

**Petition:**

**A Prayer for Darfur**

**Scripture Reading:**

II Samuel 22:1-4, Proverbs 31:8-9, Revelation 21:3-4

**Reflections of the Heart:**

What images does the name Darfur bring to mind? Violence? Despair? Hopelessness? Confusion? For too many, the name does not bring any image to mind. It is unimaginable to not only believe that people are unaware that a modern-day Holocaust is occurring, but that the survivors of this tragedy are being ignored or further brutalized when they seek refuge and help. Let us pray that God will open our eyes and ears to see and hear the pleas of the people in Darfur; and open our minds and hearts to respond to their needs.

**Scriptural Prayer:**

To You Lord, O God, enthroned in Heaven, we lift our hearts and our eyes for You are alive! You are a tower of salvation and we sing Your praise among the nations, for You have given us great victories. In You, Abba Father, we find protection. You are a shield, a stronghold and protector from violence. You are worthy of praise; so praise be to our Rock, our Salvation who delivers us from our enemies. We proclaim that You, Lord, are just, that in You there is no wrong. Thank You for sending Your son, Jesus Christ, to redeem us from sin and death. Thank You for being our God and making us Your people. Thank You for compassion and unfailing love.

Almighty Father, You are the God of deliverance. You are the Lord of Heaven's Armies who possesses all power and might. You are the God who brought the Israelites out of Egypt with great strength and a powerful arm. We are confident that You are able to deliver the people of Sudan. You, the Lord Most High, are awesome. You are the great King of all the earth who subdues nations before us and puts our enemies beneath our feet. Today, using the authority of Jesus Christ, we destroy the demonic strongholds that reside in the minds of Darfur's oppressors and command the demonic spirits that rule over this territory to cease from operating in Sudan. We cancel the assignments of death, destruction, and devastation in this region of the world. In Jesus' Name, peace be still! We command justice to run down like water, and righteousness like a mighty stream.

Holy Spirit, we ask that You remove the hardness that is in the hearts of the people who are sanctioning genocide; show those who are destroying others, in the name of ethnic cleansing, their evil ways. Reveal to them that when You, Father, look down from Your throne in Heaven, You see all humans, observe their ways, and that sorrow awaits those who issue unfair laws and prey on widows and orphans. Father, please bring more attention to the plight of the people in Darfur. Touch the hearts of journalists who work for major news agencies to increase their coverage of this horrific crisis. Stir the hearts of leaders from nations around the world to intervene in order to save lives. Send God-fearing, trustworthy negotiators, whom You have enlightened with Your wisdom and knowledge, to negotiate a peaceful end to the genocide. Lord of Heaven's Armies, we ask a special blessing for the children who have endured unspeakable atrocities such as rape and mutilation. Comfort those children whose parents and families have been murdered and provide new homes for them. Holy Father, have mercy upon the people of Darfur. Extend Your loving compassion and unfailing love towards them. Please send more help!

Merciful Father, forgive the leaders of Sudan who initiated the genocide by pitting tribe against tribe. Forgive them for ordering and encouraging the physical, mental, and emotional destruction of an entire people. Forgive the soldiers who are ravaging the lives of men, women, and children. Forgive those of us who live under stable government rule for turning a blind eye to our brethren in Darfur. Forgive us, the Body of Christ, for not praying and advocating for this terrible situation. You said to mourn when others mourn. Forgive us for our selfishness and apathy. Please forgive world leaders who have chosen not to intervene and have said that this catastrophe has been blown out of proportion, that this is not their problem. Lord, forgive me for (*list any sins that you have committed.*) Holy Spirit, help the Sudanese people to forgive their oppressors. You said in Your Word that we must forgive others. Please help them to release anger, bitterness, resentment and hatred. Holy Spirit, You are the only One who can help them to forgive. As for me, Holy Spirit, bring to my remembrance those I need to forgive. (*Take a moment and ask the Holy Spirit to show you names or faces of people that you may need to forgive. As*

*He shows you, say aloud, "I forgive name of person(s)." Now, trust the Lord to heal any wounds in your soul caused by unforgiveness.)*

Lord, help the people of Darfur not to yield to temptation; but deliver them from the evil one.

Let all the earth fear the Lord. May everyone stand in awe of You, for nothing is impossible for You. No army can match Your might. You have established Your reign forever and ever. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

**Scripture References for the Written Text:** Psalm 123:1, II Samuel 22:2-4, Psalm 92:15, II Kings 17:36, Psalm 47:2-3, Mark 4:39, Amos 5:24, Isaiah 10:1-2, Exodus 19:22, Psalm 33:8, Mark 10:27, Psalm 33:16