



May 2018 · #043

## Dear praying friends in Europe –

I was in Israel last week when Iran tried to attack in the north and could hear Israeli fighter jets in the air. This is clearly a time of “wars and rumours of war” when the Lord is calling us to be watchmen on the walls of Jerusalem:

“I have posted watchmen on your walls, Jerusalem; they will never be silent day or night. You who call on the Lord, give yourselves no rest, and give him no rest till he establishes Jerusalem and makes her the praise of the earth.” Isaiah 62:6-7

As Israel’s enemies continue to call for violence let us continue to take our role as Canopy watchmen seriously and pray for a shield of protection over all of Israel, from the north to the south, and on its borders to Gaza as well as in Judea and Samaria. Read and pray with Israel Psalm 124. It sounds as if it were written in our days, in May 2018.



Tomas Sandell

## Israel at 70 – Let us pray for Israel and our nations

The rebirth of the Jewish state after more than 1800 years in exile is a modern-day miracle. When Israel’s first leader Ben Gurion was asked how he viewed the prospects of the new state surviving the Arab onslaught in 1948 he answered “50-50”. Seventy years later the Jewish state is a vibrant democracy and an economic miracle, referred to as the Start-up Nation. The Jewish state, despite its problems and shortcomings has become a blessing to the nations, providing us with technological innovations that save life, from water sanitation in Africa to the latest high tech medical devices in our hospital.

But what does the future hold for the Jewish state? With the rise of antisemitism in Europe and the existential threats facing Israel from Iran and its terrorist proxies in the region, the Jewish people faces multiples security challenges, stirred up by the deadly spirit of antisemitism. Antisemitism is like a cancer cell which mutates in order to pass our immune system. Whilst neo-Nazism still poses a threat to many Jewish communities it is not the major threat anymore, simply because our immune system detects this form of evil. Today most of the anti-Semitic violence comes from radical Muslims. Even as a record number of Jews are leaving Europe since they no longer feel safe here, the European Union is pressuring Israel to divide the land. Whilst many Jews no longer feel safe in Europe, the same European governments try to restrict their possibilities to relocate in Israel, as they are no longer free to live in the Biblical heartland of Judea and Samaria,

which the EU calls “occupied Palestinian territory.” One form of antisemitism which is most difficult to detect comes from the political mainstream. One could call it “sophisticated antisemitism.” According to this view, the Jews are guilty of violating human rights by permitting circumcision on their male infants and allowing kosher slaughter. Both rituals are central to traditional Jewish life in Europe but now risks being banned. If this was to happen, Jewish life would disappear altogether from Europe, not because of a new Holocaust but because of “human rights considerations.” What Hitler was unable to complete, could instead be achieved by modern day human rights campaigners. It is time to pray!

### Prayer:

- That more Christian leaders would wake up to the new threats facing the Jewish people and would get a renewed love and commitment to stand with the Jewish people and the reborn State of Israel.
- That antisemitism and anti-Zionism would not get any foothold in the believing church in Europe but that believers would rather expose the motives behind new forms of antisemitism.
- That the believers would pray for their own government leaders to become sheep nations (Matt 25:32 ) and align with God’s purposes for Jerusalem – which is to make it His seat for His Kingdom government on earth. (Psalm 2)

### Please also pray for

- the UK government in a time of stalemate over the way forward for Brexit. Decisions need to be made about the UK’s plans ahead of the next EU Council meeting in June.
- the coalition talks in Italy between two right-wing parties, both, however, critical against Europe.