

Mashadis for the IDF

prayers to protect a soldier

It is our belief as Jews that when we are fighting the battles of God, God's hand manifests itself in the battlefield to help and protect our soldiers.

In parasha "Mattot" this past Shabbat we were introduced to the phrase "Elef Lamateh." "Elef Lamateh", a thousand per tribe, refers to Moshe's call to 12,000 soldiers who would carry out the battle with Midyan. However, a Rabbinic Midrash (Bamidbar Rabbah 22,2) explains that the seeming repetition of this phrase refers to establishing a force of 36,000 Jews: 12,000 soldiers would bear arms to fight Midyan (1,000 per tribe), 12,000 who formed the support force caring for the food and equipment of the fighters, and another 12,000 Jews from each tribe who stayed with their families at home and prayed on behalf of those who were thrust into mortal danger.



According to Rabbi Joshua ben Levi's (Berachot 10a) comments, King David accords the conquest of Jerusalem to the Jews who supported the troops with their Torah study. "O ur feet were standing in your gates, O Jerusalem" (Tehillim 122), expounds Rabbi Joshua ben Levi, tells us that the feet of the conquerors stood firmly on the holy soil of Jerusalem due to support of those who were studying Torah in her gateways.

These sources have inspired Jewish communities throughout history to adopt the Elef Lamateh model. With the help of The Shmira Project, the Mashadi community is proud to be participating in this initiative for the welfare of our soldiers fighting in Operation Protective Edge.



After choosing the name of a soldier, you can mention their name in your prayers every day, recite chapters of Tehilim, or take upon a Mitzva in their merit (some ideas include studying Torah, giving tzedaka, not saying lashon hara, or honoring ones' parents). We hope that in the merit of our efforts, God should continue to protect our soldiers in Gaza, guide their hands to being successful in their missions, and to come back home safe and sound. May we hear news of Shalom in our land soon.

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