

סדר תפלות לשעת מגפה

The following prayer was written by *Ribbi Eliezer Papo* (and included in his work *Bet Tefillah*) to be recited during a time of a plague, prior to reciting the *Ketoret*.

Master of the Universe! Behold, we come before You shamefacedly, for we know our disgrace, shame and humiliation—we who are exceedingly impoverished and lacking in anything good. We have no mouth with which to answer, nor the boldness to raise up our head; we fear with trembling the awesomeness of Your righteous justice, that the world not be consumed in a conflagration of justice. For we have heard, and our innards tremble [at the news] that the Wrath has emerged and the plague has begun. Our hearts shudder within us, and the terrors of death have befallen us. We know not what to do, nor with what to approach Your Presence, nor [do we know] what cure to request, for we do not know how to petition You to mollify You. Now, in Your Torah You have taught us the unique qualities of the preparation of the incense (*Ketoret*) which has the power to stop the plague and the destruction, but now, through our sins, we have neither a Temple, nor an altar, nor a Kohen to atone for us; just this we have to console us, that you have said: “Let our lips compensate for the bulls” (*Hosheya* 14:3).

Therefore, may it be Your will, Hashem, our God and the God of our forefathers, that the speech of our lips in the laws of offerings performance be worthy, acceptable and favorable before You, as if we had burnt the incense spices on top of the altar. May You show favor to us, and nullify from upon us and upon all your people, Israel, wherever they may be, all harsh and evil decrees, destruction and plague. Smash and remove spiritual impediment from before us and behind us and in the shadow of Your wings shelter us.

O God, full of mercy, may Your mercy be aroused upon us, treat us with charity and kindness for the sake of Your great Name, and remove from us the scourge of death for You are compassionate. In Your great compassion, desire us and be favorable to us, act for the sake of our holy forefathers, Abraham, Yishak and Yisrael, Your servants, and for the sake of Moshe, Aharon, Yoseph and David, and for the sake of all the righteous and the pious, may their merit protect us, and may they intercede on our behalf. Amen, and may it be His will. May the expressions of my mouth and the thoughts of my heart find favor before You, Hashem, my Rock and my Redeemer.

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The following prayer is brought by the *Hatam Sofer* (and based on *sefer ma'amadot*) during the time to be recited during a time of a plague, after to reciting the *Ketoret*.

Master of the Universe! We have come to beseech You in Your great compassion and kindness, that You have mercy upon Your world and stop the plague from upon us and upon Your entire world. Do not allow the destroyer to come to our homes and have mercy upon us, our children, our infants and upon all of the entire world. Accept our prayers as You have accepted the incense spices that Aaron the Kohen burned before You when the plague had begun among the people, as it says (Bamidbar 17:13): "He stood between the dead and the living and the plague was stopped," and as you accepted the prayer of Phineas, as it says (Tehilim 106:30): "And Pinèhas arose and prayed, and the plague was halted. For You are our Father and our eyes are turned to You; heal us Hashem -- then we will be healed, save us -- then we will be saved, for You are our praise. May the verse that is written (Debarim 7:15): "Hashem will remove from you every illness; and all the bad maladies of Egypt that you knew – He will not put them upon you" be fulfilled for us.

Hashem, Master of Legions, is with us; a strength for us is God of Yaakob, Selah! Hashem, Master of Legions, Fortunate is the man who trusts in You. Hashem, save! May the King answer us on the day that we call.