



This Week at Mount Zion

June 23 / 27 Sivan

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Rabbi Spilker sent this message on Facebook Saturday night about the US's bombing in Iran.



Tonight I want to share what is weighing on my heart. I know I won't say everything just right, and some of it might not sit well with you — but I speak from a place that honors different truths that exist at the same time. First, my prayers are with all of us for strength. The US has now bombed Iran and no one knows what the morning may bring. My heart and prayers are with my people, nearly half the Jewish worldwide population who live in Israel and who - alongside Palestinian Muslim and Christian Israelis, Bedouin, Druze, Christian, and Buddhist Israelis and residents and visitors - are in harms way. And for Jews around the world who unfairly face antisemitism based on the actions of Israel and based on the whole complicated mess of this most ancient hatred, may we remain resilient and safe. My prayers are with us as Americans who had no vote in this decision and who will face what will come. My prayers are with the Iranian people who have suffered too long from this theocratic regime. My prayers are with Palestinians in Gaza who have suffered too much from Hamas first and foremost and from the most rightwing government in Israel's history, regardless of how defensible any actions might be. My prayers are with Palestinians in the West Bank, who face violence from rogue Jewish settlers and an IDF that at times turns away and is at times complicit. And my prayers are with the 22 living hostages in Gaza including Omri Miran whose father and wife I met in Hostages Square a year ago. We will not forget you. And may grieving families bury the 31 murdered hostages held in captivity soon and speedily.

And even with all this, my heart heavy with the reality of war, tonight my prayers are for peace. This is not the prayer for peace I prayed in the 1990s. It is a more tired and wary prayer but nevertheless sanguine about what might emerge from this defining moment.

Adam Stock Spilker
Rabbi