



LIVING WATER

AREA AROUND ANCIENT SYCHAR

Surrounded By Mts. Ebal and Gerizim



JACOB'S WELL TODAY



SIGNIFICANCE OF SHECHEM



- Although Shechem had been destroyed by the Jewish leader John Hyrcanus in 107 BC, the surrounding villages, including Sychar, had a small population of Samaritans.
- Shechem itself was one of the most significant locations in the Old Testament, mentioned around sixty times.
- It is no accident or coincidence that Jesus stops here on His way back to Galilee.

SIGNIFICANCE OF SHECHEM

- Notable moments in Shechem's history:
 - Gen. 12:6-8 – Abraham worships
 - Gen. 33:18-34:31 – Jacob settles here, but faces conflict with the locals
 - Shechem was a “city of refuge” and home to Levites (the Kohathites)
 - Josh. 24:32 – Joseph's remains buried
 - Josh. 8:30-35 & 24:1-27 – Twice, the Israelites are ordered to renew their commitment to God.

JOSHUA 8:30-35

FULFILLING DEUTERONOMY 27:1-8



SIGNIFICANCE OF SHECHEM

- Notable moments in Shechem's history:
 - Judg. 9 – Abimelech's failed rule
 - 1 Kings 12 & 2 Chron. 10 – Location of Rehoboam's "coronation"
 - 2 Kings 17:24ff – Not specifically Shechem, but foreign people are relocated to Samaria by the Assyrians. They are taught the Law, but combine worship of the Lord with their own religious customs.
 - Ezra 4:1-3 – First insult leading to resentment

LIVING WATER

- The background provides explanation for the “why here, why now, why her?” component of the story.
- Samaritans and Jews hated each other. They were incompatible people, but both needed the Messiah (and expected Him excitedly).
- “Living water” was generally understood to mean water that was flowing, rather than stagnant. Jesus gives new meaning to the common phrase!

THIRSTS AGAIN

- The woman is not a dullard, but she is caught up in the carnal. It's all she sees. We are not so different, at times (Jer. 2:13, 1 Cor. 2:11ff, 2 Cor. 4:18).
- Jesus pushes her to stretch her thinking. Consider Isaiah 41:17-18. This is not the last time He uses the language of inexhaustible blessings (John 7:37-39).
- He also spoke of food (John 6:27, 32-35, 63).

I HAVE NO HUSBAND

- The failures of Israel (and the many accompanying renewals) at Shechem prefigure the spiritual condition of Jesus' own time. Similarly, the woman's repeated marital failures are symbolic of everybody's need to commit to God, once and for all.
- Jesus reaches out to a woman who currently has no husband – but she has tried many. Whether you are Israelite, Samaritan, or Gentile, you are no different (Rom. 3:23).

WORSHIPERS

- The Samaritans built their own temple on Mt. Gerizim. The Jews had the temple in Jerusalem. The Greeks had a little of everything (Acts 17:22-23).
- The true worshipers transcend boundaries and borders, skin colors and languages. They worship in spirit and in truth. Shechem was the place of promise and peace – it became the center of idolatry and ignorance.
- Remember Jeremiah 31

MESSIAH HAS COME

- Like her fellow Samaritans, the woman had a sense of her need for a Savior, but had a hard time understanding it. She had an incomplete knowledge.
- Jesus confirms her suspicions, at which point she informs the other citizens of His message. The Samaritans believe in great numbers (John 4:39ff). This is, at least in part, one of the first steps in the fulfillment of the promise to Abraham that was made on the very hill looming behind Sychar.