

PASTOR'S THOUGHTS

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Praying for Peace

On the eve of the Jewish Passover and in response to Iran's missiles, Israel sent a bombing message back to them.

This came as a surprise as much of the West had asked Israel not to respond in the name of peace.

This escalation has prompted concerns over regional stability and the wider impact this conflict may cause. Recent reports of explosions in Isfahan and Israel's military operations against Iran have underscored the precariousness of the already delicate situation.

For many believers, the unfolding events in the Middle East hold profound spiritual significance, rooted in the teachings of the Bible. Central to this is the imperative for the Church to pray for Israel. This call to prayer is not merely a suggestion but a deeply ingrained mandate found throughout scripture.

The biblical basis for praying for Israel stems from God's covenant relationship with the nation. In Genesis 12:3, God promises to bless those who bless Israel and to curse those who curse Israel. This principle underscores the importance of standing in solidarity with the nation and interceding on its behalf.

Furthermore, the Bible exhorts believers to pray for the peace of Jerusalem (Psalm 122:6), recognizing the city's central role in God's redemptive plan. As tensions rise and conflict looms, the need for fervent prayer for the region becomes more pressing.

Beyond geopolitical concerns, the spiritual significance of Israel cannot be overstated. It is the land of the patriarchs, the birthplace of Jesus, and the stage upon which much of biblical history unfolded. As such, the

Church has a vested interest in its well-being and a responsibility to lift it up in prayer.

In times of crisis, prayer becomes not just a religious duty but a powerful act of solidarity and faith. By praying for Israel, believers affirm their commitment to God's purposes for the nation and demonstrate their trust in His sovereign control over world events.

Myles Munroe said, prayer is heavenly licence for earthly interference. Luke 18:1 states we...ought always to pray and not lose heart (or give up, or faint) - various versions.

As tensions continue to simmer in the Middle East, let us heed the biblical imperative to pray for Israel. In doing so, we align ourselves with God's heart for His people and participate in His redemptive work in the world.