

Prayer for Israel, Land and State ☆ תפילה לשלום הארץ והמדינה

neohasid.org (cc) 2020 למען ציון לא אשתקע "For Zion's sake I will not be silent"

The traditional prayer for the state of Israel, which is more literally titled "A Prayer for Peace for the State" *tefilah lish'lom hamedinah*, was written in 1948 by the chief rabbis of what had up until then been Palestine, in a time of war. The state was under direct attack by the Arab armies, and there was little distinction between peace, survival, and victory.

In the eighth decade after Israel's birth, it is time to make these distinctions. Israel and the Jewish people live in a much more complex reality today: within Israel, a democratic reality, where an election can change the outlook for peace, or the possibility of justice; outside the state but in much of our ancestral lands, a world where Israel's military rules over non-Jews. In our time, praying for peace for Israel must include praying for the rectification of its relationships with neighboring countries, and with the Palestinian people.

This prayer assumes that the best reality for the Jewish state is also the best reality for all of her citizens and for everyone who lives "in the land," no matter where they are in relation to the Green Line or Areas A, B and C.

(Underlined phrases below are additions to the standard prayer in the *siddur*, which uses only half of the original prayer).

Our Nurturer* / Our Parent, in heaven and on Earth,
Rock of Israel and its redeemer, bless the land of
Israel, so that the state of Israel may become the
beginning of the flowering of our redemption.

Shield her with Your embrace of love and spread
over her Your sukkah-shelter of peace, and for the
state send Your light and Your righteousness, to her
heads, ministers, advisers, and judges, and to the
nation that elects them, and align them with the
spirit of justice from You, as it says, Zion through
justice will be redeemed and her captives
through righteousness. (Isaiah 1:27)

Rescue all of Your land, from the Jordan River to
the sea, from the spilling of blood, and all residing
and sojourning there, under every government,
from haters without and hatred within. Grant peace
in the land, and secure calm to her defenders,
lasting joy to all her inhabitants, and real hope for
all her peoples. And let us say: Amen.

Om'neinu/Avinu shebashamayim uva'aretz, Tzur Yisrael v'go'alo, bareikh et Eretz Yisrael shet'hei m'dinat Yisrael l'reishit tz'michat g'ulateinu. Hagein aleha b'evrat chasdekha, ufros aleha sukat sh'lomekha, uvam'dinah sh'lach orkha v'tzidkekha l'rasheha sareha yo'atzeha v'shofteha, v'lal'om shebocher bam, v'takneim b'ru'ach mishpat milfanecha, shene'emar, "Tziyon b'mishpat tipadeh v'shaveha bitz'dakah." Hatzeil na et kol ar'tzekha bein yardein layam mish'fichut damim, v'et kol hayoshvim v'hagarim bah, tachat kol shilton, mison'im bachutz umisin'ah bifnim, v'natata shalom ba'aretz v'shalvah lim'gineha, simchat olam l'khol yoshveha v'tikvah tovah l'khol ameha, v'nomar: Amen.

What's left out: "Strengthen the hands of those who defend the land...and crown them with the crown of victory."

Why: This was the only phrase in the original prayer referring to the IDF. In a time of war, we need a full prayer for the protection and success of soldiers, like the *Mi Shebeirakh* prayer used by the IDF. (<http://www.jr.co.il/prayers/hebrew-idf-prayer.htm>) In a less critical time, any hope for the IDF is included in the phrase "grant secure calm (*shalvah*) to her defenders," which also includes everyone working for peace, justice, and security in the lands of Israel/Palestine and the state of Israel.

**Om'neinu* is a gender-diverse alternative to *Avinu*, from *omenet*, one who breastfeeds (see Num 11:12, Rut 4:16, Esth 2:7).

אֲמִינוּ* | אֲבִינוּ שְׁבַשְׁמִים וּבְאַרְצָךְ,
צוּר יִשְׂרָאֵל וְגוֹאֲלוֹ, בְּרַךְ אֶת אֶרֶץ יִשְׂרָאֵל,
שֶׁתִּהְיֶה מְדִינַת יִשְׂרָאֵל לְרִאשִׁית צְמִיחַת גְּאֻלָּתֵנוּ.

הִגֵּן עָלֶיךָ בְּאַבְרַת חֲסֶדְךָ, וּפְרֵשׁ עָלֶיךָ סִכַּת שְׁלוֹמְךָ,
וּבְמִדִּינָה שְׁלַח אוֹרְךָ וְצִדְקָךָ לְרִאשִׁיּוֹת שְׂרָיָה
יוֹעֲצֶיךָ וְשׁוֹפְטֶיךָ, וְלָלֵאמֹם שְׁבוּתָר בָּם
וּתְקַנֵּם בְּרוּחַ מְשַׁפֵּט מְלִפְנֶיךָ
שֶׁנֶּאֱמַר "צִיּוֹן בְּמִשְׁפַּט תִּפְדֶּה וְשָׁבִיָּה בְּצִדְקָה."

הַצֵּל נָא אֶת כָּל אֶרְצְךָ בֵּין יַרְדֵּן לַיָּם מִשְׁפִּיכוֹת דָּמִים
וְאֶת כָּל הַיּוֹשְׁבִים וְהַגָּרִים בָּהּ תַּחַת כָּל שְׁלֹטוֹן
מְשׁוֹנְאִים בְּחוּץ וּמְשׁוֹנְאָה בְּפָנִים.
וְנַתַּת שְׁלוֹם בְּאַרְצְךָ וּשְׁלוֹהָ לְמַגְנֶיךָ,
שְׁמַחַת עוֹלָם לְכָל יוֹשְׁבֶיךָ וְתִקְוָה טוֹבָה לְכָל עַמִּיָּה,
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Your sukkah-shelter of peace, and for the state send Your
light and Your righteousness, to her heads, ministers,
advisers, and judges, and to the nation that elects them,
and align them with a spirit of justice from You, as it
says, *Zion through justice will be redeemed and her
captives through righteousness. (Isaiah 1:27)*

Rescue all of Your land, from the Jordan River to the
sea, from the spilling of blood, and all residing and
sojourning there, under every government, from haters
without and hatred within. Grant peace in the land,
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