

H O U S E o f W I S D O M

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John 4 - Part I

Living Water

Read John 4:3-14 (MKJV):

3 He left Judea and went away again into Galilee.

4 And it was necessary for Him to go through Samaria,

5 Then He came to a city of Samaria, called Sychar, near the parcel of ground that Jacob gave to his son Joseph.

6 And Jacob's well was there. Jesus, therefore, being wearied with His journey, sat thus upon the well. It was about the sixth hour (Jn 11:9).

7 A woman of Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, Give me to drink.

8 (For His disciples had gone away into the city to buy food.)

9 Then the woman of Samaria said to Him, How do you, being a Jew, ask a drink of me, who am a woman of Samaria? (Heb 13:2) For the Jews do not associate with Samaritans 1Ki 11:43; 12:1-33; 2Ki 17:5-6, 24.

10 Jesus answered and said to her, If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that said to you, Give Me to drink, you would have asked of Him, and He would have given you living water.

11 The woman said to Him, Sir, you have no vessel, and the well is deep. From where then do you have that living water?

12 Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well, and drank of it himself, and his children and his cattle?

13 Jesus answered and said to her, Whoever drinks of this water shall thirst again,

14 but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst, but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.

Shortly after King Solomon died Israel split. About 200 years later the 10 northern tribes were taken over by Assyria. The city of Samaria had been the capital of Israel, as Jerusalem was capital of Judea. Assyria always mingled their people with those of the countries they captured, and transported their citizens to other parts of Assyria. Also merged were religious practices of the Assyrians with the local religious customs. Within a short time, the Assyrians in Samaria were worshiping Yahweh as well as their own gods; and within a couple centuries, they worshiped Yahweh exclusively. Thus was formed the only major schism in the Yahweh religion: the schism between the Jews and the Samaritans. The Samaritans, who were Assyrian and therefore non-Hebrew, adopted almost all of the Hebrew Torah and cultic practices; unlike the Jews, however, they believed that they could sacrifice to God outside of the temple in Jerusalem, which was initially set up by Rehoboam, the first king of Israel, in order to prevent Jews from going to Jerusalem to worship. The Jews frowned on the Samaritans, denying that a non-Hebrew had any right to be included among the chosen people, and were angered that the Samaritans would dare to sacrifice to Yahweh outside of Jerusalem. The Samaritan schism played a major role in the teaching of Jesus during his ministry (cf Luke 10:29-34; 17:13-16). Notice too, that the Samaritan woman referred to Jacob as their ancestor who had given them the well (verse 12); she mentioned the tradition concerning the place where God was to be worshiped (verse 20); and she was expecting the Messiah to come, called the Christ (verse 25). I find it interesting that a similar schism between churches exists today because of a difference in beliefs and cultic practices (i.e. how they see Christ; type of baptism; day of worship, the way communion is conducted, etc.) Yet, all claim to worship the same God, and all are expecting Jesus to return.

1. The woman, like Nicodemus, understood the words of Jesus in a literal sense. What was the living water Jesus was offering the woman as a gift? Jn 7:37-39; Acts 2:38-39 gift & promise; Gal 3:14, 18 promise & inheritance {Jer 2:13 fountain=a person, Rv 7:17; Jn 6:63 words of Jesus=spirit, life; Pr 26:22 belly=mind}

2. Verse 13: Whoever drinks of this water shall thirst again. Was Jesus speaking of physical thirst or spiritual thirst? Isa 44:3; Ps 63:1 When we drink from the earthly well of man's water (Pr 18:4) we become like a dry and parched land of a spiritual wilderness.

{Gen 32:24-28; 35:1-4, 9-10 - A name to a Hebrew indicated character. Jacob, having wrestled with the messenger all night is said to have prevailed with God & men. He was not, however, called Israel until after he and all his household put away their idols. Jacob=heel holder, in the sense of restraining. Jacob held back his brother Esau from receiving the blessing of the firstborn, & thus became a supplanter. Jacob is a spiritual type of those in whom truth is supplanted with error in their understanding. Israel=Prevails with God. Israel is a spiritual type of those who wrestle with the truth of the Son of God and the truth of the cross, prevailing with God & men i.e. come to love God & others as yourself. It is the heavenly understanding with which we wrestle trying to grasp Eph 6:12.}

3. When we receive living water we are receiving holy spirit. What is another way of stating what we are receiving? Eph 1:15-20 {a spirit of wisdom & revelation in God's full, precise knowledge ^(g1922). This is exact knowledge as opposed to the partial, fragmented knowledge of man, Rom 2:17-20 ^(g1108) with which we start our Christian walk. Notice too, that Jesus has a God, verse 17, who raised him from the dead, verse 20}

Thought question:

4. Jesus was offering the Samaritan woman eternal life (Jn 6:63; 5:24-25), which she did not grasp. Do you think Christians today are fully grasping what is the idea of eternal life and how they receive it?