

Jewish-Christian Dialog Series

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Part III – Comparing our Prayers and our Hopes – January 25, 2018

1. Our prayers

a. In Judaism:

Amidah – collection of 7 or 19 blessings, recited 3x/day

Shema and its blessings (recited twice a day: morning and night)

➤ **Three passages from Torah**

Deuteronomy 6:4-9

⁴ Hear, O Israel! The LORD is our God, the LORD alone. ⁵ You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. ⁶ Take to heart these instructions with which I charge you this day. ⁷ Impress them upon your children. Recite them when you stay at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you get up. ⁸ Bind them as a sign on your hand and let them serve as a symbol on your forehead; ⁹ inscribe them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

Deut. 11:13-21 Reward and Punishment

Num. 15:37-41 Fringes on garments.

➤ **Two blessings before and one blessing after** these Torah passages teach three things about God: Creator, Revealer – giver of wisdom (Torah), Redeemer (covenantal relationship).

2nd blessing (morning version in Ashkenaz tradition, translation from Sefaria.org)

[With] a great love have You loved us, Lord, our God; [with] a great and superabundant compassion have You had compassion upon us. Our Father, our King - for the sake of our fathers who trusted in You and You taught them the laws of life; so [too] grace us and teach us. Our Father, the merciful Father, the merciful One - have mercy upon us, and put into our hearts to understand and to comprehend and to listen and to study and to teach and to keep and to do and to preserve all of the words of the study of Your Torah with love. And enlighten our eyes in Your Torah, and make our heart cling to Your commandments, and unite our hearts to love and fear Your name; and may we never be embarrassed ever. Since we have trusted in Your great and awesome holy Name, let us rejoice and be gladdened by Your salvation. And bring us in peace from the four corners of the Earth, and lead us erectly to our Land; as You are God who performs salvations. And You have chosen us from among all nations and languages, and have brought us close to Your great name forever in truth, to praise You and unify You with love. Blessed are You, Lord, who chooses His people, Israel, with love.

b. In Christianity: Five prayers from the Gospel of Luke

- **The Ave Maria** Luke 1:42-45, **The Benedictus** Luke 1:67-79, **The Gloria in Excelsis** Luke 2:14, **The Nunc Dimittis** Luke 2:29-32, AND
- **The Magnificat** Luke 1:46-55 (*cf. Hannah's prayer, I Sam. 2:1-10*)

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, just as he promised our ancestors.”

c. In Christianity: The Lord's Prayer

Matthew 6:9-13 (NRSV)

Our Father who art in heaven [Hebrew: אבינו שבשמים - *Avinu Shebashamayim*],
hallowed be Your name.

Your kingdom come.

Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

For Yours is the kingdom,
the power and the glory
for ever and ever.

Amen.

d. In Judaism: The Kaddish

Glorified and sanctified be God's great name throughout the world
which He has created according to His will.

May He establish His kingdom in your lifetime and during your days,
and within the life of the entire House of Israel, speedily and soon;
and say, Amen.

May His great name be blessed forever and to all eternity.

Blessed and praised, glorified and exalted, extolled and honored,
adored and lauded be the name of the Holy One, blessed be He,
beyond all the blessings and hymns, praises and consolations that
are ever spoken in the world; and say, Amen.

May there be abundant peace from heaven, and life, for us
and for all Israel; and say, Amen.

He who creates peace in His celestial heights,
may He create peace for us and for all Israel;
and say, Amen.

2. Our Hopes

a. Christianity: Matthew 22:34-39

³⁴Hearing that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, the Pharisees got together. ³⁵One of them, an expert in the law, tested him with this question: ³⁶“Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?” ³⁷Jesus replied: “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ [Deut. 6:5] ³⁸This is the first and greatest commandment. ³⁹And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ [Lev. 19:18]

b. Judaism: Mishnah Avot 1:2

Shimon the Righteous was from the remnants of the Great Assembly. He would say, “**On three things the world stands: on the [study of] Torah, on worship [of God] and on acts of lovingkindness.**”

3. Toward interfaith appreciation and cooperation