



30 Days of Prayer
for the Church in
Iraq

By: Laura M. Thomas

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Scriptures are from the English Standard Version of the Bible (ESV)

Day 1: Remembering

Hebrews 13:3 *“Remember those who are in prison, as though in prison with them, and those who are mistreated, since you also are in the body.”*

Father, I choose to remember your precious church in Iraq today. They are enduring intense persecution right now and I want to stand with them. I want to remember them daily and lift them up before you now. Please strengthen them and help them know that their brothers and sisters around the world are holding up their arms in prayer right now. It is hard for me to imagine what they are going through, but I pray that I would begin to sense a deeper compassion in my heart that compels me to lift them up to you. Help me to be faithful to continue to remember them in prayer during this season.

Day 2: Rejoice in their Suffering

Matthew 5:12 *“Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”*

Lord Jesus, I lift up the believers in Iraq today. I pray that you would fill them with joy in the fellowship of your Holy Spirit even in the midst of their sufferings. I pray that no circumstance would quench the life of God within them, but that their hearts would be ablaze with the fires of your grace and love. May their joy in the midst of great suffering be a testimony to all they meet of the gift of your salvation and friendship and the promise of eternal life that comes through you alone.

Day 3: Endurance

Matthew 10:21-22 "Brother will deliver brother over to death, and the father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death, and you will be hated by all for my name's sake. But the one who endures to the end will be saved."

Lord Jesus, we know that your Word promises persecution to those who live a godly life in your name. I cannot imagine the pain of betrayal, abandonment, and loss that your people in Iraq have suffered in recent times, but I pray that they would remember these words and find strength to endure and that through their endurance, they would find saving grace and eternal rest.

Day 4: Love Your Enemies

Matthew 5:43-48 "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect."

Father, we know that only a supernatural love from Heaven above can heal wounds of bitterness, rage, revenge, and enslavement to hatred. I pray for my brothers and sisters in Iraq today – help them to see no one but you, Christ, with your arms outstretched wide on the Cross. Help them to remember how you bled and died for their sins and that when they were still very far from you, you met them and drew them near by your Spirit of grace and mercy. May they be compelled by your Cross to love their enemies and pray for their persecutors.

Day 5: Hope in the Lord

Hebrews 6:17-20 " So when God desired to show more convincingly to the heirs of the promise the unchangeable character of his purpose, he guaranteed it with an oath, so that by two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled for refuge might have strong encouragement to hold fast to the hope set before us. We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner place behind the curtain, where Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf, having become a high priest forever after the order of Melchizedek."

Heavenly Father, I remember my brothers and sisters in Iraq today. Thank you for your words from the book of Hebrews – that it is impossible for you to lie and that we who have fled for refuge to you might have strong encouragement to hold fast to the hope set before us. We pray this over the Church in Iraq today – that the hope that they have in you – the hope in your salvation and the hope of redemption – would be to them as an anchor of the soul. We pray that they would abide in hope as they abide in you even in the midst of seemingly hopeless circumstances. Strengthen them today, we pray.

Day 6: Hear His Voice

John 10:27 "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me."

Lord Jesus, I pray for the Church in Iraq today. I pray that just as Joseph was told in a dream to take Mary and Jesus and flee from Egypt, so too you would speak to your people – even awakening them in the middle of the night if needed – that they might escape from harm and that their lives may be preserved.

For those who are refugees – who have fled for safety to cities they have not known before, I pray that you would guide their steps and that you would hold them by the hand. Lead them every step of their journey and may they settle again in a peaceful place.

Day 7: Comforted

Psalm 23:4 *“Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.”*

Today I pray for those in Iraq who have lost loved ones in this genocide. May they find consolation from Your Spirit in their sorrow, remembering your Word that says, *“precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints”* (Psalm 116:15). They and their families are indeed precious in your sight, Lord. We ask that you would overwhelm them with your loving comfort in this time.

Day 8: Provision

Psalm 68: 7-10 *“O God, when you went out before your people, when you marched through the wilderness, Selah the earth quaked, the heavens poured down rain, before God, the One of Sinai, before God, the God of Israel. Rain in abundance, O God, you shed abroad; you restored your inheritance as it languished; your flock found a dwelling in it; in your goodness, O God, you provided for the needy.”*

Father God, we pray today that you will provide the food, water, and medical supplies that your Church in Iraq needs today. For those who are stranded in places where it is hard to find food, we pray that you would send assistance and relief. We ask that they would not go hungry today, but that you would strengthen them with physical and spiritual sustenance.

Day 9: That His Word May Speed Ahead

2 Thessalonians 3:1-2 *“Finally, brothers, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may speed ahead and be honored, as happened among you, and that we may be delivered from wicked and evil men. For not all have faith.”*

Jesus, I pray for your Church in Iraq today. I hold up their arms by faith and ask that you would fill them with your strength to endure. I pray that your Word would speed ahead and be honored through them – that they would carry your Word in their mouths and in their hearts and that this Word would spread throughout Iraq and the entire region.

We also ask that your people in Iraq would be delivered from wicked and evil men. Preserve them alive that they may declare your praise and spread your fame throughout their land. Give them wisdom as they walk with you and share your truth with others.

Day 10: Do Good to All Men

Galatians 6:10 *“So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.”*

Lord, thank you for your Church in Iraq today. We especially thank you today for those who have miraculously escaped from harm themselves and are able to help others. We ask that you would give your people opportunities to do good and help all those who are in need in their nation.

We pray that as they share their bread with the hungry, bandage wounds of the hurting, care for and take in those children who have been abandoned or orphaned, that your love would triumph over evil. May your church in Iraq care for everyone and especially for those who are suffering alongside them in your Body. We ask that their acts of love would be a testimony to those around them and a witness for the Christian faith.

Day 11: Make Christ Known:

Ephesians 6: 18-20 “To that end keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints, and also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak.”

Lord Jesus, I pray that you would continually make me alert with all perseverance in prayer to make supplication for your people. I pray for your people in Iraq today – that words would be given to them in opening their mouths boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel.

We pray that even in the midst of captivity, of imprisonment, of danger – that your people would declare their faith in you and the only truth that can set men free. Supernaturally aid them with your Holy Spirit as they deliver the bread of your Word to hungry souls.

Day 12: A Door for the Word

Colossians 4:2-4 “Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving. At the same time, pray also for us, that God may open to us a door for the word, to declare the mystery of Christ, on account of which I am in prison— that I may make it clear, which is how I ought to speak.”

Lord Jesus, I pray for your people in Iraq today that they would be steadfast in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving. As they seek you in prayer, I ask that their faith would be strengthened and they would see your power at work in their lives.

I also pray that you would open a door for your Word in Iraq; that your church would declare the mystery of Christ – for which they are now suffering. I pray that they would make your truth clear for those who will hear it.

Day 13: For the Orphan and Widow

Psalm 68:6 "God settles the solitary in a home; he leads out the prisoners to prosperity, but the rebellious dwell in a parched land."

Today we lift up the widows, orphans and all those who have lost family members in this genocide. We pray for the widows – as they have lost their husbands and (often) the providers of their families. We ask that you would provide for them and their children. We pray that you would comfort them and send others to care for them as well.

We pray for the orphans of this genocide. We pray for those who are scared, alone, hungry, and need a loving adult to care for them. We ask that you would fulfill your word that says "God settles the solitary in a home" – Lord, we pray that you would re-settle your precious people – the orphans and the widows – in families. We ask for your people to take them in and surround them with love and care. May they see your hand of provision in their lives as you send those who will help them and even receive them into their own families.

Day 14: Loving Christ's Appearing

2 Timothy 4:6-8 "For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that Day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing."

Abba Father, I lift up my brothers and sisters in Iraq today. I ask that as they fight the good fight of the faith that they would persevere until the end. I pray that you would lay up for them a crown of righteousness that you, the righteous judge, will award them.

I pray that they would love your appearing all the more and pray for the hastening of your return. We lift up our eyes to you and (along with your Church in Iraq) plead, "Come, Lord Jesus!"

Day 15: Rejoice in Sharing Christ's Sufferings

1 Peter 4:13 *"But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed."*

Thank you for my brothers and sisters in Iraq today, Lord. I pray for them and lift them before your throne of mercy and grace. I ask that you would fill them with a supernatural joy even in the midst of great suffering. Help them to rejoice even when their homes and possessions are destroyed or taken from them, knowing that they have a better possession in Heaven, where you are preparing an eternal home for them that can never be destroyed.

We pray that they would rejoice in the privilege of sharing in your sufferings, that they may also rejoice and be glad when your glory is revealed.

Day 16: Love Christ More Than Life

Revelation 12:11-12 *"And I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, 'Now the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ have come, for the accuser of our brothers has been thrown down, who accuses them day and night before our God. And they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they loved not their lives even unto death.'"*

Father God, thank you that when we are your children we can say along with Paul, "For me to live is Christ and to die is gain." We pray this confidence over your Church in Iraq today. We ask that they would prize the presence and the friendship of Christ above all the treasures of this earth – even the gift of life itself.

We pray that you would strengthen them against the enemy of their souls that they might overcome him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, not loving their lives even unto death.

Day 17: Trust in Christ

2 Corinthians 1:8-9 *"For we do not want you to be unaware, brothers, of the affliction we experienced in Asia. For we were so utterly burdened beyond our strength that we despaired of life itself. Indeed, we felt that we had received the sentence of death. But that was to make us rely not on ourselves but on God who raises the dead."*

Father God, I admit that I do not understand and have not experienced what your people in Iraq are going through right now. I catch a glimpse of the depths of their struggles in these words: *"For we were so utterly burdened beyond our strength that we despaired of life itself."*

Lord, when your people are in despair, we pray that you would strengthen their faith. Encourage their spirits and help them to put their trust in you. We pray that when they feel they have been given the sentence of death, that this would cause them to rely not on themselves, but on God who raises the dead.

Day 18: Calling all Prayer Warriors!

Acts 12:5 *"So Peter was kept in prison, but earnest prayer for him was made to God by the church."*

God, we know that you use our prayers to shift things. You don't have to, but you choose to partner with us as we turn to you. We pray that you would awaken your church in the west and around the world to pray for your people in Iraq today.

We ask that earnest prayer would be made for them and for all of the persecuted church. We ask that they would feel strengthened by the prayers of millions of believers in Christ around the world. Move your people to pray, awaken them in the night to pray, fill them with a burden in their hearts to carry their suffering brothers and sisters in prayer always.

Day 19: Strengthened with Power

Ephesians 3:16 – 17: “that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love”

Lord Jesus, I pray these verses in Ephesians over the Church in Iraq today. I pray that according to the riches of your glory you would grant the believers in Iraq to be strengthened with power through your Spirit in their inner being, so that Christ would dwell in their hearts through faith.

I pray that they would be rooted and grounded in your love – and that your love in their hearts would compel them to reach out to others who are in need...even their enemies. Strengthen them today, I pray.

Day 20: Manifesting Jesus

2 Corinthians 4: 7 – 12: “ But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us. We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed...For we who live are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh. So death is at work in us, but life in you.”

We pray for your church in Iraq today, Lord. As they are afflicted in every way, we pray that they would rejoice that they are not crushed; that while they are perplexed, we ask that they would not be driven to despair; that as they are persecuted, they would know that they have not been forsaken; that while they are struck down, they have not been destroyed.

We pray that in the midst of great anguish, hardship, and loss of loved ones, your people would shine even brighter with the love and the faith that comes from Christ Jesus. May they manifest Jesus to their countrymen and to the world.

Day 21: God is the Judge

Psalm 83: 13-16: "O my God, make them like whirling dust, like chaff before the wind. As fire consumes the forest, as the flame sets the mountains ablaze, so may you pursue them with your tempest and terrify them with your hurricane! Fill their faces with shame, that they may seek your name, O LORD."

Today we rejoice that you are the judge, Lord Jesus. While we are outraged at the crimes against humanity, we know that eventually every man and woman must stand before you and face your judgment seat. At this thought we tremble, knowing that we ourselves are great sinners in need of your great mercy.

As a recipient of your mercy, we pray for the persecutors of your Church in Iraq today. We ask that you would pursue them in a powerful way. Show them that you are the one true Living God and that you died for their sins. We ask that they would respond to the call of your Spirit and that they would be deeply humbled and brought to repentance as they encounter your loving-kindness.

Day 22: Comforted by the Word

Psalm 119: 49-56:

*“Remember your word to your servant,
in which you have made me hope.
This is my comfort in my affliction,
that your promise gives me life.
The insolent utterly deride me,
but I do not turn away from your law.
When I think of your rules from of old,
I take comfort, O LORD.
Hot indignation seizes me because of the wicked,
who forsake your law.
Your statutes have been my songs
in the house of my sojourning.
I remember your name in the night, O LORD,
and keep your law.
This blessing has fallen to me,
that I have kept your precepts.”*

We pray for your people in Iraq today, Abba Father. We pray that they would have access to the Scriptures and that your Word would fill them with hope and comfort in their suffering. We pray that you would speak to them through your Word and feed them with the Bread of Life.

We ask that even in the midst of great trouble, they would be filled with songs of praise and thanksgiving for your righteous judgments.

Day 23: Give Them Words

Matthew 10:19: *“When they deliver you over, do not be anxious how you are to speak or what you are to say, for what you are to say will be given to you in that hour.”*

Lord, we admit that it is hard to imagine the conversations that must occur between the persecuted and the persecutors in Iraq. Where there are words exchanged and where your people who are being held captive are given a chance to speak, we pray that you would guide their words and fill them with your Holy Spirit. May they not shrink back out of fear to declare your truth and your praise, even if it costs them their lives.

We pray that they would not be anxious what they should say, but that they would trust in you to give them the right words at the proper time. Fill their mouths, Lord, with words – words that will cut between truth and falsehood, words that will penetrate stony and deceived hearts, words that will break down pride, words that will heal and restore.

Day 24: Boldness and Power

Acts 4: 29-31: *“And now, Lord, look upon their threats and grant to your servants to continue to speak your word with all boldness, while you stretch out your hand to heal, and signs and wonders are performed through the name of your holy servant Jesus.” And when they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak the word of God with boldness.”*

Lord, you see the threats that your people in Iraq live under daily. We ask that just like the early Church, you would grant to your servants to continue to speak your word with all boldness, while you stretch out your hand to heal, even that signs and wonders would be performed through the name of Jesus.

We pray that your people would not shrink back from fear, but rather be filled with your Holy Spirit and a great boldness to speak your truth and pray for those around them.

Day 25: Not Ashamed

Romans 1:16: "For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek."

Lord, we pray for your people in Iraq today that regardless of their circumstances, regardless of the mocking, ridicule, and humiliation that they may endure from their persecutors and from others who are hostile towards Christianity, that they would not be ashamed of the Gospel of Christ.

We pray that as they stand firm and confident on the truth of the Gospel, their persecutors would be put to shame and repent of their evil actions. May your Church stand firm on the Gospel, remembering that salvation comes through Christ alone.

Day 26: Fools for Christ's Sake

1 Corinthians 4: 9-13, 16: *"For I think that God has exhibited us apostles as last of all, like men sentenced to death, because we have become a spectacle to the world, to angels, and to men. We are fools for Christ's sake, but you are wise in Christ. We are weak, but you are strong. You are held in honor, but we in disrepute. To the present hour we hunger and thirst, we are poorly dressed and buffeted and homeless, and we labor, working with our own hands. When reviled, we bless; when persecuted, we endure; when slandered, we entreat. We have become, and are still, like the scum of the world, the refuse of all things....I urge you, then, be imitators of me."*

Father, thank you that while the world may call Christians fools, you declare us wise in the knowledge of Christ. While the believers in Iraq suffer hunger and thirst, homelessness, reviling, persecution, and slander, we pray that you would strengthen them to endure. We ask that you would allow them to be a light to the world and also an example to your Church of faithfulness in the midst of great suffering.

Day 27: Not Neglecting to Meet Together

Hebrews 10: 23-25: *“Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.”*

Father God, I pray for your body of believers in Iraq today. May they hold fast their confession of hope without wavering even in the midst of great suffering and hardship, knowing there is a reward for them laid up in Heaven, their eternal home.

We pray specifically for the individual congregations that continue to meet throughout the land of Iraq today. Some may meet in secret and some may be only in small groups now, but they are still gathering together faithfully. We pray that as they meet together, you would give them encouragement for one another through psalms, hymns, spiritual songs, words of wisdom and prophecy and knowledge, and the ministry of your Word.

We pray that neither fear nor despair would hold them back from meeting together but they would continue all the more as they long for Your return.

Day 28: For Spiritual Leaders

Hebrews 13: 7-8, 17 *“Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the word of God. Consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you.”*

Today we pray for the pastors and spiritual leaders of the Church in Iraq. We ask that they would continue to be example of Christ Jesus to the flocks that look to them. Strengthen these leaders and give them an enduring faith and patience that will provide strength of heart to those who are fainting and weak in faith.

May the body of believers in Iraq continue to lift up their leaders in prayer and heed their wise counsel and the teaching they provide from God’s Word. Use these leaders mightily in this hour in history, we pray, to guide your Church in the ways of truth, uprightness, and love.

Day 29: For the Women Who Have Been Captured

Proverbs 31: 8-9 *“Open your mouth for the mute, for the rights of all who are destitute. Open your mouth, judge righteously, defend the rights of the poor and needy.”*

Words cannot express the pain and anguish we feel in our hearts over the women (some even young girls) who have been captured and taken against their will by the Islamic State terrorists. For these girls, we cry out for mercy and justice. We ask that you would send those with the capacity to free these women from cruelty, oppression, abuse, and bondage that they may endure every hour of every day.

Lord Jesus, hear their cries for help and deliver them, we pray, as you did your people in the land of Egypt. May the wicked not triumph over the innocent, but goodness and righteousness reign in the land of Iraq again.

Day 30: For Their Light to Shine

Matthew 5: 14 – 16 “You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.”

Abba Father, as we draw to a conclusion of 30 Days of Prayer for the Church in Iraq, we pray that their light would shine brightly throughout their land. We thank you that the darkness cannot overpower the light, but the light of Christ will continue to shine in the darkest places of the earth.

We ask that your Church in Iraq would continue to let their light shine boldly and brightly for all to see their good works and glorify their Father in Heaven. We also ask that even though our 30 Days of Prayer may be ending, you would help us to continue to remember our persecuted brothers and sisters in Iraq and around the world in prayer.

Draw us to our knees for those who are suffering. May we not forget them in their plight, but remember them without ceasing. Strengthen them by our prayers and the prayers of believers all around the world. May Justice, Mercy, and Truth reign in the land of Iraq and may the Gospel of Christ penetrate even the hardest of hearts. We join with the saints and the angels who never cease to cry, “Come quickly, Lord Jesus!”



Laura M. Thomas is author of the website [This Eternal Moment](http://www.thiseternalmoment.com), a blog focused on living every day for Christ and in the light of eternity.

When she is not homeschooling her three girls, she loves reading, writing, jogging, traveling, and naptime breaks with chocolate and lattes.

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