The Wailing Wall

For 2000 years Jews have overcome all obstacles to visit the Wailing Wall. I had dreamed of coming here since I was very young and finally managed it in 1959.

Our tour guide pointed out the place of “Wall” from the rooftop of David’s tomb on Mt. Zion and I thought I could see it.

We couldn’t go there because it was in the Jordanian part of Jerusalem and Jews weren’t permitted.

I didn’t realize the pent up feelings I had for the “Wall” or the Jewish People until I finally visited the “Wall” in 1967, just after the 6 days war, I stood at the “Wall” and wept bitterly and uncontrollably because suddenly I realized the loss we suffered 2000 years ago wasn’t just a building called the “Temple”. It was much more than that:

It was as if I was standing up to my knees in the blood of my people just slaughtered by Titus’ Roman soldiers.

I felt as if I and all the Jewish people had just become homeless orphans wandering through a world seeking love and mercy from the nations for 2000 years.

In the words of the Bible, we were strangers in strange lands. We were a nation that had been scattered, but we longed to be together again in our own land.

This was not to be and for 2000 years we were dispersed among the nations of the world, so much so that they said that the Jews weren’t a nation, but a religion, followed by wandering people with no place of their own.

The nations of the world didn’t realize that this was a test for them. They had the opportunity to show hospitality to the dispersed nation. They failed the test and instead of hospitality, every nation chased Jews away as a householder chases a stray dog from his doorstep. Jews were not welcome anywhere.

Now the Jews have returned to their homeland and the wall has become the place where they celebrate their unity. They flock to the wall, as if it was some kind of magical thing, but it’s not the wall that draws the Jews together, but the feeling that here is where the ancient Jewish nation used to gather together, at least 3 times a year; Passover, Shavuot (the 50th day after Passover) and the feast of Tabernacles (Succot).

The wall has become the symbol of our rejuvenated nation. It’s a place of celebration, not a place of wailing, although we do wail here once a year; on the day of commemoration of the destruction of the Temple, when we wail for our lost Temple, which Jews constantly hope will be rebuilt again.

But the most amazing fact is that we are more united than we ever were in the days of the temple. Anyone who wants to experience the joy of our unity can attend prayers at wall any day of the year and all humanity can witness that God is true to His word to Father Abraham, that although He will scatter the Jews throughout the world, He will bring them back to their own land.

**13** Then the Lord said to him, “Know for certain that for four hundred years your descendants will be strangers in a country not their own and that they will be enslaved and mistreated there. **14** But I will punish the nation they serve as slaves, and afterward they will come out with great possessions. Genesis 15:13,14