

The **Woman** at the **WELL**



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JOHN 4: A REVIEW OF THE STORY

Jesus and his disciples traveled out of Judea and arrived at Sychar in Samaria at midday. He was tired, so he sat by the well. His disciples left him alone, while they went into the town to buy food. A Samaritan woman came to get water.

Jesus said, “Will you give me a drink?”

She hesitated, wondering who he may be talking to.

Jesus said, “If you knew the gift of God and who I am, you would ask for living water.”

“Me?” she pondered.

He didn’t break his focus as he waited for her reply.

A man without means to draw water puzzled her, she asked, “Where can you get this living water? Our father Jacob built and drank from this well, his sons as well. Are you greater than him?”

Jesus gazed into the well and replied, “This water cannot quench your thirst.” He looked up and stole her attention when he added, “I can give you water.”

She returned a befuddled and inquisitive stare prompting an explanation.

“The water I give,” Jesus said, “will quench your thirst forever and it will become a spring welling up to eternal life.”

Delighted and relieved, she responded, “Give me that water so that I do not need to keep coming to this well.”

He told her, “Go, call your husband and come back.”

“I have no husband,” she replied.

Jesus said to her, “You are right when you say you have no husband. The fact is, you have had five husbands, and the man you now have is not your husband. What you have just said is quite true.”

Her eyes opened wide, amazed. Before her stood a prophet! Thoughts of worship flooded her mind. “Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, but you Jews claim that the place where we must worship is in Jerusalem.”

“Believe me, the time is coming quickly, if not now, when you will neither worship on this mountain or in Jerusalem; you will worship the Father in spirit and in truth.”

You speak in strange concepts, she pondered.

To reassure herself, she said, “I know our Savior is coming and he will tell us everything,” she replied.

He responded, “I am he.”

The disciples returned to see Jesus talking to a Gentile woman; they all responded with a look of shock and dismay. The woman was elated and quickly left leaving her water jug behind to tell her people the good news.

Ignoring the awkward moment, the disciples said, “We bought lunch. Here, eat.”

Jesus said, “I feel fulfilled for I have had food that you do not know of.”

The disciples looked befuddled and whispered among themselves wondering what manna he was referring to.

“My food,” said Jesus, “is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work. You say, the harvest is four months away. I say, the harvest is ready! Even now the reaper is getting paid, even now he harvests the crop for eternal life, so that the sower and the reaper may be glad together. You remember the saying, ‘One sows and another reaps’ is true.” The disciples remained silent. To trigger the wow moment, Jesus added, “I sent you to reap what you have not worked for. Others have done the hard work, and you have reaped the benefits of their labor.”

Meanwhile, the woman told her town's people what Jesus said and they came running. The news was wonderful; they had to meet Jesus. He stayed and talked with them for two days. Now, they were absolutely sure that **Jesus is the Savior of the world**.

LEARN THE CODED LANGUAGE OF OUR GOD

Our Ancient Book communicates to people who want to know the truth. In a coded language of parables/analogies, imagery/symbols, and parallels, God's grand plan is disclosed. God is transparent and He shares his plan with those who understand His coded language. This story is one of many of God's coded stories.

It is by design that only John, the Apostle wrote this story. He is the apostle who wrote about agape; he understood God's love for his people—all twelve tribes. This coded story is about the redemption of the divorced and lost 10-tribes of Israel. Learn His code and discover His message.

GENTILE TERRITORY

Jesus and his disciples traveled out of Judea. They arrived in the **Gentile town of Sychar** in Samaria. Sychar as John 4:5 says was near the plot of ground Jacob had given to his son Joseph. A Samaritan woman came to get water. Now we can learn about **WHO** this woman really is.

- We can assume that she is living there because she is of the house of Joseph from either the tribe of Ephraim or Manasseh.
- We can also assume that Jesus is really talking at a spiritual level now, to the church of the 10 tribes.
 - The woman always represents the church.
 - This woman represents the church of the 10-tribes
 - She is from the house of Joseph; the leader of the 10-tribes.
 - Jesus and the disciples were in the territory of the leader of the 10-tribes.

TIMING

Jesus and the disciples arrive at midday. A time when most people stop to eat and drink—revive themselves. It was around the 6th hour.

- It is **the right time** to be at the well.
- The woman arrives right on time and Jesus is there right on time.
- It is a **significant time** when the 10-tribes accept Jesus as their Messiah and when the Jews reject him as their Messiah. (Doug Grieger www.commonwealththeology.com)
- Noon is the 18th hour in a 24-hour day.
- The number 18 is a symbol with a story of its own.

The house of Israel—the 10-tribes acknowledged Jesus immediately as their Messiah for themselves and the world this was around the 6th hour. It was at the same time (different day) that Pilate said to the Jews, **"It was about the sixth hour. He said to the Jews, "Behold your King!"** (John 19:14) The Jews rejected Jesus as their Messiah around the 6th hour.

The church of the 10-tribes came to repentance and accepted God's Holy Spirit at the 18th hour. The woman at the well left the water jug behind, she didn't need it anymore; she—the church accepted Jesus' upcoming sacrifice and accepted the "living" water.

The number 18 is significant to the church of the 10-tribes of Israel and the church represented by the woman with a bent back (Luke 13:10-17). The woman could not walk up-right for her deformity caused by a spirit crippled and deformed her, until Jesus brought her near him, laid hands on her and healed her on the Sabbath.

Whether we are looking at two separate bodies of people or one, the healing at the 18th hour and after 18 years has the same number in time. This number also appears in Ezekiel's Holy City (Ezekiel 48) having 4,500 cubits on each of its four base edges of $4 \times 4,500 = 18,000$ cubits and the New Jerusalem in Revelation has 12,000 furlongs $\times$ 660 ft. (1 furlong) = 7,920,000 ft./5,280 ft. (1 mile) = 1,500 miles $\times$ 12 edges of its cube = 18,000 miles or "18." The "18" means that the earth (18,000 cubits) and the heavens (18,000 miles) are united together just as the two houses: the Gentile house of Israel and the house of Judah are ultimately united together through one accepted the Savior who is both Priest and King. (Doug Grieger www.commonwealththeology.com)

LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION AT THE WELL

Jesus is tired, so he sat by the well. The disciples leave him alone, while they go to the town to get food. The Samaritan woman arrives at the well.

- The disciples leave not desiring to drink from the well. **They are desiring, at this time a different reviving resource.**
- The well is the location where Jesus goes to be refreshed. **Jesus knows the source of life; he too, is revived by God's Holy Spirit.**
- The well is the location where the woman goes to access what she needs to be refreshed. **She knows the well is the place for reviving. It represents the church of the 10-tribes going to God in prayer and asking for forgiveness of sin.**
- This well is special; it is Jacob's well—no ordinary well. **This well, Jacob's well is symbolic of the source of Jacob's blessings promised to Abraham and passed onto Isaac. But, God Almighty is the source of "living water" which never needs refilling.**

JESUS IS WITHOUT HIS DISCIPLES

Alone, Jesus asks the woman for a drink from the well. She questions why a Jew would be talking to a woman—a Gentile woman. Jesus ignores her concern and questions her, "If she knew the gift of God and who it is that asks her for a drink, she would have asked him and he would have given her living water." She wonders how he could offer her "living" water without anything to draw with, from this well that she knows was built by **their** forefather, Jacob.

- She questions Jesus why he, a Jew is talking to her. **She is representative of the church of the 10-tribes who would rightly wonder why a Jew of the covenant people would ask for a**

spiritual reviving substance from a pagan practicing church. She understood their spiritual deficiency when she replied, “You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?” (John 4:9).

- Jesus continues to break the barriers between the Jews and the Gentiles, males and females by continuing to talk to the Gentile woman. **Not only is Jesus breaking and removing barriers between physical people, but more importantly, he is removing the spiritual barriers that hinder mankind from coming into the family of God.** He questions her whether she knows about the gift of God, who it is talking to her and what he can offer her. **Jesus is talking to the church of the 10-tribes and prompting them to ask about the new offer of grace, their coming Savior and God’s Holy Spirit.**
- She continues to think physically and wonders how he can give her “living” water when he has nothing to draw with. She thinks about the term “living” and remembers her rich religious history full of miracles and wonders. It prompts her to ask if Jesus is greater than **their** forefather, Jacob. **Jesus does not correct her when she refers to **their** forefather as a common ancestor because he knows it is true. He knows she is from the lost sheep of Israel, the 10-tribes and he is from the house of Judah. **They both know their roots.****
- Jesus is striving to teach her a new concept—a spiritual concept. **Those who drink water from a physical well will continue to thirst, but there is an essence that comes from God, our Creator that is not only eternal, but once within you it becomes a spring that refills and refills eternally. This was the first lesson Jesus taught the returning church of the 10-tribes.**
- She liked the idea of “living water.” She was tired of going to the well day in and day out in the heat of the day. Life was burdensome and the church of the 10-tribes was desperate for relief. The church doesn’t yet understand the spiritual connection.
 - “Sir, give me this water so that I won’t get thirsty and have to keep coming here to draw water” (John 4:15)

She is a broken woman. She is coming to get water during the heat of the day because she is an outcast, a Samaritan. She cannot come in the cool of the morning because she is shunned and a shame. She doesn’t want to come during the heat of the day, day in and day out, getting water anymore. It is heavy and she is alone. She’s wanting to be rescued. She may be thinking that Jesus can give her this “living” water like the manna that came from heaven when they wandered in the wilderness. **This church of the 10-tribes is a group of people treated like dogs by every nation around them. They may be many in number as Josephus points out, but they are at Christ’s time a beaten people. They have experienced the curses of God in full measure; they have witnessed the evil of the gods ruling over the nations; and they have experienced the loneliness of being away—far away from their God and they are pleading to return. They are ready and Jesus is there to help them.**

THE CONFRONTATION

Jesus says, “Go, call your husband and come back” (John 4:16). She informs him that she does not have a husband and Jesus confronts the issue of her failing relationships. She has had five husbands and the one she is with is not a husband.

- Jesus tells her to call her husband. Jesus was confronting the church of the 10-tribes about their previous relationships with gods teaching a false religion and their history of treachery. They had entered into relationships with five different gods ruling over the nations. This woman's life was a re-enactment of the church of the 10-tribes.
- She now is living with a man but not married to him. This indicates that the church of the 10-tribes was still embracing a false religion, but they were not bound to it. They have the freedom to leave and they are now seeking the true God.
- She was not a prostitute. She was desired by five men who married her one after the other, however, all five husbands divorced her because she could not conceive and have children. That is the story of the church of the 10-tribes. The gods ruling over the nations, welcomed them into their domain, but no doubt it was God Almighty who closed her womb. The gods wanted children who were their offspring; they wanted her descendants to continue worshiping them and living the ways of the pagans. God would not allow it. He said, "You say, 'We want to be like the nations, like the peoples of the world, who serve wood and stone.' But what you have in mind will never happen... I will rule over you with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm and with outpoured wrath" (Ezekiel 20:32-33). She was divorced over and over again and eventually cast out by the pagans. The house of Judah disassociated themselves with all Gentiles; they were considered unclean.

Jesus was reminding her of her bad relationships. He was testing her sincerity. Will the church of the 10-tribes remain faithful this time?

THE NEW PLACE OF WORSHIP

- With Jesus' supernatural ability to know her situation, she immediately begins to think that Jesus is a prophet, so she asks him about the location of worship: "on this mountain" (Shiloh) or "in Jerusalem." Shiloh was the place of worship for all Israel before the first temple was built in Jerusalem. Jesus replies with a response that would baffle the religious leaders for a long time.

"A time is coming when you will worship the Father **neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem**" (John 4:21)

"But a time is coming and has **now come** when the **true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and in truth, for the Father is seeking such as these to worship Him**" (John 4:23-24).

Jesus is trying to take the limited thinking of a physical temple and sacrifices to a new level and place. The new place of worship is in spirit and truth. It is the receiving of God's Holy Spirit that will transform the rebellious heart of stone into a heart of flesh, a willing spirit desiring to obey God and accept His truth. Jesus is the Word of God; he is truth and truth will set you free from death. So, the new place lies within you where, through the Messiah you receive God's Holy Spirit and become the new temple—the New Jerusalem of Revelation 21.

JESUS GUIDES THE CHURCH OF THE 10-TRIBES TOWARDS HIM

- “You Samaritans know very little about the one you worship, while **we Jews know all about him**, for salvation comes through the Jews” (John 4:22). **Jesus certainly knows all about himself and through him, salvation comes to the house of Judah (the Jews), the house of Israel (the 10-tribes) and to all the world.**

JESUS DISCLOSES HIS IDENTITY

- Worshiping in spirit and truth was a strange concept for her, so she reassures herself, “I know that the Messiah is coming. When he comes, he will explain everything to us.” **This church is eagerly waiting for their Messiah, the one who will save them from death and re-open the door to eternity.**
- Jesus leans towards her and says, “I am he.”
- She is ecstatic! **Her heart must have jumped with joy as she ran to give the good news to her people. The old jug was left behind, learn the code; it is no longer needed. She represents the church of the 10-tribes. They are the divorced house of Israel, a shamed people for their waywardness and rebellion against God. They are at that time, a broken people longing to return to the covenant family and this news for them is so long overdue, so the hearing of it, is exciting and must be shared immediately.**

THE SAMARITANS MEET JESUS FACE-TO-FACE

- “They urged him to stay with them and he stays **two days**” (John 4:40-41). **“With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day” (II Peter 3:8). For two thousand years, Christ has been staying with his church, teaching them as he did in John 4:40. Coincidence? No, it is all part of the grand plan.**

Jesus disclosed himself first to a woman not a man. Women always represent the church. She, here represents the church of the 10-tribes. Just as she was excited to hear the news of her Messiah, so the church of the 10-tribes was ecstatic, which indicates a deep and sincere repentance.

- “They [her town’s people likely the male leaders of the town] said to the woman, “We no longer believe just because of what you said; now we have heard for ourselves, we know that this man really is **the Savior of the world**” (John 4:42).

The woman was first to meet Jesus face-to-face before the men in her community, which indicates that Christ will first go to the church before their government. Two major roles form God’s kingdom: the priestly role and the kingship. The female gender represents the priestly role while the male gender represents kingship. The leaders in government listen and come to learn for themselves and they declare that Jesus is their Messiah for them and the world.

It is likely this event will occur again in our future, during Jacob’s trouble. The churches of Revelation need to overcome and return to the straight and narrow path to God. It is likely that

Christ will go first to his faithful church, then they will take his message to the presidents, prime ministers, and kings and queens in their countries.

THE PRODIGAL SON RETURNS

God has looked far into our future and He knows all of us. He opened that Book of Life before the creation of the world and began writing. He saw a NEW CREATION forming: beautiful people, holy and blameless. “In love HE PREDESTINED US TO BE ADOPTED AS HIS SONS THROUGH JESUS CHRIST... to the glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God’s grace that he lavished on us with all wisdom and understanding” (Ephesians 1:4-8).

“Predestined before the creation of the world” is a fascinating statement. The Jews believe they remain the only “chosen” people. The Apostle Paul teaches that salvation was given to the Gentiles. These Gentiles are comprised of two groups: the brothers of the Jews—the 10-tribes of Israel and all of the nations of the world. In addition, to the saving of the whole world, God is going to choose as His people, the twelve—**all twelve tribes of Israel AGAIN**.

“But the LORD will have mercy on the descendants of Jacob. **He will choose Israel as his special people once again**. He will bring them back to settle once again in their own land. **And people from many different nations will come and join them there and unite with the people of Israel**” (Isaiah 14:1).

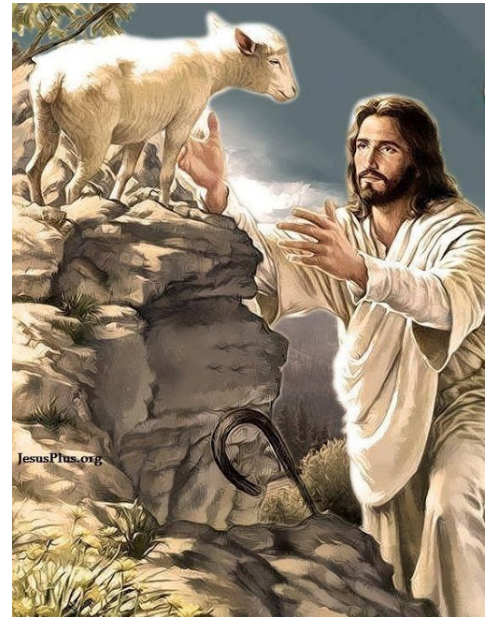
The ten tribes of the house of Israel was at one time far away from God, but during their wanderings among the nations, they repented and cried out to God and He heard them. Jesus was given the green light. Among the many things that Jesus accomplished on earth, he brought this lost house of Israel back into the family and fed them with spiritual food. “**I was sent only to the lost sheep of Israel,**” he said to the Canaanite woman who begged for the healing of her possessed daughter. The great faith of this woman was revealed in her humility to take but mere crumbs from Jesus as he fed his lost sheep. He marveled at that woman’s faith and healed her daughter that very hour.

THE HARVEST IS READY!

The disciples were confused and whispered among themselves wondering what manna Jesus was referring when he said, “I feel fulfilled for I have had food that you do not know of.”

The disciples were silent, so Jesus added, “My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work. You say, the harvest is four months away. **I say, the harvest is ready!**”

The disciples could not see that their brothers were ready to return to God. Christ taught the church of the 10-tribes himself. He continued, “Even now the reaper is getting paid, even now he harvests the crop for eternal life, so that the sower and the reaper may be glad together. You remember the saying, ‘One sows and another reaps’ that’s true. I sent you to reap what you have not worked for. Others have done the hard work, and you have reaped the benefits of their labor.”



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THE WOMAN AT THE WELL

Did that woman at the well on that hot summer day know that she would be the one to live the life of the 10-tribes, **so that 21st century Christians could learn their history?**

Coincidence? No, it was part of God’s grand plan. God recorded their history through the lives of people who lived long ago, so that the Christians would not forget their roots. So now we know, all of Israel will be saved—**all twelve tribes** (Romans 11:26).

Our God is a merciful God. Learn God’s code language and discover the mysteries about your history, so that you have clarity of the present and hope for a better future.

Compiled by Janette Andrejowich and many thanks to Doug Grieger from www.commonwealththeology.com.