.5%).

Which of the two centre parties will offer the best deal to the Greens and FDP? Can the Greens and the FDP work together? Lots of talk, hard negotiations news headlines are still to come. Let's pray for a strong, godly government to come out of this and for Angela Merkel who is still Chancellor until it is finished – maybe even until Christmas!

## Additional Prayer Points:-

- Pray for all those who have lost their homes and/or livelihood on the island of la Palma due to the volcanic eruption and the ongoing threat of toxic gases.
- Pray for our political leaders as they continue to face the challenges of receiving migrants into Europe and the effect that has on unity amongst the nations of the EU.
- Since the finalisation of Brexit, a number of challenges for both the UK and the EU have arisen. Let us continue to pray into the political, commercial and social consequences.

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