

### **A time to learn to love radically**

In the letter to Hebrews, we read that we are called to Mount Zion, to the heavenly Jerusalem, to thousands of angels, and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant (Hebrews 12:22ff). Therefore, let us begin our prayers in the heavenly places and experience everything we can from just being there. It is in this place where we see Jesus with our own eyes and make heart-felt contact directly with him and with the heavenly world, because our eyes and hearts belong first to God, and this relationship is not open to question but is very personal and not dependent on what we may hear from any other source. It is extremely important that our hearts be shaped by the atmosphere of heaven. Here in Zion is the place of prayer and here we live according to God's purposes for this world.

### **The Lord calls us to seek His counsel and follow His guidance**

God calls us to go higher, to the place of his decrees and purposes, because in intercession we must not allow ourselves to be drawn down to a human level. Otherwise, we run the risk of seeing a spiritual mandate also as a political goal. This was and is true for the Ukraine war and now also can be seen in the Middle East conflict. As a prayer network with a focus on politics and society, we have learned to pray as we are informed by the news. But let us all check for ourselves where we are driven primarily by the news and where we are also really seeking to meet God as we pray. We need a higher level of prayer and some independence from the reporting of news so that we do not become restless and troubled with the spirit of this world. It is God's wisdom that we seek. It is precisely because we live in a time of "wars and rumours of wars", wanting to take on responsibility in prayer, that we need a firm standing in God. We can only achieve this if we remain close to God's heart. During such a time of challenge in his life, Daniel set his heart on seeking God who came to him in a vision (Daniel 10). It is important that we know God personally. Knowing Him as our loving Father and Guide is the most important thing of all! It is not just knowing something about him, but being prepared to have fellowship with him and being intimate with him. We are often addicted to wanting information which is to some extent good and important, but is it not time we get to know God and His kingdom better and seek His wisdom more than anything else? Turning to Him transforms us (2 Corinthians 3:18).

### **Guarding our hearts**

We are called directly to be the at right hand of God in this world, just as Jesus was, and manifesting that position. The greatest thing to know is that God is love! God is calling us away from humanistic judgment and then taking one side or the other. There must be no such partisanship in our hearts if we want to contribute to transformation in our time. Jesus's kingdom is not of this world. It is therefore about moving away from our own judgment based on the eternal division between good versus evil, East versus West, Left versus Right, young versus old, black versus white, and so on. This in fact causes everyone to be against everyone else and everyone against themselves - each morally triggered by the conviction that one is completely right and morally superior to and wiser than the other person. This gets us nowhere! We need someone to manifest our plea for "oneness" in our prayers at this time.

### **Places of transformation**

God invites us to let our hearts become places of transformation. Where do we still find hidden resentment in our hearts against someone without knowing why? It is when are our hearts not standing for the truth simply because they are actually full of fear and not founded on love? We need to understand more exactly why and how our hearts respond when challenged. God wants to take every such struggle out of our hearts so that we can welcome people and nations into our hearts, and God's kingdom as well as peace on earth can then grow in a way for all to see.

Alexander Schlüter

### **Global impact**

Hamas's invasion into Israel has sparked Islamist terrorism and attacks on Jews worldwide. While Israel was indeed advancing the rapprochement process with its Arab neighbours along with the Abraham Accords, the Shiite axis from Hamas and Hezbollah via Syria to Iran, Turkey and even to Russia was established to hinder this rapprochement. This has now happened after the cancelling of the talks between Saudi Arabia and Israel. Until now, Israel's Arab neighbours have appeared to be reluctant to be drawn into a war against Israel. However, a ground offensive in Gaza will certainly further enrage the world against Israel and trigger a new flow of refugees to destabilise the Western world. According to Zechariah 14:2, one day all nations will gather to wage war against Jerusalem. This will not however bring about an inevitable fate, neither for Israel nor for us, but rather be a warning: there will be no uncertain result in this conflict because it concerns God's plans for his chosen people, which include us in the nations and Israel's neighbours. We have entered a time of fulfilment of the Biblical prophecies and the consummation of world history with the return of the Messiah.

### **Prayer:**

- **We cleanse ourselves of any hardening of our hearts, of all lies and distortions. For a clear view concerning the coming conflicts and that Germany will speak out God's justice as an advocate for Israel. (2 Corinthians 10:4ff)**
- **For the reconciliation of the descendants of the brothers Isaac and Ishmael. Together with Messianic Jews and Arab Christians, we stand up for their peoples before God and as pioneers for the Prince of Peace. (Isaiah 19:23-25)**
- **Israel's military strength and intelligence services were overwhelmed in the Hamas attack. The West's political and economic strength was broken through in Russia's war against Ukraine. Let us cry out together to the Lord of history for the turning of our peoples back to faith and dependence on His strength. (Psalm 115)**

Karin Heepen

### Transformation from Jerusalem – Mount Zion

Praying for Jerusalem and Israel means that the heavenly and earthly Jerusalem are coming more and more into harmony in our own natural world. The heavenly and earthly Jerusalem are already united in Yeshua (Jesus in Hebrew). God wants to bring his peace to earth. The word Jerusalem (in Hebrew) actually means: “you will see the peace/wholeness”. He teaches us his ways from the heavenly Jerusalem (Micah 4:2). The cornerstone was laid in Zion by Jesus (Isaiah 28:16). His peace does not come through human ways and means, but through knowing his thoughts and ways. If we love Jesus, the King of the Jews, and know his heart, then he also teaches us of his love for the Arab people and all nations. Everything we pray for has a heavenly form, and has a pictorial representation (an image) that we can take hold of and bring down from heaven to earth. We pray with “heavenly vision.” In times of traumatic shaking, times of wars and rumours of wars, we cannot depend on what we see through our natural eyes, but need to be directly connected to the higher thoughts, ways, and purposes of God in heaven (Isaiah 55:9).

#### Prayer:

- **Let us approach Jesus in Zion, seeing him through the eyes of our hearts. Allow time for him to share something of his heart with you. (Hebrews 12:22ff)**
- **What thoughts/heavenly vision does he place into your heart? What can you now do together with him for his kingdom on earth? (Matthew 6:10)**

Alexander Schlüter

### A vision, seeing the two brothers united

In my mind's eye I see Jesus holding two young boys (Isaac and Ishmael) in his arms - one under each of his two strong arms. His look is full of love. “It's time!” I hear him say. In actual fact, he removed the partition, the fence of hostility between them, long ago, he has reconciled everything within himself and has foreseen the one new man (Ephesians 2:14). We often first look for a political solution to conflicts, but that is not our primary task. Transformation happens through our hearts. In the next moment I see Abraham, the father of our faith and bearer of the promises from our God. And I see how he wants to give us a vision of how the two brothers will be united.

Do we also love Ishmael? When we begin to love, the person who is standing behind terror and violence has already lost the battle. More than anything, people want to be loved. Let us ask the Lord for a vision within us of reconciliation between Isaac and Ishmael. Let us pray for the Arab people of Israel, Judea and Samaria and Gaza. And let us take the Muslims in our country into our hearts.

Alexander Schlüter

### Unity: with strength, protection, security, and cleansing

The dispute over judicial reform in Israel is currently attracting absolutely no attention and no protest action is now to be seen. Hamas's barbaric attack on Israel has united a divided the Israeli people in their fight against terrorism. Around 400,000 military reservists from all over the world have been mobilised for this purpose. The entire population has become one - in grief and in sorrow, in bewilderment, but with tremendous mutual support and determination.

There is also a strong sense of unity within the body of Jesus – here in Germany and worldwide - in response to these terrible events and the spiritual dimension of the battle for Israel.

There is also unity in standing together with Israel – with clear expressions of solidarity in confirming Israel's legal right to self-

defence, in financial and practical assistance with medical and basic food supplies, through personal statements from global leaders, and, above all, in prayer.

In the final analysis, it is not a fight against flesh and blood, even if it is currently taking place in the most cruel way on a human scale (Ephesians 6:12). Some prophets see in these events a wake-up call, which includes the need for the formation of a global prayer army. Unity in spirit is a powerful key - and is always the first target for the enemy. We have experienced this again and again in the past, most recently in a very extensive way with the Corona issue. Let us guard our hearts and be alert to preserve and strengthen the unity of the Spirit through our prayers.

#### Prayer:

- **For the protection of the unity of the Israeli people and the army and for them to again turn to their God. (Judges 20:7,8)**
- **For the cleansing, maturing, and preservation of the unity of the Spirit in the body of Jesus. (Ephesians 4:3; John 17:9-11+15+17)**
- **For a deeper awareness of the need for our “oneness” with the people of God, the descendants of Abraham. (Ephesians 2:11-16)**

Tanja Frank

### A turn-around in the information war

Hamas cannot defeat Israel militarily. That is why Hamas tries to discredit Israel on the grounds of morality. If Israel does launch a ground offensive in Gaza, Hamas will flood the media world-wide with images of Palestinian civilians who have been killed.

The conflict is “morally asymmetric”. While Hamas is killing and kidnapping Israeli civilians and leaving its own population to die as shields, Israel does not want any civilians to be killed and warns the Palestinian population to seek safety.

Hamas's information to the media claims that Israel kills as many Palestinians as possible. It is doing this with the intent to isolate Israel internationally and to put pressure on countries like the USA and the EU to no longer support Israel, but rather to support the Palestinian narrative of being the victim of Israeli oppression.

#### Prayer:

- **You, Lord, know the truth, and we know that you will take care of your people. (Jeremiah 30)**
- **For continued support for Israel within Germany's politics and media. (Isaiah 5:18-21)**
- **For the Palestinian population - for liberation, protection, and healing. (Matthew 4:15-17)**

Karin Heepen

### Meeting people in their fear

A powerful weapon used by Hamas and other Islamic terrorist militias is fear. The fear of further inhumane terrorist attacks and kidnappings in Israel, of uncontrollable escalation of war in the Middle East, the fear of the wave of terror spreading to Europe and of a geographical expansion of the war leading to a third world war. The Bible says that the love of God is the antidote to fear. But this love is only possible when one is able to take refuge and feel secure in God and find peace with Him. We can make people aware of the Prince of Peace, who would love to meet them - through us - in order to set them free - and free from fear.

Tanja Frank

**May God bless your times in prayer!**

Alexander Schlüter and team