

FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS...

*2019 International Day of
Prayer for Yemen: Pursuing
Relief and Deliverance
through Prayer*



SUGGESTIONS FOR USING THIS PRAYER GUIDE

The International Day of Prayer for Yemen is ***a global initiative to mobilize all who call on the name of Jesus as Savior and Lord into a day of fervent, unified prayer on behalf of all the people of Yemen***, both those in their homeland and those dispersed throughout the world.

In 2019, the Day of Prayer will be Saturday, November 9.

Please use this prayer guide as a basis for your personal or corporate prayer.

- Consider hosting a 1-hour prayer gathering in your home or church and dedicating 10 minutes to each of the 6 sections contained in this prayer guide.
- Consider distributing this prayer guide to 5 committed prayer partners and inviting each individual to commit 30 minutes of focused prayer for 1 of the 6 sections contained in this prayer guide.
- Consider setting aside 20 minutes before each meal to read and pray over 2 of the 6 sections contained in this prayer guide.
- Consider fasting during one meal time and instead committing that time to reading and praying through this prayer guide.
- If you are interested in additional prayer resources, please visit the resources page at pray4yemen.com.

Relief and Deliverance

*“Mordecai told the messenger to reply to Esther, ‘Don’t think that that you will escape the fate of all the Jews because you are in the king’s palace. If you keep silent at this time, **relief and deliverance** will come to the Jewish people from another place, but you and your father’s family will be destroyed. Who knows, perhaps you have come to your royal position for such a time as this.’ Esther sent this reply to Mordecai: ‘Go and assemble all the Jews who can be found in Susa and fast for me. Don’t eat or drink for three days, night or day. I and my female servants will also fast in the same way. After that, I will go to the king even if it is against the law. If I perish, I perish.’ So Mordecai went and did everything Esther had commanded him.” Esther 4:13-17*

For years, the people of Yemen have been targeted for destruction by their enemies. Enemies of the Yemeni people have taken many forms throughout recent Yemeni history, with each one mercilessly seeking or at the very least participating in the destruction and death of Yemeni men, women and children. While the intended goal of these many active enemies may not primarily be the annihilation of the global Yemeni population, the blatant disregard for the value of Yemeni lives is undeniable and the desperate need for relief and deliverance cries out from every news article, every picture and the heart of every Yemeni.



RELIEF AND DELIVERANCE: A WEIGHTY VISION IN THE HEARTS OF GOD'S PEOPLE

Much like Mordecai and Esther during the intended plot of annihilation by Haman, God's people must receive and respond to the tragedy of death and destruction that is befalling the Yemeni people with a vision for their relief and deliverance. Esther's heroic act of sacrifice and salvation on behalf of the Jewish people began with the response of grief and subsequent active faith of Mordecai, who was himself helpless to accomplish anything on behalf of his people and was in actuality the primary cause of the intended destruction. But Mordecai had a vision of and faith for the relief and deliverance of his people. This vision drove him to action.

In much the same way, Esther recognized her helplessness and initially declined to act due to the danger and apparent fruitlessness of any endeavor toward salvation. But the vision of relief and deliverance and the possibility of her participation in such a salvation inspired her to the first and primary action of prayer and fasting from a heart of desperation.

And so we must begin by praying for the hearts of God's people to respond to this tragedy with a vision of the relief and deliverance for the Yemeni people. Does relief and deliverance seem impossible? Yes. Does labor in prayer and fasting and any effort toward salvation seem fruitless? Yes. But we remember that God's arm is not so short that it cannot save. If relief and deliverance does not come from the sovereign hand of God according to our expectations, then we simply entrust ourselves and the Yemeni people into the hands of our faithful God. Ours is not to know the outcome but to pray and act in faith.

- **Pray for the hearts of those who pray for Yemen to be filled with faith and hope in the sovereign heart and hand of God who desires to bring relief and deliverance to the Yemeni people.**
- **Pray for more churches, organizations and individual believers throughout the world to join in the work of prayer for the people of Yemen.**
- **Pray against a spirit of faithlessness and hopelessness in those who pray for Yemen.**
- **Pray for those who are actively involved in bringing relief and deliverance to the Yemeni people to first and perpetually engage in seasons of prayer and fasting.**

O God Almighty, we are your people, and this means that we are to share your heart, share your compassion, share your desire and vision for relief and deliverance for all those who are oppressed. While we may grieve, may our grief not lead us to despair! Lord, we know that we do not grieve as those who have no hope, for we are sons of our Father in heaven and know personally the greatness of your salvation and your power towards those who are in the pit and destined to destruction. We have seen your great salvation in the lives of people and nations throughout all history, so give us a fresh vision for what you can and want to accomplish today in the nation of Yemen. Give us faith for great works of salvation! Call others to this same work of prayer and fasting, this same work of faith, on behalf of the people of Yemen. For those who have been laboring in prayer for decades on behalf of Yemen, renew in them a heart of faith and protect them from a spirit of faithlessness and hopelessness. For those who are now laboring to minister your relief and deliverance to the people of Yemen, cause them to remember that any work of the flesh will be done away with but that their labors in and by the Spirit will last into eternity. Do not allow your people to be distracted by the overwhelming needs, but remind them to begin and end their labors with seasons of prayer and desperation in your presence. Hear the cries of our hearts, gracious God and Father. Amen.

RELIEF AND DELIVERANCE: AGENTS OF SERVICE AND OBEDIENCE

“In the fortress of Susa, there was a Jewish man named Mordecai son of Jair, son of Shimei, son of Kish, a Benjaminite. He had been taken into exile from Jerusalem with the other captives when King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon took King Jeconiah of Judah into exile. Mordecai was the legal guardian of his cousin Hadassah (that is, Esther), because she had no father or mother...When her father and mother died, Mordecai had adopted her as his own daughter.” Esther 2:5-7

“When the virgins were gathered a second time, Mordecai was sitting at the King’s Gate. Esther had not revealed her family background or her ethnicity, as Mordecai had directed. She obeyed Mordecai’s orders, as she always had while he raised her. During those days while Mordecai was sitting at the King’s Gate, Bigthan and Teresh, two of the king’s eunuchs who guarded the entrance, became infuriated and planned to assassinate King Ahasuerus. When Mordecai learned of the plot, he reported it to Queen Esther, and she told the king on Mordecai’s behalf.” Esther 2:19-22

In the midst of oppression and the evil that surrounds and fills the land of Yemen, God can and will use faithful and obedient servants to accomplish his will. Just as Mordecai served faithfully in a land of idolatry, paganism, and rebellion against God, so we must pray for God to strengthen the hearts of people to be obedient servants regardless of the hopelessness of their circumstances or the wickedness of those in authority over them.

Our King and Righteous Judge, we pray and ask you to raise up obedient servants from within and on behalf of the people of Yemen. We ask for this now because we know that the evil of the circumstances will magnify the beauty of their service and obedience. Raise them up for the sake of your glory and to meet the needs of these people. Use the many hundreds and thousands of NGO workers to accomplish your purposes to preserve and protect life in Yemen. Protect these servants and strengthen them for the work you have given them. Bring more workers to these NGOs and multiply their efforts. We ask for the believers inside Yemen to see new opportunities for service in their communities and even opportunities to serve the authorities over them, whether good or evil. We pray also for the eyes of the younger generation to be open to see and learn how to be obedient, faithful servants in the face of suffering and oppression. Teach them through the example of godly men and women so that this next generation of Yemenis would be transformed by their experiences rather than debilitated and destroyed. Do these things for your name’s sake, Lord Jesus, and by your own power. Amen.

- **Pray for the 133 NGOs (Non-Government Organization) who are operating in Yemen as of October 2018. These organizations represent thousands of people who are serving the people and country of Yemen. Pray for their protection, their wisdom, their health, their emotional and mental strength, and salvation for those who do not know about the life and hope of Jesus. For a full list in order to pray for these organizations by name, please visit here: <https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/yemen-organizations-3w-operational-presence-october-2018.pdf>**
- **Pray for God to raise up Christian men and women with the spirit of Mordecai – a spirit that loves and values all life, from the greatest of these to the least of these. Pray for these men and women to receive divine appointments resulting in the preservation of life and the establishment of truth and justice.**
- **Pray for godly men and women in Yemen to model a life of service and obedience for the younger generation. Currently, the population demographics of Yemen report that over 60% of Yemen’s population are under 25 years of age. This generation of youth desperately need to develop a heart and mind for service and obedience, which will only come from the example and instruction of their elders who have learned this lifestyle from Christ Himself.**

RELIEF AND DELIVERANCE: AGENTS OF SALVATION

“Then Esther addressed the king again. She fell at his feet, wept, and begged him to revoke the evil of Haman the Agagite and his plot he had devised against the Jews. The king extended the gold scepter toward Esther, so she got up and stood before the king. She said, ‘If it pleases the king and I have found favor before him, if the matter seems right to the king and I am pleasing in his eyes, let a royal edict be written. Let it revoke the documents the scheming Haman son of Hammedatha the Agagite wrote to destroy the Jews who are in all the king’s provinces. For how could I bear to see the disaster that would come on my people? How could I bear to see the destruction of my relatives?’” Esther 8:3-6

While the rest of the world is unaware or merely standing aghast at the death and destruction that is befalling Yemen, God, in his grace and by his sovereign power, can and does choose to position agents of salvation in strategic times and places of influence. We have heard reports of godly men and women in high positions of authority and influence who may very well have been elevated to their places of power for such a time as this. Just as Esther chose to live in humility and respect toward the king, gaining favor in his eyes, and thereby receiving approval for her request of salvation for her people, so we pray for those who live and work in close proximity and relationship to the regional powers. We must pray for these to live in a manner worthy of the God they serve and to earn the respect and trust of those in authority over them.

O God, our Sovereign Father, you alone are in control of the rise and fall of leaders and powers. You alone are in control of the movement of kings, servants, and peoples, raising up servants and those in dust and ashes to sit with kings and princes. And so we ask in great confidence that you will raise up more followers of Christ to sit with and near to the kings and authorities over the conflicts in and surrounding Yemen. Use even the wickedness of the times and the rulers to bring about the establishment of your people in places of influence and favor. For those whom you have already placed in such positions, O LORD, we ask for great protection and power over them. Cover them in the shadow of your wings. Minister to their souls and encourage them daily with your presence and the spiritual blessings they possess in Christ Jesus. Give these such wisdom and knowledge of the times so as to develop plans and strategies for the salvation and preservation of the Yemeni people. If they are unaware of the tragedies befalling these 29 million people, open their eyes to see so that they might be filled with compassion and take prudent action to bring about your good purposes on their behalf. Bring these Esthers into relationship with other brothers and sisters in the faith so that they might work together to pursue peace and security for the Yemeni people. You alone are King and you alone have the power to accomplish all that we ask. For your glory, we pray these things. Amen.

- **Pray for God to set more “Esthers” in position of influence with the rulers and authorities who are responsible for the policies and actions of the various sides in Yemen’s war.**
- **Pray for physical and spiritual protection for the “Esthers” who are already within the various ruling families and circles.**
- **Pray for divine wisdom to fill these “Esthers” so that they might present to the ruling powers plans of peace, strategies for salvation and passionate pleas for the establishment of human rights.**
- **Pray for God to bring these “Esthers” into partnerships with other believers in these same circles and families so as to multiply the efforts for life and peace, just as Mordecai and Esther worked together to provide the opportunity for protection and salvation.**

RELIEF AND DELIVERANCE: FAVOR AND COMPASSION FROM AUTHORITIES

“On the third day, Esther dressed in her royal clothing and stood in the inner courtyard of the palace facing it. The king was sitting on his royal throne in the royal courtroom, facing its entrance. As soon as the king saw Queen Esther standing in the courtyard, she gained favor in his eyes. The king extended the gold scepter in his hand toward Esther, and she approached and touched the tip of the scepter. ‘What is it, Queen Esther?’ the king asked her. ‘Whatever you want, even to half the kingdom, will be given to you.’” Esther 5:1-3

Kings and rulers, even with all their power, authority, wealth and wickedness, are still merely men with hearts able to be softened by the beauty of godliness and the work of the Holy Spirit in and around them. According to Proverbs 21:1, “The king’s heart is a stream of water in the hand of the LORD; he turns it wherever he will.” So in addition to praying for agents of salvation to be established within the families and circles of influence around the rulers and authorities, we must pray for the hearts of the kings and rulers to be softened to the agents of salvation that God is placing in their midst. We must also pray that just as King Ahasuerus was moved to action in extending his golden scepter to Esther because of his softened heart, the dozens of men who lead and oversee the politics and people in Yemen’s war would also move themselves into a position of generosity and openness because of their softened hearts and the favor they bestow upon the “Esthers” in their lives.

LORD God Almighty, you alone are King of kings and Lord of lords. You rule and reign over every kingdom and authority that is established on the earth, and all are subject to you, your will and good pleasure. Direct the hearts of these kings and rulers to grant favor and blessing to those whose hearts are filled with compassion for the people of Yemen. Soften their hearts and fill them with generosity and blessing for the “Esthers” and “Mordecais” you have placed within their midst. Open their hearts to see the goodness and value of the plans of peace that are being presented to them by people of peace and justice. Fill them with a spirit of generosity so that they would be willing to use their own kingdoms, their own resources, their own power and authority, their own wealth, to grant life and salvation to the people of Yemen. You have granted these men so much within this earthly life, so we ask that you would cause them to grant others the same life and blessing that you have given to them. We pray finally for you to grant eternal life to these men through faith in your Son, Jesus, who gave his life that they might have life. One day, these men will bow the knee and confess with their mouths that Jesus is Lord. May that day be today, Father. Amen.

- **Pray for God to soften the hearts of the political and military leaders in Yemen’s conflict: Abdrabbuh Mansour Hadi, president of the internationally recognized government of Yemen; Abdel-Malek al-Houthi, leader of the Houthi party and government; Mohammed bin Salman, crown prince of Saudi Arabia; Mohammed Abdulsalam, Houthi chief diplomat; Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, Supreme Leader of Iran; Mohammed bin Zayed, crown prince of Abu Dhabi; Anwar Gargash, UAE Minister of State for Foreign Affairs; Donald Trump, President of the United States; Martin Griffiths, UN Envoy to Yemen; Khalid bin Salman, Saudi Deputy Minister of Defense; Aidarus al-Zoubaidi, leader of the Southern Transitional Council**
- **Pray for God to open the ears and hearts of these men to plans of peace and salvation that are being presented to them on behalf of the Yemeni people.**
- **Pray that these men would be willing to offer their own kingdom and authority to those who are willing to establish peace and justice in the land of Yemen.**

RELIEF AND DELIVERANCE: REMOVAL OF EVIL LEADERS AND LAWS

“Then Mordecai returned to the King’s Gate, but Haman hurried off for home, mournful and with his head covered. Haman told his wife Zeresh and all his friends everything that had happened. His advisers and his wife Zeresh said to him, ‘Since Mordecai is Jewish, and you have begun to fall before him, you won’t overcome him, because your downfall is certain.’” Esther 6:12-13

From centuries before the reign of King Ahasuerus until today, evil men have conspired evil laws. People who long for freedom and life have lived under oppression and death. Laws and legislation have been established to promote the self-interested desires of powerful and prideful men. What occurred in the time of Esther and what is occurring in the world today, specifically in regard to the conflict in Yemen, is nothing new. And the God who oversaw and orchestrated the downfall of Haman and the nullification of his wicked edict is the same yesterday, today and forever. God is willing and able to undo or counteract any law that is intended for or causes the abuse of the Yemeni people. He desires to see the “Hamans” of the world replaced with the “Mordecais” so that justice can be established. While we know that God allows evil to flourish for a time in order to bring about his good purposes of salvation, let us remember that our God loves life and justice and truth. And let us pray that now would be the time for the undoing of the evil leaders and laws that have plagued the people of Yemen.

God of justice and righteousness, we know that you love life and despise evil and the sin that corrupts your creation. In your grace and patience, you have allowed sin and evil to continue because you are a God of mercy, not wishing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. And our hearts cry out with yours, Lord, that the evil men who commit evil acts against the people of Yemen would recognize their wicked ways and repent and receive forgiveness and salvation, for none are outside of your grace or beyond your forgiveness. But God, we pray for those who reject your offer of salvation and righteousness, that you would remove them from positions of power and influence in the bloody and endless conflict. Replace these men with men of goodness who value life and peace and justice. We do not know who these men are, but you know the hearts of all and so we trust your sovereign hand to do the work of casting down and raising up leaders according to your purposes. Revoke and replace laws that strip away the basic rights of the Yemeni people or might lead to their destruction or oppression. Again, we trust your sovereign wisdom and omniscience because we confess that we do not know what ought to be done. But our hearts cry out for life and justice on behalf of the Yemeni people. Amen.

- **Pray against any laws in Yemen and other nations currently involved in Yemen’s War, notably Saudi Arabia, UAE, United States and Iran, that promote abuse of power, self-interested pursuits, tyrannical conquest, human rights violations, religious oppression or disregard for the common Yemeni life.**
- **Pray for any such laws to be exposed as evil, revoked and replaced with laws that promote the preservation of life and the peace and security of the Yemeni people (Esther 9:30).**
- **Pray against the continuation of evil leaders who seek power, prestige and who live and rule with complete disdain for lives of the Yemeni people. Pray that the Holy Spirit would convict these men of sin, righteousness and the judgment that is to come so that they might have an opportunity to repent and choose righteousness and justice.**
- **As leaders are regularly overthrown and replaced within the government and ruling parties of Yemen, pray for God to replace evil leaders with good men who recognize the value of life and will advocate for the prosperity and well-being of Yemen (Esther 10:3).**

RELIEF AND DELIVERANCE: OPPORTUNITIES FOR SELF-INITIATED REDEMPTION

“The king’s edict gave the Jews in each and every city the right to assemble and defend themselves, to destroy, kill, and annihilate every ethnic and provincial army hostile to them, including women and children, and to take their possessions as spoils of war. This would take place on a single day throughout all the provinces of King Ahasuerus, on the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, the month Adar....The city of Susa shouted and rejoiced, and the Jews celebrated with gladness, joy, and honor. In every province and every city, wherever the king’s command and his law reached, joy and rejoicing took place among the Jews. There was a celebration and a holiday. And many of the ethnic groups of the land professed themselves to be Jews because fear of the Jews had overcome them.” Esther 8:11-12, 15b-17

When God brought miraculous salvation on behalf of the Jews through the agency of Esther and Mordecai and under the authority of King Ahasuerus, the Jewish people were not passive recipients but were afforded the opportunity to participate in their own redemption. Joy and celebration erupted not only because of the dramatic events of the day but because their own honor and dignity were restored in the sight of all the peoples and nations surrounding them. Yemen has long endured the shame of being the poorest Arab nation in the world and has now fallen even further to become perhaps the most desperate and pitiful nation of our day as it continues to suffer the worst humanitarian crisis in modern history. And so we pray not just for the restoration of Yemen to a stable and secure nation, but petition our Heavenly Father for the restoration of the honor and dignity of Yemen as a nation and for each individual Yemeni who has lived in shame. We must pray for spirits of strength and honor and self-worth to fill the Yemeni people and visions and opportunities for them to participate in rebuilding their own nation and cultural identity.

- **Pray for organizations and leaders working in Yemen to see the value and need for the Yemeni people to participate in their own restoration and reconstruction.**
- **Pray for jobs to be offered, work to be provided, and businessmen and local leaders to call on the creativity and abilities of their fellow Yemenis.**
- **Pray for individuals serving the Yemeni people to speak words of encouragement and edification, reminding them of their own capacity and helping them see the opportunities before them, and so call the Yemeni people to engage in their own growth and success.**
- **Pray for discernment and insight among the Yemeni people so that they would see their own abilities and giftings and opportunities that will enable them to take steps towards progress.**
- **Pray for every success – every new school that opens, every home that is rebuilt, every farm that produces crops instead of qat, every university student who graduates, every person who learns to read and write, every girl who is saved from a childhood marriage – to inspire greater dedication to investing in and improving their own quality of life without an unhealthy dependence on external resources or assistance.**
- **Pray for those who have been dishonored and shamed as a result of Yemen’s war, whether it be women who have been raped, men who have succumbed to despair and depression, mothers who have lost their children or remain childless due to the trauma they have experienced, children who have lost their innocence, and so many others. Pray for the salvation of Christ to come to these so that they might know eternal life and the honor of sharing in the glory of Christ for all of eternity.**

Father in heaven, we ask that you would graciously give the Yemeni people – each man, woman and child – the opportunity to rediscover their worth as image-bearers of Almighty God. They have lived with overwhelming shame for so long, and, Jesus, you took their shame when you hung on the Cross. By your grace and power, grant them the opportunity to have their honor, and their joy restored. Inspire them to recover their dignity by participating in the rebuilding and reconstruction of their communities and nation. Give them strength when they are weak and even when everything looks hopeless. Give them creativity, wisdom and inventive minds to solve problems and address the many issues that are plaguing every facet of their society, from their infrastructure to psychological trauma. Oh LORD Almighty, share your glory and your life and your righteousness with these precious people in a new way that brings about a season of refreshing, a season of celebration and joy, a season of peace and prosperity. Hear our prayers, LORD, and make your face to shine upon the Yemeni people and give them peace. Amen.

