

Election Frustrations...and Challenges

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by Rabbi Marc D. Angel

The recent elections in New York were disappointing in many ways, not least of which is that several of the victorious candidates are staunchly and unapologetically anti-Israel. They add their hateful voices to a growing chorus of maligners of Israel.

Being disappointed does not change reality. We are a strong, resilient people; we've overcome enemies in the past; we defeat enemies in the present; and we will overcome enemies in the future. Although we turn to the Almighty in prayer, we also need to take personal responsibility to try to improve the situation.

Here are some things I did personally on the day after elections.

I bought Israel Bonds for each of our children and our great granddaughter.

I made a contribution to AIPAC.

I wrote to our representatives in Congress.

I gave (and am raising funds) for organizations in Israel and the U.S. that enhance Jewish life. Aside from those charities that provide material aid, it's also important to support those organizations (including our Institute for Jewish Ideas and Ideals) that foster a vibrant religious/spiritual life.

Each of us has his/her own way of strengthening the Jewish People and the State of Israel. It can be through contributions and investments; political action; attending religious services and Torah classes; buying Israeli products; standing up for Israel whenever/wherever possible.

We pray that the current peace process will achieve positive results for the United States, Israel, the countries of the Middle East...and the entire world.

Psalms 122:6 Pray for the peace of Jerusalem; they who love you will prosper; peace be within your walls, prosperity within your palaces

Psalms 126:1 When the Lord brought back the captivity of Zion we were as in a dream

Psalms 129:5 Let all who hate Zion fall back in disgrace.