



Watchman's Prayer Letter

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Let us go at once to entreat the Lord and seek the Lord Almighty" (Zechariah 8:21)

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Approaching God with Confidence

***'This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us'* (1 John 5:14)**

While considering the atmosphere in Israel over the last few weeks, being updated on the CFI Jerusalem projects and getting to know the newer members of the team here, there are two noticeable and strategic prayer needs that rise above others for this time.

Firstly, the imminent national election on Tuesday 27th October – the day we (David and Julia Soakell) fly home to the UK and the day the CFI UK Explore Israel tour group arrives in Israel.

Campaigning is happening prominently around the nation with huge posters visible on motorways, railings and bridges everywhere. But the vital need for Israel is to have the government God wants, not what the world may want.

Many in Israel are struggling because of the impact on the economy and employment, the lack of tourism, rising prices and the many facets of trauma and grief in the nation. Some may not even have the capacity to consider the election. But democracy is important for Israel's mindset and the future direction of the nation.

'I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people – for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good and pleases God our Saviour, who wants all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.' (1 Timothy 2:1-4)

*Often, we use this instruction to pray only for leaders, but Paul writes to Timothy that first of all requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for 'everyone' – noting Paul's injunction ends with God our Saviour who wants 'all' to be saved. Prayer for 'everyone' is particularly poignant given that in a democratic election in Israel everyone has the equal opportunity to vote. In this sense, how each individual votes will impact the outcome of the election.

Thereafter, we are encouraged to pray for kings (in the context of Israel the 'prime' minister/servant) and all in authority – Government ministers/servants, members of Knesset, legislature, security services.

There are four words used in Paul's exhortation: requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving. Each of these can be a part of our confident approach to God.

- **Request** that the Lord will enable the people of Israel to know his heart as they consider their vote. We pray for all nations that their government will be a blessing from the Lord and not the one they deserve due to ungodly behaviour.

- **Thank** the Lord for the opportunity and freedom given to the cross-cultural citizens of Israel to vote in democratic elections.
- **Pray** for transparency in the system and for integrity in all the political parties, that any corruption would be exposed. There can be division on so many levels. Unity is needed but can only truly happen with God's intervention and with focussed prayer based upon understanding of the situation.
- **Intercede** for security and safety throughout the process of negotiations between potential coalition partners following the results of the vote so as to form the next government of Israel.

Second, several statements from individuals and opposing nations are being heard at present that suggest there's a great need to ask for protection on Israel's borders in case of an imminent return to war. Our prayers are really needed for Israel to be prepared, as they are already on high alert, yet have made mistakes in the past.

- **Request** that God touches every disappointed, grieving and distracted heart with comfort, healing and restoration, and stirs them to pray and vote in accordance with his will (see *Psalm 43:3*)
- **Pray** for the will of the Lord to prevail over the nations so that every prophecy of Scripture is fulfilled in his way and in his time.
- **Intercede** for the Lord to reveal any vulnerabilities for the nation's security as well as for individuals at this crucial time (see *Psalm 110:1*)
- **Thank** the Lord for his protection over Israel throughout its history, where in human terms defeat was a likely outcome but God brought the victory (see *Psalm 68:1*).

Finally, during these testing times, it is important that Israel and we who believe in the Jewish Messiah and Saviour of the world, as the Psalmist writes,

"*Look to the LORD and his strength; seek his face always*" (Psalm 105:4).

- **Request** that everyone in the land of Israel will look to the Lord for their strength and safety.
- **Pray** for Tristan and Galya Hall, their family and the whole team at CFI Jerusalem to be ready and prepared spiritually, as well as practically, technically and financially. May they receive heavenly wisdom and discernment, experience an acute awareness of God's voice and his guidance to keep them safe.
- **Intercede** for those who are dealing with so many things and who dread even the possibility of a return to war conditions. May all fear and uncertainty be placed into the hands of the Lord, the Hope of Israel (see *Jeremiah 14:8, Acts 28:20*).
- **Thank** the Lord that he has enabled CFI Jerusalem to draw alongside Israel's citizens and show their faith in the Lord Jesus and their confidence in the one who watches over Israel. (see *Psalm 121:4*).

There is much taking place in Israel and the surrounding nations, affecting them and all the nations of the world. So, it is more important than ever that we retain our confidence as we approach God in prayer.

This brings us to the verse that follows our title verse,

'And if we know that he hears us – whatever we ask – we know that we have what we asked of him **(1 John 5:15)**



Prepared by Julia Soakell of CFI UK (with additions)

on behalf of the CFI Jerusalem Prayer Team

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