

Praying for Israel and Gaza Through the Recent Conflict

1. One of the biggest concerns in the conflict is the number of Israeli hostages Hamas has taken into Gaza from the Israeli communities they attacked and occupied. Israel regained control of these communities soon after they were attacked, but more than 200 individuals (latest estimates are 240), including women, and young children, the elderly as well as soldiers have been taken into Gaza. Pray for the lives of these hostages and for wisdom as the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) and international negotiations attempt to rescue them. To date, four hostages have been released and one soldier has been rescued. It has been one month since the attack on Israel.
2. More than 1,400 Israelis were killed in the attack and over 5,400 have been wounded. Also, 32 Americans were killed and 11 are still missing. Pray for the families of these victims as well as for the protection and healing of those wounded in these brutal attacks. Pray also for the protection of innocent Palestinians in Gaza, who are caught up in the conflict.
3. 360,000 thousand Israeli reservists have been called up to assist the IDF response to Hamas. They are presently carrying out operations in northern Gaza, including Gaza City. This type of urban combat is raising the number of casualties on both sides of the battle. Pray for the continued protection of Israeli troops as well as innocent Gazan citizens.
4. Hezbollah, the terrorist party of Lebanon, as well as Iranian proxy organizations in Syria and Yemen have also launched rockets toward Israel, which either have been intercepted or fallen in vacant territory. Pray that the conflict will not escalate beyond Gaza and that Israel's hostile neighbors who want to take advantage of the situation will be thwarted in their efforts. Presently, the United States has two aircraft carriers with support ships in the eastern Mediterranean and one patrolling the Persian Gulf.
5. Iran is a destabilizing force in the Middle East, responsible for supporting proxy groups throughout the Middle East, including Hamas, which enables these groups to carry out terrorist activities against Israel. Pray that the American administration will rethink their Middle East policies to weaken Iran's ability to operate in this way. Remember, that these violent, anti-Israel forces are demonically inspired. This is as much a spiritual battle as a military one. Pray for an outpouring of God's restraining hand and abundant grace in this situation.
6. Pray for the influence of Christian and Messianic ministries throughout Israel, who are reaching out to both Israelis and Palestinians through the conflict to lead them to the only solution for peace in their hearts and peace in the Middle East – Jesus of Nazareth.