

A Prayer for Israel and Gaza (Simchat Torah 8 October 2023)

*Come, gaze at the works of the Lord,
At the desolation He has wrought
Upon the earth.*

*He has ended war all over the earth
Breaking bow and snapping gear
Burning chariots with fire.*

*Desist and know that I am God
Exalted among the nations
Exalted over the earth*
(Ps.46 vers 8-10 in translation Jonathan Sacks)

Your day of Immense joy, Lord, became a day of deep sorrow and weeping.
We lament over loved innocent ones in Israel,
Whose bodies were broken and murdered.
Their cry was heard as a siren of despair and complete hopelessness.
Lord of heaven and earth, have mercy, hear our prayer!
Heal the wounded, comfort the broken ones,
And we pray: Lord, give wisdom to the leaders,
May both Your righteousness and Your mercy shine in their midst.
Lord, have mercy, hear our prayer.

And we hear the cry of the people of Gaza:
We have no shelter, we have no food, we have no future.
We also lost our loved innocent ones
And our children are broken by fear and distress.
Pray for us: that God will have mercy and grant us peace.
show your compassion over these broken ones,
And we pray: Lord, give wisdom to the leaders,
May both Your righteousness and your mercy shine in their midst.

At the same time we look at ourselves, as people and as church:
Lord, forgive us our own trespasses,
our thoughts of self righteousness
and our falling short to Your glory.
Lord, have mercy on us through Your Son Jesus Christ,
make us humble and holy.

Lord of lords, break the bow and the snapping gear of Evil and the evil ones.
King of Kings, burn the chariots with fire,
And exalt Your Name in Israel and the nations,
Forever and ever,
Till Jesus comes, Yeshua, the Saviour of the world, the King of the nations.
Maranatha, come Lord Jesus, come back soon!

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