

July 2025

Dear Friend of Israel,

Just several hours before Israel launched a preemptive strike on Iran's nuclear program, one of the most daring military operations in the country's history, a most extraordinary meeting of Israel's Cabinet took place behind closed doors inside the "aquarium," a secure and sealed war room in the Prime Minister's Office. After being presented with the final operational plan by Israel's top security brass, the Cabinet voted to give its full backing and authorization for the mission. **Though before they decided to embark on such a course of action, the ministers, in most inspirational fashion, recited the entire Book of Psalms between themselves.**

Israeli Minister Yitzhak Wasserlauf related that after the Cabinet's vote, the Cabinet Secretary stood up and offered a prayer of his own for the soldiers of the IDF. When midnight struck, the generals left for their command centers to oversee the mission. The ministers, however, remained inside that sealed room, sitting in silence and suspense for nearly three hours until they finally heard of the first strikes in Iran. **After the prime minister and senior security officials left the room to monitor the unfolding operation, the Cabinet Secretary turned to the ministers remaining in room and informed them that "now is the time to say something on the record in this historic session."**

Minister Wasserlauf immediately thought of Mordechai's remarks to Esther in ancient Persia, some 2,500 years ago: "And who knows if for such a time as this that you have come to royalty?" (Esther 4:14) When asked by the Cabinet Secretary if he had anything to share for the record, Wasserlauf recited a prayer of his own:

"May it be Your will, Lord our God and God of our fathers, that in the merit of the Psalms we have recited before You....that You grant freedom to those in captivity, strength to those imprisoned and spare all those among your people Israel who are traveling by road and across rivers and seas from harm and destruction...Nullify all harsh decrees against us and all of Israel...declare for us good decrees and send blessings and success in all our handiwork. Amen."

After concluding the prayer, Wasserlauf affirmed: "The oldest record of the Jewish people has now been entered into the record." Moments like this remind all of us of a deep and powerful truth. Some goals are simply too great to accomplish by human hands alone. In times of war, we rightfully admire the brilliance of our military strategists, the courage of our leaders and the strength of our people. This latest heroic operation, which was excellently crafted by the IDF, Mossad, Prime Minister and Israel's top commanders, is certainly no exception. However, **we must always make sure to never forget the One and Only Being who truly determines the success and outcome of any endeavor or mission we take upon ourselves.**

On the night of June 12, 2025, Israel's Cabinet did not simply rely on strategy in their decision to strike Iran's nuclear program. **They declaratively placed their trust in God, and like true believers, they turned to God in prayer, reciting the entire Book of Psalms. In the face of war, Israel's leaders used the oldest and most powerful weapon in our tradition.** And that is what made that night not only historic but sacred. May we always remember, that in every challenge and every victory, it is **"Not by might, and not by power, but by My Spirit," says the Lord.**" (Zechariah 4:6)

With deep faith and strength,

Shmuel Junger
Executive Director