

## Prayers for the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of 9/11

Eternal God, Source and Creator of Life; From the depths we have called to you and we call to you again for courage, strength and wisdom on this 20th anniversary of our nation's tragedy.

Eternal God, Source and Creator of Life; From the depths we have called to you and we call to you again for courage, strength and wisdom on this 20th anniversary of our nation's tragedy.

Grant us courage to confront our enemies. Comfort those who stand alone without spouse, parent, brother, sister, or friend. Open our hearts to them and to the children orphaned twenty years ago today. Enable us to love more deeply all children who suffer. Accept with mercy our prayers of healing on behalf of the families of the victims and on behalf of the second responders who became ill at Ground Zero.

Despite the horror and tragedy of 9/11, our country remains a shelter of peace, a symbol of freedom a beacon light of compassion and justice to the downtrodden and oppressed of the world.

Strengthen the hands of our people to defend this country and our common values of freedom and justice. Inspire our leaders and diplomats to act wisely and to pursue peace everywhere in the world.

May we teach our children to learn and to think, to consider and to reason, to be courageous in thought and in deed, and to nurture hearts of wisdom that they may do battle against fear, hatred and bigotry using weapons of the spirit and loving hearts.

We offer our prayers on behalf of our country and government, our President and judiciary, our officials and institutions, our soldiers and citizens, upon all who faithfully toil for the good of our country, to preserve democracy in our land, to advocate for civility between adversaries, and to treat every human being as infinitely worthy and dignified by virtue of being created *b'Tzelem Elohim*, in the Divine image.

Bestow upon us all the blessings of peace, and may we live to see the day when swords will be converted into ploughshares and nations will not learn war anymore. Amen!

*Rabbi John L. Rosove*

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9/11 Memorial prayer by the Chief Rabbi Sacks (z'l) of Great Britain

Almighty G-d, we stand before you in prayer.

That fateful day remains in our hearts and minds.

We remember those who died in the attacks, and venerate the heroism of those 343 firefighters and 72 police officers who lost their lives while saving the lives of others.

Av Harachmim, our Father of compassion,  
we beseech you; shelter the souls of the dead  
the graceful shadow of Your wings. Give strength  
and comfort to the survivors to find fulfillment.  
Give courage to those who fight terror,  
and protect the innocent from danger.

Avinu Shebashamayim, who created all people in His image.  
Provide wisdom to the leaders of the world to be guided with righteousness and  
peace.

Teach us to revere the sanctity of life, reject the evil of terror,  
and recognize the danger of a world filled with violence.

Help us honor the words of the prophet Malachi  
“Do we not all have one Father? Did not one G-d create us?”

We implore you, G-d of mercy; give us the strength and  
perseverance to stay true to our moral bearings.

Be with us and direct us as we strive to make this world kinder and gentler.

Fulfill our hopes and listen to our prayers  
for Moshiach, a world of justice, compassion and peace.

AMEN