

Prayer for Israel

HANNAH ELLENSON
(HUC-JIR Rabbinical Student)

אֱלֹהֵינוּ וְאֱלֹהֵי אֲבוֹתֵינוּ וְאֲבוֹתֵינוּ—Our God and God of our ancestors,
we ask your blessing for the State of Israel and for all of Israel's inhabitants.

מְקוֹר חַיִּים—Source of Life, bless and strengthen those who defend the land and
ensure their safe and speedy return home. Protect them and guide them.

קָדוֹשׁ בְּרוּךְ הוּא—Holy and Blessed One, show Israel's leaders your path so they
may act with wisdom, courage, and dedication and that they may be unwavering
in their pursuit of peace. Strengthen their hearts, but keep them from hardening.

מַתִּיר אֲסוּרִים—Freer of the Captives, return all those who are kidnapped safe and
sound to their homes, without the spilling of more innocent blood, without any
more souls being tarnished by horrific acts.

בַּעַל הַרְחָמִים—Master of Compassion, help us hold the humanity and the heart-
ache of the Jewish people while also holding the humanity and the dignity of the
Palestinian people.

As we are made in your image, remind us of your ways. Spread over us your shelter
of peace and fulfill the vision of your prophets: "They shall beat their swords into
plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation shall not take up sword
against nation; they shall never again know war."*

Together, we say: Amen

*Isaiah 2:4

*With gratitude to Rabbis Sharon Brous, Ayelet Cohen,
Sam Feinsmith, Ofer Sabbath Beit Halachmi, and Mira Regev
for their prayers and words, some of which are excerpted here.*

*Avinu shebashamayim,
Tzur Yisrael v'go-alo:
bareich et m'dinat Yisrael,
reishit tz'michat g'ulateinu.
Hagein aleha b'evrat chasdecha;
ufros aleha sukkat sh'lomecha.
Ushlach orcha vaamit'cha l'rasheha,
sareha, v'yo-atzeha;
v'tak'neim b'eitzah tovah mil'fanecha.
Chazeik et y'dei m'ginei eretz kodsheinu,
v'hanchileim, Eloheinu, y'shuah;
vaateret nitzachon t'at'reim.
V'natata shalom baaretz,
v'simchat olam l'yoshveha.
V'nomar: Amen.*

אָבִינוּ שֶׁבַשְׁמַיִם,
צוּר יִשְׂרָאֵל וְגוֹאֲלוֹ,
בְּרַךְ אֶת מְדִינַת יִשְׂרָאֵל,
רֵאשִׁית צְמִיחַת גְּאֻלַּתְנוּ.
הַגֵּן עָלֶיהָ בְּאֶבְרַת חַסְדְּךָ,
וּפְרוֹשׁ עָלֶיהָ סֻכַּת שְׁלוֹמְךָ.
וּשְׁלַח אוֹרְךָ וְאִמְתָּךְ לְרֵאשִׁיָּהּ,
שָׂרְיָהּ וְיוֹעֲצֵיהָ,
וְתַקְנֵם בְּעֵצָה טוֹבָה מִלְּפָנֶיךָ.
חַזֵּק אֶת יָדֵי מַגְבֵּי אֶרֶץ קֹדֶשׁנוּ,
וְהַנְחִילֵם, אֱלֹהֵינוּ, יְשׁוּעָה,
וְעֲטֹרַת נִצְחוֹן הַתְּעֹטְרֵם.
וּנְתַתְּ שְׁלוֹם בְּאֶרֶץ
וְשִׂמְחַת עוֹלָם לְיוֹשְׁבֵיהָ,
וְנֹאמֵר: אָמֵן.

Kabbalat HaTorah
ולש עשרה מדות
Sh'losh Esreih Mid
הוצאת התורה
Hotzaat HaTorah
הקפה
Hakafah
ברכות התורה
Birchot HaTorah
ברכת הגומל
Birkat HaGomeil
מי שברך לעולי
התורה
Mi Shebeirach L'ol
HaTorah
קריאת התורה
K'riat HaTorah
וי שברך לרפואה
Mishebeirach
Lirfuah
הגבהה וגלילה
Hagbahah Uglila
ברכה שלפני
ההפטרה
B'rachah Shelifne
HaHaftarah
קריאת ההפטרה
K'riat HaHaftarah
ברכה שאחרי
ההפטרה
B'rachah
She-acharei
HaHaftarah
תפלות הקהלה
T'filot HaK'hilah
גסת ספר תורה
Hachnasat Sefer
Torah

Avinu — You who are high above all nation-states and peoples —
Rock of Israel, the One who has saved us and preserved us in life,
bless the State of Israel, first flowering of our redemption.
Be her loving shield, a shelter of lasting peace.
Guide her leaders and advisors by Your light of truth;
instruct them with Your good counsel.
Strengthen the hands of those who build and protect our Holy Land.
Deliver them from danger; crown their efforts with success.
Grant peace to the land,
lasting joy to all of her people.
And together we say: *Amen*.

PRAYER FOR THE STATE OF ISRAEL. Composed in honor of the birth of the State of Israel in 1948.

FIRST FLOWERING OF OUR REDEMPTION רֵאשִׁית צְמִיחַת גְּאֻלַּתְנוּ. S. Y. Agnon (1887–1970) added this poetic phrase (based on the language of Isaiah 11:1), which defines the establishment of the State of Israel as a spiritual as well as a political event. Thus the prayer encourages us to experience the year 1948 as a turning point in history and a moment of unprecedented hope: the dawning of a peaceful, sovereign future for the Jewish people.