

Five poems

by [Yehiel E. Poupko](#) in the [April 2024](#) issue

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*The Lord God called out . . . “Where are you?”*

(Gen. 3:9)

**Where are you:**

**Eve asks**

from his flank  
and dark dread  
You built me  
him You kneaded  
him You breathed  
me You built  
from him  
and now  
You ask  
where are you  
where  
have  
You  
been

**Where are you:**

**Sarah asks**

age withered  
driven  
from crescent's fertile  
to famine land  
to Pharaoh's bed  
from Abraham's

for Hagar's son  
and now  
at ninety

and Sarah  
will bear  
your seed

who would  
not laugh  
even at His  
word  
and only now  
from my tent  
does He seek  
where is  
your wife  
Sarah

**Where are you:  
for Rachel and  
Jacob, too**

in your father's  
blind night  
and brother's rage  
you sought Him  
on stone pillow  
at ladder's foot  
you sought Him  
at the well  
you sought me  
in my sister's bed  
you did not  
cry out  
where are you

on the road to Efrat  
you buried me  
later  
long after  
when a voice  
was heard in Ramah  
you were no more  
He alone  
heard me  
our children  
shall return  
but you  
where are you

**Where are you:  
Hannah asks**

You saw  
You knew  
mocked  
for my barrenness

in seeing  
in knowing  
You did  
not ask  
where are you

in barrenness  
I sought You  
breaching  
Your holy  
into Your presence

You needed  
a prophet  
to get with child

a redeemer

trapped

trapped

in Your holy

I found You

forced a contract

got my baby

who gave You

David

couldn't You

find Your way

to me

**Where are you:**

**Yeshu asks**

after all

you are

still asking

after the wise men

stars and animals

after Tabor

Moses radiance

after the crowds

I brought

to mountain teaching

after Torah learning

from My

Pharisees

fishes loaves

watery wine

after all

and more

what was

never imagined  
by Israel  
after the flesh  
found its way  
to your lips  
my God  
my God  
why hast  
Thou forsaken me  
who did  
you say  
you were