

Worldwide Tefilloh

The entire Jewish world is joining in Tefilloh today.

The Ramban teaches that at times of suffering, when we are worried about our health, financial security and safety, it is a Torah obligation to place one's hopes for protection, salvation, healing and rescue in Hashem alone. Relying on human intelligence and strategies, science, public health policy or medicine is a violation of this *mitzvah*.¹ All that we do in order to arrange for prevention, safety and security when we rely on the above list of practical measures are behaviours required by *halachah* to receive Hashem's blessings, protection, healing and salvation.

This is a simple concept to understand but difficult to actualize. This *mitzvah* is the focal point of the mass *tefillah* of the Jewish people around the world.

At 5:30 p.m. today (Johannesburg and Israel time) let us all focus in *tefillah* and Torah privately in our homes to demonstrate our commitment to this valuable message. Let us approach this as an obligatory *mitzvah* and begin exercising our *neshamos* to place our hope and reliance in Hashem alone.

Please recite chapters 13, 20, 91, 112, 120, 121, 127 and 130 slowly and clearly. It is best to have an English translation alongside to understand the prayer to Hashem. Open your hearts with meaning and awareness that Hashem is in control of whatever happens. Hashem is aware of every event and Hashem can change everything easily. He looks to the thoughts, words and actions of Jews in particular when considering whether to make a change in the world.

Afterwards, continue with **אחינו כל בית ישראל** and conclude with **אבינו מלכנו**.

At 6:00 p.m. Israeli and Johannesburg time, which is noon EST in the USA and 9:00 a.m. in Los Angeles, CA, all of the Jews around the globe shall accept upon themselves the mission of humanity to heed the messages of Hashem. Recite the six words of the Shema with full intent. Review in your mind the belief that we as Jews recognize our unique role as facilitators to improve the world by rejecting temptation and evil and uplifting the mundane to holiness through Torah and *mitzvos*.

I would recommend concluding with **ועל כן עלינו** – **ועל כן** with proper *kavonah*.

¹ רמב"ן בהשגות למגילת המצוות של הרמב"ם עשה ה': ולעבדו זה התלמוד ד"א זו תפלה אסמכתא היא או לומר שמכלל העבודה שנלמוד תורה ושנתפלל אליו בעת הצרות ותהיינה עינינו ולבנו אליו לבדו כעיני עבדים אל יד אדוניהם.

My friends and acquaintances around the world are all encouraged to participate in this global *Tefilloh* event. May Hashem look down upon us with mercy and love seeing His subjects realize His dominion over everything.

If you believe in Hashem, if you believe that He is aware, if you believe that He has control, you are witnessing one of the greatest displays that man has seen for decades and centuries of Hashem's complete command, mastery, control, domination, manipulation, governance, power and מלכות. It is something to appreciate with great excitement and joy as Hashem reveals himself to us in the way that He allows Himself to be seen in our generation.

There is a קול דממה דקה around the world. Silence from business, travel and flights, wars, governance and the normal hum of the world. The world is focused on survival.

Some people seek solutions, escape routes and even turn to Hashem to get them out of the mess they and the world are in. Looking forward to a better time is a normal and appropriate reaction.

There is another important exercise to perform during this time and perhaps should precede the instinctive reaction of survival. Subordination, humility and awareness that all solutions are really from Hashem and we are powerless. The forward movement of the world is directed by Hashem and guided to where He wants it to go. We cannot control our destiny.

This is a lesson the world and Jews realized many times before in different settings and came out stronger than they were when the revelations started.

Let us daven as servants of Hashem, with proper subordination and requesting that He rule over us according to His plan. Hashem, please show mercy and grace to all of humanity and your children that you led out of מצרים towards הר סיני and brought them to Eretz Yisroel to be the nation that spreads blessing to the world through the message of Hashem.

בברכה ובהכנעה ובצפייה לראות גילוי כבוד מלכותו על כל העולם כולו,

Rav Baruch Rubanowitz

Rav of Kehillat Kol Rina Yerusholayim

Rosh HaKollel of Yad Shaul Johannesburg

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