

Tisha Be'Av: Day of Calamity, Prayer for Redemption

It's time to do this. Time for all Gentile believers to join our hearts and hands with those of the people of Israel and of Jewish people throughout the world; joining with them in what they themselves have been doing for almost forever now – entering into a time of prayer on the 9th of Av for the deliverance that the Lord promised them in [Zechariah 7-8:19](#) would one day come to them – that He would transform these times of mourning and fasting into times of joy and celebration.

Let's join with them in praying for this. The date this year is Sunday, August 14.

You've probably never heard of these things. I hadn't either. But it's time for us to all get on board. If you click on this picture and go to Gidon Ariel's Youtube video, you can get some good background info on the history of these things and some thoughts on how to join in praying.



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So, why do I want to do this?

On a prayer walk through the woods sometime last fall, a realization struck me deeply and wouldn't let me rest, until this opportunity to pray for Israel in a meaningful way had been opened up to me. A realization that I as a Gentile whose heart belongs to the Holy One of Israel, have a special responsibility to reach out in intercession for the people of Israel. *"Israel did not stumble so as to fall beyond recovery,"* as Romans 11:11 tells us, *"but so that salvation would come to the Gentiles."*

That's me! I'm a Gentile. And for this precious gift of salvation, I owe a great debt. To those who stumbled, so that I might live – I owe a great debt. My intercession for Israel is an expression of my deep gratitude for the precious gift that I've received.

Isaiah 62:1-2

*For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,
for Jerusalem's sake I will not remain quiet,
till her righteousness shines out like the dawn,
her salvation like a blazing torch.*

Reviewing Isaiah 57-61 in the context of current events

On the Temple Mount



Those who honor me I will honor

1 Samuel 2:30



Let your hands be strong

Zechariah 8:9

Hallel's funeral

Support from the nation's Prime Minister

Hallel Ariel, a 13-year old Israeli girl murdered in her bed on June 30 –

[Isaiah 57:1-2](#)

The righteous perish,
and no one ponders it in his heart;
devout men are taken away,
and no one understands
that the righteous are taken away
to be spared from evil.
Those who walk uprightly
enter into peace;
they find rest as they lie in death.

The Palestinian terrorist who despised and murdered her for no reason; those who throw stones on the Temple Mount; those who teach the lies which perpetuate these evil deeds –

[Isaiah 57:3-4](#)

*“But you—come here, you sons of a sorceress,
you offspring of adulterers and prostitutes!
Whom are you mocking?
At whom do you sneer
and stick out your tongue?
Are you not a brood of rebels,
the offspring of liars?”*

[Isaiah 57:11-13](#)

*“Whom have you so dreaded and feared
that you have been false to me,
and have neither remembered me
nor pondered this in your hearts?
Is it not because I have long been silent
that you do not fear me?
I will expose your “righteousness” and your “works”,
and they will not benefit you.
When you cry out for help,
let your collection of idols save you!
The wind will carry all of them off,
a mere breath will blow them away.*

Call for a gathering at the Temple Mount in memory of Hallel

Join us on the Temple Mount

In the midst of the deep pain and heartache of their loss, the bold response of Hallel's parents Amichai and Rena, drawing all Israel together to the Temple Mount in memory of their daughter –

Isaiah 57:13-15

***“But the man who makes me his refuge
will inherit the land
and possess my holy mountain.”***

And it will be said:

“Build up, build up, prepare the road!

Remove the obstacles out of the way of my people.”

For this is what the high and lofty One says—

he who lives forever, whose name is holy:

***“I live in a high and holy place,
but also with him who is contrite and lowly in spirit,
to revive the spirit of the lowly
and to revive the heart of the contrite.***

The memorial ceremony at the Temple Mount

A priestly blessing from Amichai Ariel on the Temple Mount

The blessing from Hallel's father

The response of the Holy One of Israel to all who are mourning this loss, creating praise on their lips –

Isaiah 57:16-21

I will not accuse forever,

nor will I always be angry,

for then the spirit of man would grow faint before me—

the breath of man that I have created.

I was enraged by his sinful greed;

I punished him, and hid my face in anger,

yet he kept on in his willful ways.

I have seen his ways, but I will heal him;

I will guide him and restore comfort to him,

creating praise on the lips of the mourners in Israel.

*Peace, peace, to those far and near,”
says the LORD. “And I will heal them.”
But the wicked are like the tossing sea,
which cannot rest,
whose waves cast up mire and mud.“
There is no peace,” says my God, “for the wicked.”*

A time of fasting is drawing near, on the 9th of Av to pray that these difficult, trying times will come to an end – that by God’s mighty hand of deliverance they will finally be replaced by times of joy and celebration as prophecied in [Zechariah 8:19](#). His instructions for this time of fasting –

[Isaiah 58:1-4](#)

*“Shout it aloud, do not hold back.
Raise your voice like a trumpet.
Declare to my people their rebellion
and to the house of Jacob their sins.
For day after day they seek me out;
they seem eager to know my ways,
as if they were a nation that does what is right
and has not forsaken the commands of its God.
They ask me for just decisions
and seem eager for God to come near them.
**‘Why have we fasted,’ they say,
‘and you have not seen it?
Why have we humbled ourselves,
and you have not noticed?’***

*“Yet on the day of your fasting, you do as you please
and exploit all your workers.
Your fasting ends in quarreling and strife,
and in striking each other with wicked fists.
You cannot fast as you do today
and expect your voice to be heard on high.*

[Isaiah 58:5-7](#)

***Is this the kind of fast I have chosen,
only a day for a man to humble himself?
Is it only for bowing one’s head like a reed
and for lying on sackcloth and ashes?
Is that what you call a fast,
a day acceptable to the LORD?***

***“Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen:
to loose the chains of injustice
and untie the cords of the yoke,
to set the oppressed free
and break every yoke?***

*Is it not to share your food with the hungry
and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter—
when you see the naked, to clothe him,
and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood?*

The glorious result that He promises if we follow His instructions; if we acknowledge and honor Him –

[Isaiah 58:8-9](#)

***Then your light will break forth like the dawn,
and your healing will quickly appear;
then your righteousness will go before you,
and the glory of the LORD will be your rear guard.
Then you will call, and the LORD will answer;
you will cry for help, and he will say: Here am I.***

[Isaiah 58:9-12](#)

*“If you do away with the yoke of oppression,
with the pointing finger and malicious talk,
and if you spend yourselves in behalf of the hungry
and satisfy the needs of the oppressed,
**then your light will rise in the darkness,
and your night will become like the noonday.**
**The LORD will guide you always;
he will satisfy your needs in a sun-scorched land
and will strengthen your frame.***

***You will be like a well-watered garden,
like a spring whose waters never fail.
Your people will rebuild the ancient ruins
and will raise up the age-old foundations;
you will be called Repairer of Broken Walls,
Restorer of Streets with Dwellings.***

And fasting will be turned into feasting –

[Isaiah 58:13-14](#)

*“If you keep your feet from breaking the Sabbath
and from doing as you please on my holy day,
if you call the Sabbath a delight
and the LORD’s holy day honorable,
and if you honor it by not going your own way
and not doing as you please or speaking idle words,
**then you will find your joy in the LORD,
and I will cause you to ride on the heights of the land
and to feast on the inheritance of your father Jacob.”**
The mouth of the LORD has spoken.*

Our confessions –

[Isaiah 59:1-2](#)

*Surely the arm of the LORD is not too short to save,
nor his ear too dull to hear.
But your iniquities have separated
you from your God;
your sins have hidden his face from you,
so that he will not hear.*

[Isaiah 59:9](#)

*So justice is far from us,
and righteousness does not reach us.
We look for light, but all is darkness;
for brightness, but we walk in deep shadows.*

[Isaiah 59:11-14](#)

*We look for justice, but find none;
for deliverance, but it is far away.
For our offenses are many in your sight,
and our sins testify against us.
Our offenses are ever with us,
and we acknowledge our iniquities:
rebellion and treachery against the LORD,
turning our backs on our God,
fomenting oppression and revolt,
uttering lies our hearts have conceived.*

*So justice is driven back,
and righteousness stands at a distance;
truth has stumbled in the streets,
honesty cannot enter.*

The Lord's response –

[Isaiah 59:15-17](#)

*The LORD looked and was displeased
that there was no justice.
He saw that there was no one,
he was appalled that there was no one to intervene;
so his own arm worked salvation for him,
and his own righteousness sustained him.
He put on righteousness as his breastplate,
and the helmet of salvation on his head;
he put on the garments of vengeance
and wrapped himself in zeal as in a cloak.*

[Isaiah 59:18-20](#)

*According to what they have done,
so will he repay
wrath to his enemies
and retribution to his foes;
he will repay the islands their due.
From the west, men will fear the name of the LORD,
and from the rising of the sun, they will revere his glory.
For he will come like a pent-up flood
that the breath of the LORD drives along.
**“The Redeemer will come to Zion,
to those in Jacob who repent of their sins,”
declares the LORD.***

[Isaiah 59:21-60:3](#)

***“As for me, this is my covenant with them,” says the LORD. “My Spirit, who is on you,
and my words that I have put in your mouth will not depart from your mouth, or from
the mouths of your children, or from the mouths of their descendants from this time
on and forever,” says the LORD.***

***“Arise, shine, for your light has come,
and the glory of the LORD rises upon you.***

**See, darkness covers the earth
and thick darkness is over the peoples,
but the LORD rises upon you
and his glory appears over you.
Nations will come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.**

[Isaiah 60:10-11](#)

*“Foreigners will rebuild your walls,
and their kings will serve you.
Though in anger I struck you,
in favor I will show you compassion.
Your gates will always stand open,
they will never be shut, day or night,
so that men may bring you the wealth of the nations—
their kings led in triumphal procession.*

[Isaiah 60:13-14](#)

*“The glory of Lebanon will come to you,
the pine, the fir and the cypress together,
to adorn the place of my sanctuary;
and I will glorify the place of my feet.
The sons of your oppressors will come bowing before you;
all who despise you will bow down at your feet
and will call you the City of the LORD,
Zion of the Holy One of Israel.*

[Isaiah 60:15](#)

*“Although you have been forsaken and hated,
with no one traveling through,
I will make you the everlasting pride
and the joy of all generations.*

And in Hallel’s memory –

[Isaiah 60:18](#)

*No longer will violence be heard in your land,
nor ruin or destruction within your borders,
but **you will call your walls Salvation
and your gates Praise.***

[Isaiah 60:21-22](#)

*Then will all your people be righteous
and they will possess the land forever.
They are the shoot I have planted,
the work of my hands,
for the display of my splendor.
The least of you will become a thousand,
the smallest a mighty nation.
I am the LORD;
in its time I will do this swiftly.”*

[Isaiah 61:4](#)

*They will rebuild the ancient ruins
and restore the places long devastated;
they will renew the ruined cities
that have been devastated for generations.*

Our task, until all these things have reached their fulfillment –

[Isaiah 62:1](#)

*For Zion’s sake I will not keep silent,
for Jerusalem’s sake I will not remain quiet,
till her righteousness shines out like the dawn,
her salvation like a blazing torch.*

[Isaiah 62:6-7](#)

*I have posted watchmen on your walls, O 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.*

Let your light shine on us

Michael W. Smith

Lord, let your light, light of your face shine on us

Lord, let your light, light of your face shine on us

That we may be saved; That we may have life

To find our way in the darkest night

Let your light shine on us

Lord, let your grace, grace from your hand fall on us

Lord, let your grace, grace from your hand fall on us

That we may be saved; That we may have life

To find our way in the darkest night

Let your grace fall on us

Lord, let your love, love with no end come over us

Lord, let your love, love with no end come over us

That we may be saved; That we may have life

To find our way in the darkest night

Let your love come over us

Let your light shine on us