



ISAIAH 62
PRAYER INITIATIVE

ICEJ Day of Prayer & Fasting Wednesday, 22nd February 2012

On the Winning Side

The call of Mordecai still echoes today

Every Purim in late winter, the Jewish people remember the story of Esther, the Queen in ancient Persia whose courage and entreaties delivered the Jews from certain destruction.

Young and beautiful, Esther was chosen to be the bride of the powerful King Ahasuerus of Persia. But during her time as Queen, things took a turn for the worse. The evil Haman, the king's chief counselor, was plotting when and how to annihilate all the Jews in the vast Persian Empire. Esther was safely hidden in the royal palace, her Jewish identity yet unknown, but her uncle Mordecai came and pleaded with her to intervene with the king and save her people. His appeal went as follows:

"Do not think in your heart that you will escape in the king's palace any more than all the other Jews. For if you remain completely silent at this time, relief and deliverance will arise for the Jews from another place, but you and your father's house will perish. Yet who knows whether you have come to the kingdom for such a time as this?" (Esther 4:13-14)

Esther heeded his warning, made good use of her audience with the king, the Jews were allowed to defend themselves, and their enemy Haman was hung on the very gallows he had prepared for Mordecai.

This extraordinary appeal of Mordecai still rings powerfully today in light of the new Hamans that are arising in our generation. It teaches us some very important lessons:

God wins!

"Relief and deliverance will come from another place!" What a powerful declaration of faith! Many Hamans have arisen seeking to

destroy the Jews, but we are assured that Israel and the people of God will never be annihilated - they will surely survive.

Whose survival?

Mordecai's appeal also contains a very sobering message. If we remain silent, God will surely save His people, but it is us who might perish. Therefore, to stand up for God's people has far less to do with the survival of Israel and far more to do with our own survival. If we remain silent, we endanger our own standing with God. So let us work together to ensure that the Church will never be silent and passive again.

For such a time as this

Mordecai's dramatic appeal reminded his niece that there is a purpose in her high calling as the Queen of Persia. Her uncle challenges her to consider her royal position not as a luxurious privilege but as a place of service for God and her people. God never called us to be passengers on a deluxe ocean liner called the Church, but rather as faithful crew members on a rescue vessel seeking to help those tossed in stormy seas.

Hidden deliverer

The scroll of Esther is unique in that it is the only book in the entire Bible in which the name of God is never mentioned. He remains a hidden deliverer for His people. Yet we are told that Queen Esther, Mordecai and all the Jews fasted in sack cloth and ashes, and then deliverance indeed came. They knew how to seek God and receive answers from Him!

Let us remember that God will stand with Israel - even if we are silent. But may we never be silent again, and especially when a new Haman has arisen once again in Persia plotting to destroy the Jews.



Dr. Jürgen Bühler
ICEJ Executive Director

1. Prayer for Israel

- Pray that God would bring His means of deliverance to the fore to vanquish the growing Iranian nuclear threat over Israel and the entire region. May it be done in a way that brings glory to God and reverence and fear among the region's people for the God of Israel, the God of the Bible.
- Pray for wisdom and courage in dealing with terrorism directed by Iran and Hizbullah against Israeli diplomatic missions abroad. Offer praise for the minimum injuries inflicted in the recent bombings aimed at Israeli envoys in India Georgia, and Thailand.
- Pray for Israel's efforts at civil preparedness for massive rocket barrages, as well as for further bolstering of its anti-missile defense systems, including more joint funding from the US administration for additional Arrow batteries.
- Pray for fresh efforts in the Knesset to deal with the problem of increasing poverty among certain sectors of the Israeli population.

2. Prayer for the Middle East

- Pray that the nation of Syria will quickly resolve its raging civil war with minimum casualties and that true freedom and democracy would be realized by the people. Pray that a government more friendly towards Israel, no longer allied with Iran, and more caring about its own people would be installed in Damascus. Also pray for the growing humanitarian crisis in Syria.
- Pray that the new authorities gradually gaining power in Egypt would fully respect the 1979 peace treaty with Israel and even enhance relations with the Jewish state, as well as end anti-Semitic incitement in the official press and education system.

3. The Ministry of the ICEJ

- Pray that the Christian Embassy's partnership with Yad Vashem would be able to expand its outreach to more Christian leaders and churches

worldwide and become an even more effective voice for combating anti-Semitism and hatred against Israel. Pray for generous funding to come in to help us enlarge the work and influence of Christian Friends of Yad Vashem.

- Pray that the new opportunity for the ICEJ on Daystar TV would be a powerful tool for drawing new Christians from around the world into our work and ministry in Jerusalem.

Thank you so much for your faithful prayer support!