

September 2024

Dear Friend of Israel,

We in Israel are currently going through a “waiting period” that is, without a doubt, one of our most intense experiences in recent memory. **Israelis have been on edge for more than two weeks, anticipating a major attack by Iran** and its proxy terrorist organizations. Countless Israelis have stocked up on critical equipment and necessities with the understanding that any largescale attack could, God forbid, cause significant damage to our infrastructure and supply lines. All the while, **we have no clear idea of when such an attack against us will occur. Will it be tomorrow? Will it be next week?** Or will it coincide with the start of school?

As I am writing this letter to you, **the fast of Tisha B’Av has just concluded. On this somber day, which carries a painfully heavy burden for the Jewish people, some of the worst episodes in our history**—most notably, the destruction of both Temples, occurred. Yet, hidden within this day of darkness lies a profound secret revealed by our Sages of blessed memory: Tisha B’Av also marks the day in which the Messianic era begins to sprout forth! Our tradition, therefore, calls upon us on Tisha B’Av not only to fast and mourn over what we have lost and suffered from but also to prepare ourselves for the Messianic era by purifying our homes and hearts.

Yes, from the darkest and deepest depths comes light! Thankfully, **despite reports suggesting that Iran and its proxies were going to hit Israel hard on Tisha B’Av, no major attacks took place.** At the same time, the complete Messianic Redemption has still not arrived.

As I reflect on this eery “waiting period” that the People of Israel are currently undergoing, I cannot help but think about our obligation to always wait—not just for the uncertain future that looms over us but for the eventual Messianic Redemption. **Our duty to actively wait for the arrival of this period of Godliness and spiritual redemption is one of the fundamental principles in Judaism.** Specifically, we are taught to wait for this era with the same level of anticipation and excitement every day.

This waiting—or more specifically, the preparation that is expected of us for the Messianic era—is not unlike the level of vigilance we see in Israel now as the country continues to expect an impending attack. We are constantly checking the news and ensuring that we are ready for the worst. **But are we waiting and preparing for the Messianic era with this same level of energy and sense of urgency?**

Let us take this opportunity to reflect on the need to wait for the ultimate Messianic Redemption at least as fervently as we do for major events around the world to unfold. **May we find strength and purpose in this “waiting period,” and may we all make sure to be ready—truly ready—for the Messianic era whenever the time comes.**

Shalom,

Shmuel Junger
Director
Christian Friends of Israeli Communities

P.S. «salutation», the festival of Sukkot is rapidly approaching, we need your help to feed families in need. Due to the ongoing war, the need is greater than ever before. Anything you can donate to help purchase food vouchers will be a tangible expression of your faith. Thank you for standing with Israel.