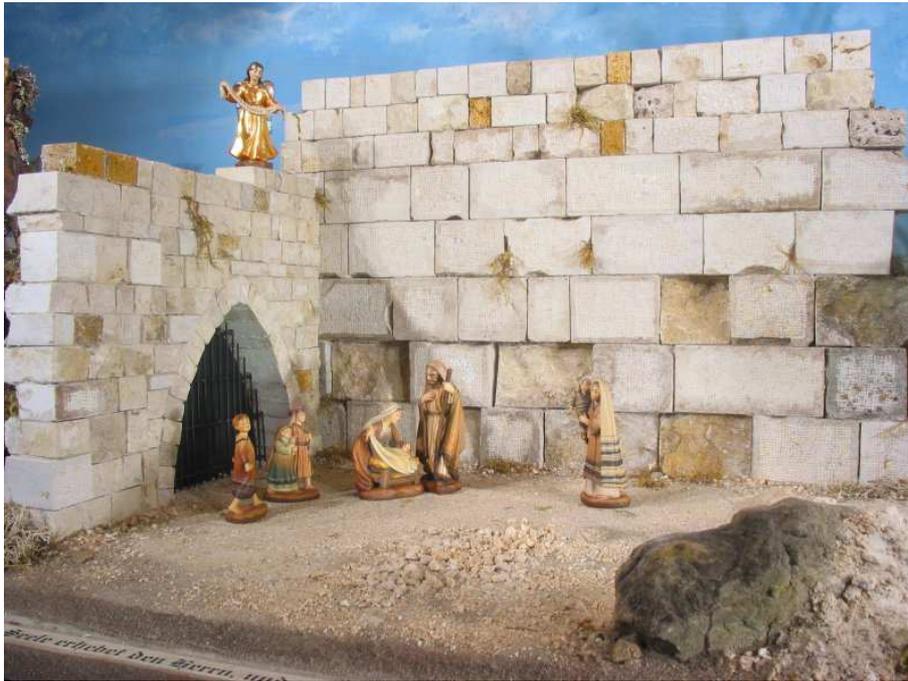


## WALL NATIVITY SCENE MAUERKRIPPE



The idea for this unusual background arose during a visit to Jerusalem. The remaining part of the supporting wall of the temple ruins is called the Wailing Wall or West Wall. When Jesus lived this temple was intact and still in use.

The ruined wall visible today emphasizes the tragic truth of Jesus' words:  
"O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often have I longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing! Look, your house is left to you desolate. I tell you, you will not see me again until you say, "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord."

Luke 13, 34 et sqq.

"As he approached Jerusalem and saw the city, he wept over it and said, "If you, even you, had only known on this day what would bring you peace - but now it is hidden from your eyes. The days will come upon you when your enemies will build an embankment against you and encircle you and hem you in on every side. They will dash you to the ground, you and your children within your walls. They will not leave one stone on another, because you did not recognise the time of God's coming to you."

Luke 19, 42 - 44

Yet beyond all banishment, persecution and holocaust the place at the foot of the Wall is not only a place of wailing but also a place of praise, adoration and of great hope in the coming or returning Lord.

And with that I am in the middle of Christmas events: Jesus, the Lord, will be born to us. And all sing praise to God: Zacharias, the angels, Simeon. And... Also Mary, as she professes her joy in praising God with her Magnificat:

**My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my saviour.**

Luke 1, 46

This means that this piece of ruined wall is a witness to the great loyalty of God towards his chosen folk, Israel or towards each and every person who believes in HIM.

Rudolf Alexander Schröder describes this in a hymn:

"...keep a tight hold on your belief that God will not let you fall, he keeps his promises..."

Nuremberg, June 2000