

# IN THE SIXTH HOUR HE THIRSTS



(John 4)

The Samaritan story begins with rumors that YAHSHUA was baptizing more disciples than John. However, John denies that in verse two: Though YAHSHUA Himself did not baptize, but His disciples. We know for a fact that YAHSHUA had the authority to do so, being the Messiah, and the Prophet. But when He heard the rumor, He left Judea, and went back to Galilee. On the way to Galilee, it was necessary for Him to go through Samaria, about 30 miles distance. (v.4). There is a strong connotation of the word *necessary*, God's hidden plan for the salvation of the Samaritans. Samaritans were Jewish people who intermarried with foreigners and adopted their religion. They were considered half-breed and were despised by the Jews and the world. They were the result of the time when Assyria carried the ten tribe captive and replaced them with people from several other places.

They then intermarried with the Israelite's population, resulting in a mix of all sorts of idolatrous religions. They were a rejected race, but still had knowledge of the Law and some history background of their ancestors. The Samaritans were visible to the Jews and vice-versa, perhaps in their way of dressing, etc. YAHSHUA, aware of that enmity between the two people, did not consider to isolate them from the plan of salvation, but proceeded to go through Samaria on His way to Galilee to fulfill God's purpose.

He stops at a town called Sychar, which held historical meaning, for it was the tract of land Jacob gave to his son, Joseph and his well was there. Tired, as He was from His journey, He sat down by the well. It was about the sixth hour (about noon). When He sat by their well, He was expressing to the Samaritans that He was the Living Water, the Living Water that satisfies their spiritual thirst. That divine appointment had to happen in space of history with the purpose to unite the two people as one in and through YAHSHUA also their Messiah. The point of contact was YAHSHUA'S thirst. He acknowledged to the Samaritan woman, when she came to fetch water, that He was thirsty and asked her for some water. There stood a woman who was also thirsty, spiritually thirsty and ready to drink the water YAHSHUA offered her. YAHSHUA was also thirsty physically thirsty. She could not satisfy His thirst due to the wall of enmity that separated the two of them, when she said, How is it that You being a Jew, ask me, a Samaritan woman for a drink? – For the Jews have nothing to do with the Samaritans- (v. 7,9).

But YAHSHUA stood there offering her life apart from the wall that divided them. He was the Messiah that came to redeem them from their idolatry to satisfy their spiritual thirst. He did not respond to her remark, but contrary to that, He said, If you only had known and had recognized God's gift and Who this is that is saying to you, give Me a drink, you would have asked Him and He would have given you living water (v.10). From this point on the conversation changed its physical tune to the spiritual tune, when YAHSHUA revealed Who He was to the Samaritan woman.

The water the woman could give YAHSHUA was good to satisfy His physical thirst only for a while. The sixth hour when that event took place was of great significance in God's plan for that day in the lives of the Samaritans. Later, in YAHSHUA'S ministry, it would be at the sixth hour that Jerusalem would experience total darkness for three hours, as YAHSHUA would hang crucified from

nine in the morning until His death at three o'clock. For six hours He hung on the cross to liberate the Samaritans from their idolatrous ways to bring them to the true and only God, the One Who stood there asking the Samaritan woman for a drink of water. The Light of the world had reached the place where the people had been rejected; where darkness abounds. But God came for them, too. In an hour just right He touched the hearts of many of that community that was thirsty for the Truth. The Samaritans were also waiting for the Messiah. They had knowledge of that fact as the woman expressed to YAHSHUA: I know when Messiah is coming. He Who is called the Christ and when He arrives, He will tell us everything we need to know and make it clear to us. YAHSHUA then answered her: I Who now speak with you am He (vs. 25-26).

This dialog lasted until the disciples arrived with food for Him to eat. The woman, meanwhile, leaving her water jar, went to town to tell everyone about the person she had met. Excitedly, she invited them to meet this Man Who had told her everything that she ever did. She then asked the question: Can this be the Christ? (vs.28-29). Seemly, the Samaritans were thirsty for the Truth as much as she was and also leaving everything behind, they followed her. YAHSHUA knowing what she was doing, calls the attention of His disciples: do you not say, It is still four months until harvest time comes? Look! I tell you, raise your eyes and observe the fields and see how they are already white for harvesting. Already the reaper is getting his wages for he is gathering fruit unto life eternal, so that he who does the planting and he who does the reaping may rejoice together...I sent you to reap a crop for which you have not toiled. Other men have labored and you have stepped in to reap the results of their work (vs. 35-36). If they understood His words or not at that time, they probably did when they saw the numerous Samaritans from the woman's town believing Him. The simple words declared by the woman, "He told me everything that I ever did" were sufficient for those Samaritans to come and meet their Messiah. Compelled no longer only by her words, they saw and heard and believed the message YAHSHUA gave them, and to the woman they declared: Now we no longer believe just because of what you said; for we have heard Him ourselves, and we know that He truly is the Savior of the world, the Christ (vs. 39-42).

Let's contrast these rejected people to the Jews from whom YAHSHUA had come and for and of whom John said, He came to His own and they who were His own did not receive Him and did not welcome Him (John 1:11); the Jewish nation, after

being visited by their Messiah for thirty-three years, they betrayed Him and gave Him to the Gentiles to be crucified, a death not practiced in their midst. Contrast the Samaritan people, who when they heard and received YAHSHUA'S message believed, even without signs or miracles; to the Jewish authority who accused Him of performing miracles under the influence of demons. For sure Israel continued rejecting the Living water from long time ago, when the Prophet Isaiah wrote: The Lord spoke to me yet again and said, Because these people [Israel and Judah] have refused and despised the water of Shiloah [Shiloah, the only perennial fountain of Jerusalem and symbolic of God's protection and sustaining power] that go gently, and rejoice in and with Rezin and Remaliah's son (Isaiah 8:5,6). YAHSHUA pronounced judgment on this nation, for their unbelief: O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who continue to kill the prophets and to stone those who are sent to you! How often I have desired and yearned to gather your children together as a hen her young under her wings, but you would not! Behold, your house is forsaken. And I tell you, you will not see me again until the time comes when you shall say, blessed is He Who comes in the name of the Lord! And again: As He approached, He saw the city, and he wept over it, exclaiming, Would that you had known personally, even at least in this your day, the things that make for peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes, for a time is coming upon you when your enemies will throw up a bank about you and surround you and shut you in on every side and they will dash you down to the ground, you and your children within you; and they will not leave in you one stone upon another, because you did not come progressively to recognize and know and understand the time of your visitation (Luke 19: 41-44).

The Samaritans were cleansed through the word YAHSHUA spoke to them when they accepted and believed Him. The love of God spread its wings over the entire world. And those who received and are willing to receive His Love, are and will be blessed. God knew the Samaritans were thirsty; He sent His Son to satisfy their thirst and save those who believed His message. We do not know if the Samaritan woman had a chance to give Him water or not, but we do know that He gave her the Living Water and she together with the people from her town, their thirst was satisfied. **For God so greatly loved and dearly prized the world that He gave up His only begotten Son, so that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life (John 3:16).**

God so loved you too, personally. Receive His message today, believe in Him!