

7 WAYS TO PRAY FOR ISRAEL AND GAZA

Gaza is a small strip of land, only about 41 kilometres long and 12 kilometres wide. More than 2 million people live there, and it has been controlled by Hamas since 2007. Since then, Israel and Egypt established a blockade around Gaza. About 80 percent of Gaza's population depends on aid because of the restrictions on travel in or out of the region.

On Saturday, October 7, fighters from Hamas—the Islamic militant and political organization that governs Gaza, one of the Palestinian territories—swept into Israel. Catching Israeli authorities by surprise, the militants carried out attacks, took hostages, murdered civilians, and infiltrated more than 20 towns in Israel.

Israel is responding to the violence from Gaza with military action, and the conflict rages on. As the conflict continues, Christians are invited to unite in prayer, praying for an end to the conflict and for lasting peace. The following are seven ways to pray for Israel and Gaza.:

1. Pray for the Gazan and Israeli families who mourn for loved ones who were killed or taken hostage.

“Comfort, comfort My people,” says your God. “With gentle words, tender and kind.” (Is. 40:1) .Lord, lift up those in Israel who lost family and friends in these brutal attacks. As they grieve, comfort them, and grant them a peace only You can bring.

2. Pray for the believers in Gaza who are caught in the middle of the conflict.

Lord, calm the fears of our Christian brothers and sisters in Gaza. Lead them and their families to safety. May your mercy, justice, peace, and love triumph in the midst of adversity, exhaustion, and devastation.

3. Ask God to protect innocent people during this conflict.

Lord, protect innocent families, children and civilians in both Israel and Gaza. Comfort and strengthen your people and to help those impacted by war to find healing and hope in the midst of their distress and trauma.

4. Pray for those taken hostage in Gaza and those awaiting news of their safety.

Lord, comfort and save those taken and held hostage in Gaza. Strengthen their resolve and determination; comfort them in their loneliness and fear. As they walk through this dark valley, may they fear no evil. Return them to their loved ones. Be with their families in their anguish and suffering. Sustain Your hope within their hearts.

5. Pray for those who have been driven out of their homes.

Lord, we pray for the innocent driven from their homes, the thousands who have been displaced. May they know your ever-present help. Show them the face of Your mercy. Bring them to safety as they strive to rebuild their lives.

6. Pray for open corridors in the Holy Land.

Lord, we pray for those in leadership in Gaza and Israel. Guide them along the right paths. Bless them with boldness, compassion and humanity that humanitarian corridors may bring relief, food and water, medical supplies and supplies.

7. Pray for peace.

Lord, we pray that love and peace will prevail throughout Israel and Gaza. May those at war set aside their weapons, and that reason will overcome rage and revenge. May the channels of diplomacy establish peace for blessed are the merciful and the peacemakers.