



Global Prayer Call 2015 (GPC)

6+6+3 guidelines for prayer
for **Israel**, our **nation** and the **church** in our nation



*"Multitudes and
multitudes are in the
valley of decision..." (Joel 3,14)*

*"And Jesus ... will separate
the nations ... as the shepherd separates
the sheep from the goats ..." (Matt. 25, 31-33)*

The Global Prayer Call is an initiative of 3 globally active European ministries



WEEK 1: JAN 25-31

Thank God for Israel!

It is always good to start our prayers and intercession with thanksgiving. As far as Israel is concerned, there is a lot to thank God for. In Romans 11:17-18 Israel, respectively Israel's God, is referred to as the root of the olive tree into which we as Gentile believers have been grafted. Romans 9:4-5 explains more explicitly what that root is through the revelations and redemptive acts of God given specifically to the Jewish people and to Israel. This has now become our root as well, our foundation and our anchor as the Church of Jesus Christ throughout the ages, in every nation.

"... the people of Israel. Theirs is the adoption to sonship; theirs the divine glory, the covenants, the receiving of the law, the temple worship and the promises. Theirs are the patriarchs, and from them is traced the human ancestry of the Messiah, who is God over all, forever praised! Amen" (Romans 9:4-5).

In addition to those "gifts and callings" (Romans 11:29) to the Jewish people, into which we have been "grafted", the world and the church have received even more blessings from the Jewish people. The majority of the Bible (Old and New Testament) was written by Jewish authors. The concept of the seven-day week with one day of rest came from the Jewish people. The Ten Commandments. The twelve apostles. The early church in Israel. All Jewish – exclusively Jewish! Our foundation! Our roots! What an inheritance! What a wealth of revelation and spiritual enrichment for which we, the global Church of Jesus, can be very grateful!

WEEK 3: FEB 8-14

Pray for the church to become a source of deep comfort for the Jewish people

It is out of this gratitude and out of this humble compassion that we can pray for a third point: That the global Church of Jesus may become an abundant source of comfort for the Jewish people worldwide and for the people of Israel in particular. The Bible gives Christians a very powerful calling and mandate to do exactly that:

"Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her that her hard service has been completed, that her sin has been paid for, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins" (Isaiah 40:1-2).

Here, the spirit of God is speaking to a people which is obviously **not** the Jewish people. He is calling for a people who is to comfort the Jewish people, a people who should speak God's love and encouragement into their souls, who should speak God's favour to them – and especially to those, who live in Jerusalem. This is a word to the church for our time. The time in which Jewish people from around the world are being re-gathered by God to their ancient homeland. The time in which Jerusalem is being restored as the Jewish capital of a Jewish Israel.

After the tragedy of the Holocaust just 70 years ago, "Comfort, comfort my people..." has become a word of commissioning for millions of Christians and hundreds of Christian ministries around the world. It was the cornerstone of Christians for Israel and its founders. It remains our cornerstone to this day. Let us pray that the global Church of Jesus will be touched and transformed by the love of Jesus for his own people as expressed in these words: "Comfort, comfort my people..."

WEEK 2: FEB 1-7

Pray for humility in the church concerning the Jewish people

Romans 11 contains the deepest truths and insights in all of the New Testament concerning Jewish-Christian relations. Paul talks about the relationship between the Jewish "remnant" (v 5) and Jewish "all Israel" (v 26). He talks about the role of the global Church to be an example of God's mercies and love towards the Jewish people. He talks about first bringing the "fullness of the Gentiles" (v 25) into the Kingdom before saving all Israel. And he talks about the danger of the church becoming arrogant against that part of the Jewish people which has not come to faith in Christ:

"... do not consider yourself to be superior to those other branches. If you do, consider this: You do not support the root, but the root supports you. You will say then, 'Branches were broken off so that I could be grafted in.' Granted. But they were broken off because of unbelief, and you stand by faith. Do not be arrogant, but tremble. For if God did not spare the natural branches, he will not spare you either" (Romans 11:18-21).

It is probably the greatest tragedy in church history that for centuries the Church of Jesus, especially in Europe, did not heed this warning of the apostle Paul. The common teaching was that God had forever rejected the Jewish people – removing his love and callings from them because they had rejected Christ and the Gospel. Therefore, at various times in history, the Church rose up in arrogant pride against the Jewish people. They were cruelly persecuted and hundreds of thousands were killed, especially during medieval times. Without these massive expressions of Christian anti-Semitism in Church history, the Holocaust of World War II in Europe, which cost the lives of 6 million Jewish people, could not have happened.

For God, this is of deep concern. The church will not, indeed cannot, be the beautiful bride of Christ awaiting the return of her bridegroom, Jesus, unless she has repented, turned from her ways, and moved from a spirit of reproachful arrogance toward the Jewish people to a spirit of gratitude, humility and love towards them. May God give us grace to pray for exactly this to happen, and may He open our own hearts to receive that spirit of love by His great mercy according to Romans 11:30ff.

WEEK 4: FEB 15-21

Pray for the restoration of Israel

As the spirit of the Lord is drawing the Jewish people back home to Israel from all four corners of the earth, it is our privilege and our joy as Christians to pray for this historic movement and – where the Lord allows us – even to participate in it. Christians for Israel is helping Jewish people immigrate to Israel as one of its highest priorities and it is their joy to be able to work together with other Christian ministries such as Ebenezer Operation Exodus International and others to assist in the process.

Please pray for this great work according to the Word of the Lord:

"I will build you up again, and you, Virgin Israel, will be rebuilt. Again you will take up your timbrels and go out to dance with the joyful. Again you will plant vineyards on the hills of Samaria; the farmers will plant them and enjoy their fruit. There will be a day when watchmen cry out on the hills of Ephraim, 'Come, let us go up to Zion, to the Lord our God.' ... See, I will bring them from the land of the north and gather them from the ends of the earth. Among them will be the blind and the lame, expectant mothers and women in labour; a great throng will return" (Jeremiah 31:4-6, 8).

WEEK 5: FEB 22-28

Pray for the peace and the glory of Jerusalem

In Psalm 122:6 we are encouraged to pray for the peace of God's holy city and the "city of the great king" – for Jerusalem:

"Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: May those who love you be secure" (Psalm 122:6).

At the same time the Bible tells us that a permanent and stable peace will only come when the "Prince of Peace" has returned to His own city. Then Jerusalem will come into the fullness of all the promises which God has given it – into its full glory. But in order for this to happen, millions of prayerful watchmen are called to "remind" God of these biblical promises by way of intercession:

"For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, for Jerusalem's sake I will not remain quiet, till her vindication shines out like the dawn, her salvation like a blazing torch. The nations will see your vindication, and all kings your glory; you will be called by a new name that the mouth of the Lord will bestow ... I have posted watchmen on your walls, Jerusalem; they will never be silent day or night. You who call on the Lord, give yourselves no rest, and give him no rest till he establishes Jerusalem and makes her the praise of the earth" (Isaiah 62:1-2+6-7).

Jerusalem will be the central focus of the end-time conflicts before the Lord Himself returns to the Mount of Olives, east of the Old City of Jerusalem, as foretold:

"On that day his feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, east of Jerusalem ..." (Zechariah 14:4a).

Therefore, Jerusalem indeed deserves the highest level of our attention in prayer and intercession.

WEEK 6: MAR 1-7

Pray for the salvation of "all Israel"

The calling of Abraham (Genesis 12:1-3) was the beginning of God's redemptive history of and through the Jewish people. The salvation of all Israel after the fulfilment of the "Great Commission" will be the climax of this era of mankind:

"I do not want you to be ignorant of this mystery, brothers and sisters, so that you may not be conceited: Israel has experienced a hardening in part until the full number of the Gentiles has come in, and in this way all Israel will be saved. As it is written: 'The deliverer will come from Zion; he will turn godlessness away from Jacob. And this is my covenant with them when I take away their sins'" (Romans 11:25-27).

It is amazing and revealing to recognize that the fulfilment of the call of Jesus to preach the Gospel of the Kingdom to all the earth (Matthew 24:14) is intertwined with Paul's revelation here. After the full number of the Gentiles has come in, the Jewish people will be saved on a corporate, national level, just as the prophets of old foretold, like those mentioned by Paul in Romans 11:27. In Zechariah we read:

"And I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and supplication. They will look on me, the one they have pierced, and they will mourn for him as one mourns for an only child, and grieve bitterly for him as one grieves for a first-born son" (Zechariah 12:10).

In the middle of the end-time battle for Jerusalem, the Holy Spirit will be poured out over Israel. The Holy Spirit will come as a Spirit of prayer. All Israel will realize that only God can help them. Only God's grace can save them – physically and spiritually. And at that moment the "veil" will be lifted from them – and they will "see" the crucified One. Their hearts will be pierced – as the hearts of the brothers of Joseph were pierced when they suddenly realized that Josef was not a foreign despot, but their brother, their own flesh and blood (Genesis 45). As the hearts of the three thousand on the day of Pentecost were pierced when they suddenly realized that the man their leaders gave over to the Romans to be crucified was indeed the Messiah their prophets had foretold (Acts 2:37). "All Israel" will thus be turned by God's revelation to repentance, to prayer and to supplication (Zechariah 12:10). It will not take long after that for Jesus to return and set His feet again on the mount of Olives (Zechariah 14:4).

Please also let's pray for the "firstfruits" of this revival, the messianic body of Israel.

In summary, we can see: Praying for the fulfilment of the Great Commission, for the salvation of all Israel and for the return of the Lord are deeply interwoven and are in complete agreement with the will of God as revealed in the Bible. Taken together, they express the redemptive plans and purposes of God for our time and generation. "Amen. Come Lord Jesus!" (Revelation 22:20b)

WEEK 8: MAR 15-21

Pray for humility, obedience and a fear of God in our nation: Stand against the Spirit of Babylon in and over our nation!

From Genesis 11 and Isaiah 14 we understand that the spirit of Babylon is a spirit of rebellion, of pride and of independence (Genesis 11:4, Isaiah 14:13-14). As peoples and nations discover the power of unity, they are tempted to find a wrong kind of pride in that power – and they begin to trust in their own strength. As Adam and Eve were tempted in the beginning as individuals – in Genesis 11 the same kind of temptation begins to enter the collective consciousness: They want to be like God! They want to take their fate into their own hand, independent of God, deciding for themselves, what is good and what is evil, what is right and what is wrong. They move away from the fear of God. They move away from humility and a sense of dependency on the grace, the mercies and the blessing of God.

When we stand against the Spirit of Babylon we engage in spiritual warfare. Therefore, be careful to put on the full armour of God described in Ephesians 6:10-18.

When we see instances of rebellion, pride and arrogance in our nation: Pray for God's mercy upon our nation. Pray that He will use His church as a modern-day Jonah to preach that the Lord by His grace through the Holy Spirit makes room for repentance in the hearts of the leaders and in the hearts of the people. That they may repent like the people of Nineveh repented: From the highest to the lowest and from the lowest to the highest (Jonah 3:5). Pray that they may break loose from any spirit of pride, rebellion and independence, separating them from God. Also pray for the Church in our nation that it is not part of the godless spirit over and within our nation but walks before God and our nation in the Lord's Spirit: A spirit of humility, of the fear of God and of gratefulness for the grace and mercies of God upon which it gladly and humbly depends.

PRAYER: Dear Heavenly Father we come before Your throne of grace in the Name of Your beloved Son, Our Saviour, Jesus the Messiah to declare His Lordship over the stronghold of Spiritual Babylon in our nation (name the nation). For it is written: *"And being found in appearance as a man. He (Jesus) humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father"* (Philippians 2:8-10).

WEEK 7: MAR 8-14

Pray for the revelation that God loves our nation!

God loves our nation! Do you? Some of us are having a struggle to find a positive basic attitude towards our own nation. But as intercessors, we have no choice. We have to seek God's loving and redemptive heart towards our own people. We cannot pray out of the love of God if we have a spirit of judgement and criticism. But as priests, we should. In 1 Peter 2:5 we read:

"you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ."

We should be like Abraham who stood before God in intercession for Sodom and Gomorrah (Genesis 18:22-33). We should not be like Jona, who ran away from his task to preach repentance to Nineve – afraid that God would have mercy on this capital of Israel's the greatest enemy at that time (Jonah 1:1-3, 4:1-2).

We should be aware that God raised the nations out of the descendants of Noah (Genesis 10) under the covenant of the rainbow, the covenant God made with Noah. On behalf of all mankind! This was a covenant of grace and mercy. Here the basic laws of nature were established for the blessing and benefit of men (Genesis 8:21-9:17). As God loves every individual, he also loves every collective expression of mankind – every tongue, people, group and nation! As men and women are made in the image of God individually, peoples and nations are a reflection of God in a collective way. He does not love the sin of the nations – or of the individuals – but he loves them as he created them – and he wants to redeem them. He even wants to heal them at the end, as we read in Revelation 22:2:

"On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations."

Therefore: Pray for our nation out of the love of God. Pray for our nation to repent from whatever displeases God in order for God's redemptive power and redemptive purposes to break through to our people and to our nation. Pray for our nation to remain and become even more a blessing for Israel (Genesis 12:3).

WEEK 9: MAR 22-28

Pray for our nation to bless Israel: The nation that blesses Israel will be blessed!

The most important proof for a people and a nation in the eyes of the Lord is its willingness to accept the chosen people, the Jewish people gratefully as a gift of God, that is, as a blessing to mankind. (Genesis 12:1-3). Israel is not perfect. The Bible is very clear about this. But in Romans 11:28-29 the Bible tells us that God's choice of Israel is not based on their greatness or on their good deeds. It is based upon God's covenant with the fathers. And God has never regretted or withdrawn his "gifts and calling" from the Jewish people and Israel (Romans 11:29). Jesus Himself confirmed that all the promises to the children of Israel still are valid and active – for the blessing of the nations (Romans 15:8-9).

There are many ways that a nation and its leaders can bless Israel: They can bless Israel by showing respect. They can bless Israel by showing gratefulness to the achievements of Israel to society and towards civilization. They can bless Israel by constructive diplomatic relations. They can bless Israel by fair trade and business relations. They can bless Israel by cultural exchange, student exchange, promotion of tourism and in many other very practical ways. They can bless Israel by asking for their advice in matters of development, security, business relations – to name just a few examples. They can bless Israel by showing understanding for the dangers and complexities Israel faces in the Middle East conflict and really by trying to make a fair assessment of the conflict. Please pray for our nation to continue to be and increasingly to become a blessing for Israel!

WEEK 10: MAR 29 – APR 4

Pray for God's mercy over our nation: 3 criteria for judgement – may our nation move away from them!

In the Bible we read that the nations who will not serve Israel will be destroyed (Isaiah 60:12). In Joel we read about three criteria for judgement (Joel 3:1-3).

1. The scattering of the people (and hindering the return of the people).
2. The division of the land of Israel, the Holy land (and Jerusalem).
3. The lack of respect for Jewish lives by treating them lightly and cheaply. Any or all of these criteria invite the judgement of God upon a nation, unless it repents and turns away from it.

If our nation has sinned against the Jewish people regarding one or all of these criteria there must be repentance on a national relevant level for God's favour to return to the nation. This is something Christians in Germany have taken quite seriously in the last decades. And we trust that the peaceful reunification of Germany was a sign of encouragement of the Lord. He approves of our broken heart over the Holocaust. And He encourages us to continue to walk in the fruits of that repentance.

And in the present situation, especially in the context of international bodies like the UN, the EU, the conferences of African or Asian nations or the like, it takes courage to swim against the stream of Anti-Israelism. Pray for our leaders to find that courage. And pray for the Church in our nation to encourage and support our government in that direction. Pray that our nation will not be destroyed at the return of Jesus (see Zechariah 12:9 and 14:3-4 as well as Joel 3:14-16).

WEEK 11: APR 5–11

Sheep nation or goat nation? – Comfort and serve “the least of Jesus' brethren”!

In the New Testament Jesus Himself speaks about the judgement of the nations in the context of his end-time teachings (Matthew 25:31ff). If you connect this New Testament parable (or prophecy) with the Old Testament teaching about Israel, the nations and the judgement of the nations, starting with Genesis 12:3, you can see that the “least of the brethren of Jesus” are the Jewish people (Matthew 25:25-40). The Jewish people is the people group that has suffered more than any other people group throughout the history of mankind. The Holocaust was really the final climax of the history of their suffering, starting with the slavery in Egypt at the time of Moses, 3.500 years ago. When the nations saw the Jewish people suffer, what did they do? What do peoples and nations do today when they see the Jewish people and Israel suffer under the attacks of their enemies? This is the question that Jesus will ask when the nations are gathered before Him at His return.

Dear intercessors: If we know about moments in the history of our people, where Jews have suffered and our leaders and the majority of our people were indifferent towards their suffering – please confess this to the Lord and ask forgiveness in the spirit of Daniel (Daniel 9:3-5). If we see Jews in our nation suffer today – please cry out to God that he will intervene on their behalf – and show the Church and the leaders in our nation that they have a responsibility for the Jewish people and Israel. And as much as we can – please be an example to our Christian brethren and to our people by the grace of God and in the Spirit of Isaiah 40:1: “*Comfort ye, comfort ye my people...*”

WEEK 12: APR 12–18

Pray for our government to have a fear of the Lord concerning Israel

In 1 Timothy 2:1-2 we are exhorted to pray for our leaders and our governments – for “those in authority”:

“I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, 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.”

In Jeremiah 31:10 we who have been brought out of the nations (this means us as Christians!) are called to speak to the nations (including their leaders) and make them aware of the fact that the God of Israel, the Father of Jesus Christ, is behind the ingathering of the Jewish people in the end-times. And we should warn them not go against God's work! In Psalm 2 the nations and their leaders are warned not to rebel against God and his plans for Israel – otherwise the Messiah will judge them (Psalm 2:12). The nations and their leaders are instructed to remain in the fear of the Lord in regard of God's favour on Zion.

Therefore: Let us pray for our government to have the fear of the Lord concerning Israel!!!

WEEK 13: APR 19–25

Prayer for the Church to be “salt and light” within your nation

In Matthew 5:13-16, Jesus explains to us, His disciples, the mandate to be “salt and light” within our environment, our people, our nation:

“You are the salt of the earth ... You are the light of the world... Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify your Father who is in Heaven.”

This includes our responsibility to function as salt and light within our nation with regard to a blessed relationship between our nation and Israel. As the Church we are our nation's “conscience”. We should set an example for our nation. This is why Paul warns the Church of Jesus against any form of arrogance towards the Jewish people (Romans 11:17-20).

“... do not consider yourself to be superior to those other branches. If you do, consider this: you do not support the root, but the root supports you. Do not be arrogant, but tremble.”

As the Church we should not fall into the same trap in which the nations have fallen – the deception of the Spirit of Babylon, the spirit of pride and arrogance. We should set an example for our nations as to what it means to be a blessing to the Jewish people and Israel. So please pray for the Church of Jesus as a whole in our nation, that she may pray for Israel, comfort Israel, bless Israel, visit Israel, cooperate with Israel – and by doing that set an example and open doors for our nation to follow!

WEEK 14: APR 26 – MAY 2

Pray for the Church: To take its priestly responsibility for the Church and the nation

Some of us and some of our churches, networks and movements have a special calling and anointing for prayer and intercession. As far as Israel is concerned, we would see ourselves as “*watchmen on the walls of Jerusalem*” (Isaiah 62:6-7). As far as our nation and the leaders of our nation are concerned, we have a burden to pray for “those in authority” for the sake of the prosperity of our nation (1 Timothy 2:1-2). Please be encouraged to treat both in an equally serious manner: The prayer for Israel **and** the prayer for our nation with regard to Israel on the basis of Genesis 12:3:

“I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.”

In Europe, 70 years ago and before this kind of prayer was sadly lacking. Prayer was lacking for the Jewish people as well as for the governments of Europe. Today the threat against Israel, the hatred of Israel, the evil and the military forces against Israel are very similar to those against the Jewish people 70 or more years ago. It is a different ideology, a different mantle – but the same content, the same hatred, the same fanaticism. But now it is not a European phenomenon – it has become global. 70 years and more ago the great majority of the Church, including the praying Church, slept. Please pray that the same thing will not happen again today. On the contrary: Pray that the praying Church wakes up in order for the whole Church to wake up to be “salt and light”, a people of priests and prophets.

WEEK 15: MAY 3–10

Pray for a blessed relationship between Israel and our nation - with the Church as a central part

The Lord wants to do the following before his return: He wants to help as many nations as possible as his return approaches and as the valley of decision (Joel 3:14-16) approaches to end up as a sheep nation in the judgement and not a goat nation (Matthew 25:31ff). If we have a biblical understanding of the calling of the Church and the power of prayer and intercession we can see that a major responsibility concerning the final fate of the nations, which is bound to their relationship with the Jewish people and Israel, lies with the praying Church. Genesis 12:3 is the foundation of our prayers:

“I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.”

Therefore: Pray for Israel in a spirit of humility, gratefulness and compassion. Pray for our nation to become and to be a blessing for Israel and the Jewish people. And pray for the Church to be a central part of the relationship, spiritually and practically, of our nation with Israel.