Dear Prayer Partners,  
  
This special month of prayer comes at a unique moment for Israel and our ministry. The fate of Jerusalem is back in the headlines following the US decision to recognize the city as Israel’s capital and move the American Embassy here. This set off Muslim protests around the world, although they have not been as violent and widespread as some forecast. Meantime, there are suddenly mass protests on the streets of Iran openly calling for the ouster of the clerical regime now bringing that nation to ruin.  
  
This just shows once again how difficult it is to predict what might happen next in the Middle East. Very few saw the Iranian Revolution coming in 1979, or the Arab Spring in 2011. This is despite all the powerful intelligence services operating in the world today. The United States alone has 17 major intelligence agencies which spend billions of dollars to stay abreast of global developments. They gather reams of information from spies and hi-tech surveillance that is then pored over by trained analysts. They even compile personality profiles on key world leaders to assess how they might react in times of crisis. And yet they still get surprised at every turn.  
  
Thankfully, as Christians we do not need to be caught unaware of what lies ahead. For we have the Bible and the Holy Spirit to show us things to come. The Word and Spirit of God are far more powerful and accurate than all the intelligence agencies in the world. We just need to access them properly to better inform our prayer life.  
  
The prophet Daniel serves as a good example. He not only foresaw future events in the Spirit himself, he also valued the words written by other prophets. Thus, he read in a scroll sent by Jeremiah that the exile to Babylon would last 70 years and he used this information to intercede for his people accordingly.  
  
Jesus also stayed out ahead of events by means of the Spirit and the Word. When he was received triumphantly into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, he was not fooled by the adoration. Rather, he knew the purpose of God at that time was that he should suffer rejection and death in that very city.  
  
Today, we know by the Word and the Spirit that the Lord has a different purpose for Israel and for Jerusalem. It is a time of restoration, of comfort and favor for Zion, and ultimately of salvation. Israel’s exiles are over. Her redemption is drawing nigh. It is also a time of repentance and reconciliation, so that Jerusalem might truly receive her King, that promised Son of David who shall rule all nations from this city.  
  
The Bible and the Holy Spirit also provide us with an in-depth personality profile of God. He is all-knowing. He can be relied upon to always keep His promises. He never panics in a moment of crisis. He never gets caught off-guard. And He has wonderful plans for Israel and Jerusalem today.  
  
So let us look to the Holy Spirit and the sure Word of God to enlighten and inform us as we pray!  
  
Yours in Christ!  
  
  
David Parsons  
Vice President & Senior Spokesman  
International Christian Embassy Jerusalem  
  
  
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**Prayer Focus for Second Week of January 2018**

Please focus on the following areas of need in this second week of our special January 2018 prayer vigil in the Isaiah 62 Prayer Campaign. And let us hear from you about your needs or how God has answered your prayers lately! Send a short email to [prayer@icej.org](mailto:prayer@icej.org) or find us at [facebook.com/ICEJofficial](http://www.facebook.com/ICEJofficial/) to let us know you are praying and fasting with us.

**1. Pray for Israel**Pray that more nations would join the US in deciding to recognize Jerusalem as Israel’s capital and to move their embassies to the city. Pray that the Palestinian leadership would fail in their efforts to reverse the American decision on Jerusalem and to force Israeli concessions through international intervention. Pray that more countries would become sheep nations and not goat nations, because their leaders fear God and honor His Word more than they fear and honor men. Pray that the Lord would hasten His good work in Jerusalem to prepare this city to finally receive her eternal King, the Messiah. And pray that, until then, the Lord would place a mighty hedge of protection around Israel to guard the nation from all her enemies.   
  
*“And the Lord will take possession of Judah as His inheritance in the Holy Land, and will again choose Jerusalem.” (Zechariah 2:12)*  
  
*“… for I say to you, you shall see Me no more till you say, ‘Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!’” (Matthew 23:39)*  
  
*“All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats.” (Matthew 25:32)  
  
“Do good in Your good pleasure to Zion; Build the walls of Jerusalem.” (Psalm 51:18)  
  
“O Israel, trust in the Lord; He is their help and their shield.” (Psalm 115:9)  
  
“It shall be in that day that I will seek to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem.” (Zechariah 12:9)*

**2. Pray for the Middle East**

Pray for the Lord to deal justly with all the nations and peoples who seek Israel’s destruction. Pray that the current protests in Iran would swiftly free that nation from the hardline Islamist rule of the Ayatollahs. Pray that Iranian soldiers and security would not be willing to harm or kill their fellow Iranian citizens, but rather join the calls for freedom and democracy. Pray that the troubles at home would weaken and undermine Iran’s efforts to sow fear and terror in other parts of the region, such as in Syria, Lebanon, Iraq, Yemen and Sinai. Pray that the Sunni Arab states of Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Jordan and the United Arab Emirates would continue to quietly align with Israel.  
  
*“He makes nations great, and destroys them; He enlarges nations, and guides them.” (Job 12:23)  
  
“God is wise in heart and mighty in strength. Who has hardened himself against Him and prospered?” (Job 9:4)*  
  
*“Only do not rebel against the Lord, nor fear the people of the land, for they are our bread; their protection has departed from them, and the Lord is with us. Do not fear them.” (Numbers 14:9)*

**3. Pray for the ICEJ**

Pray that in the coming year 2018 the Christian Embassy would be able to carry out its vision to the fullest to reach all Israel with a testimony of Christian love and to reach all nations with the hopeful biblical message of Israel’s restoration. Pray for the finances to come in to bring more Jews home to Israel on Aliyah, to complete the new building at our Haifa Home for Holocaust survivors, and to meet other urgent needs in Israel. Pray for God’s presence and blessing on our staff, our projects and our events this year. Pray that the Lord would protect and guide the ICEJ leadership in all their work and travel. *“For You are my rock and my fortress; Therefore, for Your name’s sake, Lead me and guide me.” (Psalm 31:3)  
  
“Now thanks be to God who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and through us diffuses the fragrance of His knowledge in every place.” (2 Corinthians 2:14)  
  
“And let our people also learn to maintain good works, to meet urgent needs, that they may not be unfruitful.” (Titus 3:14)  
  
“He will set up a banner for the nations, and will assemble the outcasts of Israel, and gather together the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth.” (Isaiah 11:12)*