



# Prayers for Lasting Peace in the Middle East

## Introduction: Why the War Started

In late February 2026, tensions between Iran, Israel, and the United States erupted into open conflict with a series of large military strikes against Iranian leadership, missile facilities, and strategic infrastructure. These attacks marked a dramatic escalation in a confrontation that has been developing for many years across the Middle East.

Several major issues lie behind the outbreak of this war.

One of the most serious concerns has been Iran's nuclear programme. Israel and Western governments have warned that Iran's uranium enrichment activities could allow the country to develop nuclear weapons. Diplomatic efforts to limit this programme had recently stalled, increasing fears that Iran might soon have the capability to build a nuclear bomb.

Another major concern has been Iran's development of long-range ballistic missiles. Iran already possesses missiles capable of travelling up to about 2,000 kilometres, which places Israel and many U.S. military bases across the Middle East within range. Because of this, Israel and Western governments have viewed Iran's missile programme as a significant regional security threat.

Tensions have also been fuelled by years of hostile rhetoric toward Israel, along with Iran's support for armed groups across the Middle East that oppose Israel.

Because of these concerns, leaders in the United States and Israel said they believed an Iranian attack was imminent and described their military action as a pre-emptive strike to remove a serious threat.

During the opening strikes on 28 February 2026, Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei was killed when his compound in Tehran was hit.

For many years the Iranian regime has also faced international criticism for serious human-rights abuses, including suppressing protests and restricting freedoms.

After the strikes, Iran launched retaliatory missiles and drones, widening the conflict and raising fears of a broader regional war.

As followers of Jesus, we believe prayer matters. Children and families around the world can pray for peace, protection, wisdom, and hope during this difficult time.



**2 BILLION CHILDREN**

## How to Use These Prayer Points

Below are seven important things we can pray for during this time of conflict in the Middle East.

Each topic includes two prayer points with Bible verses to guide our prayers.

Children, families, schools, Zoom calls and churches can use these prayers in different ways. You might pray one topic each day for a week, pray all seven together in a prayer meeting, or invite children to take turns reading the prayers and Scriptures aloud.

We encourage children and adults to make space to think quietly about each topic and its prayer pointers, and ask God to show you what else to pray for.

After each section, everyone can say the declaration together as a prayer of faith.

Seven Things We Can Pray For

### 1. Pray for the fighting to stop

War causes great suffering for ordinary people. Ask God to calm the violence and bring an end to the attacks.

- **Pray:** that missiles, drones, and military strikes will stop quickly.  
“Turn from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it.” - Psalm 34:14
- **Pray:** that people will become peacemakers who work to calm anger and bring reconciliation.  
Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.” - Matthew 5:9

#### Declaration

Jesus, Prince of Peace, calm the fighting and bring peace across the Middle East.

### 2. Pray for children and families to be safe

Many families are living with fear, sirens, and uncertainty.

- **Pray:** that God will protect children and families in every city affected by the conflict.  
“God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.” - Psalm 46:1
- **Pray:** that families will find safe shelter and courage during frightening moments.  
“He will cover you with his feathers, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness will be your shield and rampart.” - Psalm 91:4

#### Declaration

Lord, place Your protection over every child and family living in danger.



### 3. Pray for leaders to make wise decisions

Leaders carry great responsibility during times of crisis.

- **Pray:** that leaders will seek wisdom and make decisions that protect life.  
“For the Lord gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding.” - Proverbs 2:6
- **Pray:** that leaders will listen carefully and act calmly rather than in anger.  
“Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry.” - James 1:19

#### Declaration

God, guide the leaders of nations to choose wisdom, restraint, and peace.

### 4. Pray for the wounded and those who are grieving

War brings pain and loss to many families.

- **Pray:** for doctors, nurses, and rescue workers caring for the injured.  
“Do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you.” - Isaiah 41:10
- **Pray:** that God will comfort families who have lost loved ones.  
“He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.” - Psalm 147:3

#### Declaration

Jesus, bring healing, comfort, and hope to every hurting heart.

### 5. Pray for people who have lost homes or been forced to flee

Conflict often forces families to leave their homes.

- **Pray:** for safe places where displaced families can find shelter and protection.  
“Defend the weak and the fatherless; uphold the cause of the poor and the oppressed.” - Psalm 82:3
- **Pray:** that food, water, medicine, and aid will reach those who need it most.  
“Whoever is kind to the needy honours God.” - Proverbs 14:31

#### Declaration

Lord, provide shelter, food, and safety for every displaced family.



## 6. Pray for the Reign of Jesus across Iran

Even where faith is restricted, many people in Iran are discovering Jesus and gathering in small house churches.

God's Kingdom cannot be stopped, and His light continues to reach hearts across the nation.

- **Pray:** that many Iranians will encounter Jesus through dreams, Scripture, and the witness of believers.  
“I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.” - John 8:12
- **Pray:** that the Kingdom of God will grow across Iran, bringing spiritual awakening and transformation.  
“For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.” - Habakkuk 2:14

### Declaration

Jesus, let Your Kingdom grow across Iran and fill the nation with Your light.

## 7. Pray for Freedom and Justice in Iran

Many people in Iran live under strong restrictions on freedom, and minority groups — including Christians — can face persecution.

God cares deeply about justice and the dignity of every person.

- **Pray:** that the people of Iran will experience greater freedom and protection from oppression.  
“Learn to do right; seek justice. Defend the oppressed.” - Isaiah 1:17
- **Pray:** for Christians who face persecution, asking God to protect them and strengthen their faith.  
“The Lord is a refuge for the oppressed, a stronghold in times of trouble.” - Psalm 9:9

### Declaration

Lord, bring freedom, justice, and protection for the people of Iran.

## Global Children's Prayer Declaration

Lord Jesus, we lift the Middle East to You.

We pray for Iran, Israel, and every nation affected by this conflict.  
We ask You to stop the fighting and bring Your peace.



Protect children and families who are living in fear.  
Comfort those who are hurting or grieving.  
Provide help for people who have lost their homes.

Give wisdom to leaders so they choose peace instead of violence.

Let Your light shine across Iran and the whole region.  
A May many people discover the love and truth of Jesus.

Bring freedom to those who are oppressed.  
Protect believers who follow You and strengthen their faith.

We declare that Jesus is the Prince of Peace, and His Kingdom brings hope, justice, and new life.

Lord Jesus, let Your peace and Your glory fill the Middle East.

Amen.

For further prayer pointers see:

[IPC Prayer Alert](#)

[Letter & Prayer from Anne Graham Lotz](#)

[www.2bc.world/shine](http://www.2bc.world/shine)