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Msg #2245 The Half Shekel Journal XXV

What The Bible Says Good Samaritan's Penny Pulpit by Pastor Ed Rice

Msg #2245 The Half Shekel Journal XXV by Ed Rice Vol XXV Day 8 Tue 3 Feb 2009: The Western Wall: The Muslim Turks occupying Israel's once promised land perceived the economic advantage of immigrating the Spanish displaced Jews into Israel and opened their doors to them. In 1492 they gave them "eternal access" to the Western Wall of their temple area and a flood of Jews immigrated back to their homeland. Ronnie's explanation continued. "This then is not the Jewish Western Wall, it is 'the' Western Wall." All faiths have access to this area as a place of prayer. The Jews reverence this wall as the portion of wall that remains of their temple mount, the very closest thing to their temple's holiest place. In respect of that reverence we should respect their custom of wearing a head covering in their holy areas and not disrespectfully turning our back on their holiest area. But access to this wall is freely given to all who would pray here, and the following of these Jewish customs is likened to following the Christian custom of removing head coverings when we enter a Church. You do not have to conform, but someone may speak to you about it when you don't. Since we visited the wall last night and were now armed with much more information we were less timid on this approach I had my Stetson and no need of the paper kippah. As the ladies headed toward their entry point Pastor Carpenter, Pickett and I headed for the men's entry of the Western Wall. One of us should have said something profound as we walked into the large open area filled with orthodox Jews of many sects, children and visitors. I was at loss for words. My limited knowledge of the wall coupled with my anxious aged longing to see it drove words far from me. Every thing going on around me caught my interest. Children were being gathered for lessons, Jews were bobbing back and forth in a public prayer show, chairs were being moved to accommodate a group praying at the wall, elders were engaging conversation with juniors of their sect, tourists were milling around in the mix and cameras were clicking. The three of us swiftly dispersed as we followed camera lenses in different directions. I made my way through the mallei of activity and found an open area at one of the gargantuan two thousand and nine year old foundation stones. A Christian can pray anytime and anyplace. We have an advocate with the Father, His only Begotten Son, dwelling within us and thus we can "pray without ceasing." I do have places of prayer as I have places of study. Being in those places prompt me there to pray or to study. This place, dedicated and reserved for a prayer place, did nothing towards prompting a prayer from me. I was instead struck with an awe. The stone before me was positioned here as part of a retaining wall to top Mount Moriah with a great 45 acre plateau for Herod's temple construction project. To my right hand and to my left were Jews praying a Hebrew prayer from the Jewish prayer book: "Because of our sins we were exiled from our country and banished from our land. We cannot go up as pilgrims to worship Thee, to perform our duties in Thy chosen house, the great and Holy Temple which was called by Thy name, on account of the hand that was let loose on Thy sanctuary. May it be Thy will, Lord our God and God of our fathers, merciful King, in Thy abundant love again to have mercy on us and on Thy sanctuary; rebuild it speedily and magnify its glory." Since this was being prayed all around me I thought it appropriate to start my prayer praying for the peace of Jerusalem. "Pray for the peace of Jerusalem; they shall prosper that love thee." (Psalm 122:6) "Yea, many people and strong nations shall come to seek the LORD of hosts in Jerusalem, and to pray before the LORD." (Zec 8:22) An Essay for week #45 - Nov 6, 2022 While Rices are in Israel Read the whole journal at [www.GSBaptistChurch.com/israel](http://www.GSBaptistChurch.com/israel) Copyright © 2022 Good Samaritan Baptist Church, All Public Domain, Freely Copy and Distribute. A weekly 300 word essay-The Penny Pulpit Our mailing address is: Good Samaritan Baptist Church 54 Main St. Box 99 Dresden, NY 14441

