

THOUGHTS OF THE WALL NATIVITY SCENE OF THE WALL



I stand before this wall,
watching the people around me:
Priceless, ancient texts are being read - some listen, others speak, plead, thank or praise.
Notes of pleas and requests stick inside the cracks between those large stone blocks.

Much appears strange, unusual, foreign.

My thoughts wander to those statements of the bible concerning the temple.

Who is this God who was worshipped in this temple and is still offered praise at this
remnant ruin of a wall?
Do I know HIN?

Is it HE from whom Mary speaks in her "Magnificat"?

⁴⁶ And Mary said: "My soul glorifies the Lord ⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, ⁴⁸
for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant. From now on all generations will
call me blessed, ⁴⁹ for the Mighty One has done great things for me-- holy is his name. ⁵⁰

His mercy extends to those who fear him, from generation to generation. ⁵¹ He has
performed mighty deeds with his arm; he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost
thoughts. ⁵² He has brought down rulers from their thrones but has lifted up the humble. ⁵³

He has filled the hungry with good things but has sent the rich away empty. ⁵⁴ He has
helped his servant Israel, remembering to be merciful ⁵⁵ to Abraham and his descendants
forever, even as he said to our fathers."

Luke 1, 46 – 55

The God of our "Fathers, Abraham and his descendants forever"?

"¹ The LORD had said to Abram, "Leave your country, your people and your father's household and go to the land I will show you. ² "I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. ³ I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you."

Genesis 12, 1 - 3

"¹ When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to him and said, "I am God Almighty; walk before me and be blameless. ² I will confirm my covenant between me and you and will greatly increase your numbers." ³ Abram fell facedown, and God said to him, ⁴ "As for me, this is my covenant with you: You will be the father of many nations. ⁵ No longer will you be called Abram; your name will be Abraham, for I have made you a father of many nations. ⁶ I will make you very fruitful; I will make nations of you, and kings will come from you. ⁷ I will establish my covenant as an everlasting covenant between me and you and your descendants after you for the generations to come, to be your God and the God of your descendants after you. ⁸ The whole land of Canaan, where you are now an alien, I will give as an everlasting possession to you and your descendants after you; and I will be their God."

Genesis 17, 1 - 8

The God of Jacob / Israel?

"²⁴ So Jacob was left alone, and a man wrestled with him till daybreak. ²⁵ When the man saw that he could not overpower him, he touched the socket of Jacob's hip so that his hip was wrenched as he wrestled with the man. ²⁶ Then the man said, "Let me go, for it is daybreak." But Jacob replied, "I will not let you go unless you bless me." ²⁷ The man asked him, "What is your name?" "Jacob," he answered. ²⁸ Then the man said, "Your name will no longer be Jacob, but Israel, because you have struggled with God and with men and have overcome."

Genesis 32, 25 - 28

"Blessed, yes blessed, is the name of him
whose help comes from the God of Jacob,
who does not allow himself to be cut off from his faith
and who trusts in Jesus Christ.
He who has this Lord for his Counsellor
finds the best advice for all he does.
Hallelujah, Hallelujah."

Translation of Johann Daniel Herrnschmidts German hymn "Selig, ja selig..."
(taken from Psalm 146).

The God whose name I have so often called in the Creed?

"I believe in God the Almighty Father, Creator of Heaven and Earth.
And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord ..."

The God and father of our Lord Jesus Christ?

5 Thomas said to him, "Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?" 6 Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. 7 If you really knew me, you would know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him." 8 Philip said, "Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us." 9 Jesus answered: "Don't you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? 10 Don't you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you are not just my own. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work. 11 Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the miracles themselves. 12 I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. 13 And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father. 14 You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.

John 14, 5- 14

And then suddenly I am no longer a tourist, spectator, part of the audience,
but find myself one with all those worshipping God, the father, here before the wall:

**"Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. ..."**