

A Prayer for the State of Israel

רבונו של עולם, קבל
נא בְּרַחֲמִים וּבְרָצוֹן
אֶת־תְּפִלוֹתֵינוּ בְּעֵד
מְדִינַת יִשְׂרָאֵל.

Sovereign of the universe, accept in lovingkindness and with favor our prayers for the State of Israel, her government, and all who dwell within her boundaries and under her authority. Open our eyes and our hearts to the wonder of Israel, and strengthen our faith in Your power to work redemption in every human soul. Grant us also the fortitude to keep ever before us those ideals upon which the State of Israel was founded. Grant courage, wisdom, and strength to those entrusted with guiding Israel's destiny to do Your will. Be with those on whose shoulders Israel's safety depends and defend them from all harm. Spread over Israel and all the world Your shelter of peace, and may the vision of Your prophet soon be fulfilled: "Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore" (Isaiah 2:4).

לֹא יִשָּׂא גּוֹי אֶל גּוֹי חֶרֶב
וְלֹא יִלְמְדוּ עוֹד מִלְחָמָה.

A Prayer for the State of Israel

Avinu she-ba-shamayim, stronghold and redeemer of the people Israel: Bless the State of Israel, [that it may be] the beginning of our redemption. Shield it with Your love; spread over it the shelter of Your peace. Guide its leaders and advisors with Your light and Your truth. Help them with Your good counsel. Strengthen the hands of those who defend our holy land. Deliver them; crown their efforts with triumph. Bless the land with peace and its inhabitants with lasting joy. And let us say: *Amen*.

Avinu she-ba-shamayim, tzur yisrael v'go-alo, bareikh et m'dinat yisrael [she-t'hei] reishit tz'miḥat ge'ulateinu. Hagen aleha b'evrat ḥasdekha u-f'ros aleha sukkat sh'lomekha, u-sh'lah or'kha va-amit'kha l'rasheha sareha v'yo-atzeha, v'takneim b'eitzah tovah milfanekha. Hazeik et y'dei m'ginei eretz kodsheinu, v'hanhileim eloheinu y'shu-ah, va-ateret nitzahon t'atreim. V'natata shalom ba-aretz v'simḥat olam l'yosh'veha, v'nomar: amen.

A Prayer for Peace

May we see the day when war and bloodshed cease, when a great peace will embrace the whole world.

*Then nation will not threaten nation,
and the human family will not again know war.*

For all who live on earth shall realize

we have not come into being to hate or to destroy.

We have come into being to praise, to labor, and to love.

*Compassionate God, bless the leaders of all nations
with the power of compassion.*

Fulfill the promise conveyed in Scripture:

I will bring peace to the land,

and you shall lie down and no one shall terrify you.

*I will rid the land of vicious beasts
and it shall not be ravaged by war.*

Let justice and righteousness flow like a mighty stream.

Let God's peace fill the earth as the waters fill the sea.

And let us say: *Amen*.

תְּפִלָּה לְשָׁלוֹם מְדִינַת יִשְׂרָאֵל

אָבִינוּ שֶׁבְּשָׁמַיִם, צוּר יִשְׂרָאֵל וְגוֹאֲלוֹ, בְּרַךְ אֶת־מְדִינַת יִשְׂרָאֵל [שְׁתֵּהָא] רִאשִׁית צְמִיחַת גְּאֻלָּתָנוּ. הֲגֵן עָלֶיהָ בְּאַבְרַת חֲסִדְךָ וּפְרֹשׁ עָלֶיהָ סֶכֶת שְׁלוֹמְךָ, וּשְׁלַח אוֹרְךָ וְאַמְתָּךְ לְרִאשִׁיּוֹת שְׂרִיָּה וְיוֹעֲצִיָּה, וְתַקְנֵם בְּעֶצֶה טוֹבָה מִלְּפָנֶיךָ. חֲזֹק אֶת־יְדֵי מְגִנֵּי אֶרֶץ קְדֻשָּׁנוּ, וְהַנְחִילֵם אֱלֹהֵינוּ יְשׁוּעָה, וְעֲטֹרַת נִצָּחוֹן תַּעֲטֹרֵם. וְנַתַּתְּ שָׁלוֹם בְּאֶרֶץ וְשִׂמְחַת עוֹלָם לְיוֹשְׁבֶיהָ, וְנֹאמַר: אָמֵן.

תְּפִלָּה לְשָׁלוֹם

יְהִי רָצוֹן מִלְּפָנֶיךָ יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ וְאַלֹהֵי אֲבוֹתֵינוּ וְאַמּוֹתֵינוּ, שֶׁתְּבַטֵּל מִלְחָמוֹת וּשְׁפִיכוֹת דָּמִים מִן הָעוֹלָם וְתִשְׁפִּין שָׁלוֹם בְּעוֹלָם, וְלֹא יִשָּׂא גּוֹי אֶל גּוֹי חֶרֶב וְלֹא יִלְמְדוּ עוֹד מִלְחָמָה.

יִפְּרוּ וְיִדְעוּ כָּל־יוֹשְׁבֵי תֵבֶל

שֶׁלֹּא בָּאנוּ לְעוֹלָם בְּשָׁבִיל רִיב וּמַחְלָקָת,

וְלֹא בְּשָׁבִיל שִׁנְאָה וְקִנְאָה וְקִנְתוּר וּשְׁפִיכוֹת דָּמִים.

רַק בָּאנוּ לְעוֹלָם כְּדִי לְהַפִּיר אוֹתָהּ, תַּתְּכִּיר לְנִצָּחַת.

וּבְכֵן תִּרְחַם עָלֵינוּ וּיָקִים כְּנֹו מִקְרָא שְׁפָתוֹב:

וְנַתַּתִּי שָׁלוֹם בְּאֶרֶץ וּשְׁכַבְתֶּם וְאִין מַחְרִיד,

וְהַשְׁפַּתִּי חַיָּה רַעָה מִן הָאֶרֶץ וְחֶרֶב לֹא תַעֲבֹר בְּאַרְצְכֶם.

וַיִּגַּל בְּמִים מִשְׁפָּט, וַצִּדְקָה כָּנַחַל אֵיתָן.

כִּי מְלֹאָה הָאֶרֶץ דַּעָה אֶת־יְהוָה בְּמִים לַיִם מְכֻסִּים.

PRAYER FOR THE STATE OF ISRAEL. Upon Israel's independence in 1948, many prayers were circulated for the well-being of the new state. This one was composed by Israel's chief rabbis and was then slightly edited by the writer S.Y. Agnon.

שְׁתֵּהָא IT MAY BE. This Hebrew word was added by the Chief Rabbi of England, Immanuel Jakobovits, turning the phrase "the beginning of the redemption" into an expression of hope, rather than a statement of fact.

A PRAYER FOR PEACE. Rabbi Nathan Sternharz, a student of the Hasidic master Nahman of Bratzlav (1772–1810, Ukraine), recorded this prayer. The version here has been adapted and translated by Jules Harlow.

NATION WILL NOT THREATEN. לא יִשָּׂא גּוֹי. Isaiah 2:4.

I WILL BRING PEACE וְנַתַּתִּי. Leviticus 26:6. שָׁלוֹם.

LET JUSTICE AND RIGHTEOUSNESS FLOW וַיִּגַּל בְּמִים. Amos 5:24. מִשְׁפָּט.

FILL THE EARTH כִּי מְלֹאָה. Isaiah 11:9. הָאֶרֶץ.