

Wells, A Place to Meet

(Genesis 24:10-27; 29:1-11;
Exodus 2:15-19; John 4)

After the death of Sarah, Abraham's wife, he concentrated on the future of his son Isaac. He sent away his trusted servant, Eliezer of Damascus, who ruled over all that he had, to look for a wife for his son. He gave him specifics where to go to find him a wife. Eliezer in agreement, as was their custom, put his hand under the thigh of Abraham and swore to him concerning the matter (Gen. 24:9). He departed with ten camels, some treasures and went to Mesopotamia, to the city of Nahor (Abraham's brother) (Gen. 24:10).

Eliezer made his camels to kneel down outside the city by a well of water at the time of the evening when women go out to draw water and there he prayed: "O Lord, God of my master Abraham, I pray You, cause me to meet with good success today and show kindness to my master Abraham. See, I stand here by the well of water, and the daughters of the men of the city are coming to draw water. And let it so be that the girls to whom I say, I pray you, let down your jar that I may drink, and she replies, Drink, and I will give your camels drink also – let her be the one whom You have selected and appointed and indicated for Your servant Isaac; and by it I shall know that You have shown kindness and faithfulness to my master" (Gen. 24:11-13). One thing to note here is that Eliezer directed his prayer to Abraham's God for the sake of His promise given to Abraham. The success Eliezer was after had nothing to do with him. He was serving only as a middle man; he was very much out of the picture in God's fulfilling His promise to Abraham. In other words, with or without Eliezer, God was going to do what He had promised. Eliezer needed a well, as it was the custom for a sojourner to wait at a well for a drink. But he was waiting for the right woman to appear through whom God would answer his prayer.

Rebekah came into the picture and did according to Eliezer's prayer. Not only did she serve water to his men, but she volunteered to water the animals also. Rebekah was the perfect fit for all the requirements Abraham set before Eliezer: She was also Abraham's brother descendant and she was willing to go along with Eliezer when she was asked if she were willing to go with him. (Gen. 24:4,8, 58).

So we see that Rebekah fulfilled all three requirements and confirmed that she was to be the bride of Isaac. No doubt that the meeting at that particular well brought success to Eliezer in finding a wife for his master's son, because he started his journey depending on God's guidance to the right place at the right time. His visit to the well was perfectly timed in God's calendar and He blessed Isaac through Eliezer's faithfulness.

Twenty years later God blessed Isaac and Rebekah with twin boys after Isaac prayed much to the Lord for a child. Esau was the first born; he was red all over like a hairy garment. His name means hairy. Jacob came out grasping Esau's heels. His name means supplanter. Esau however, under the pressure of hunger, sold his birthright to his brother, who would not let him have some of his food, unless he sold his birthright to him. So for a bowl of lentil soup he lost his birthright. Jacob, in another occasion, by pretending to be Esau, stole his birthright and received Esau's birthright's blessings. At the anger of his brother he was encouraged by his parents to flee to Haran, where his mother's brother lived. Isaac blessed him and sent him away.



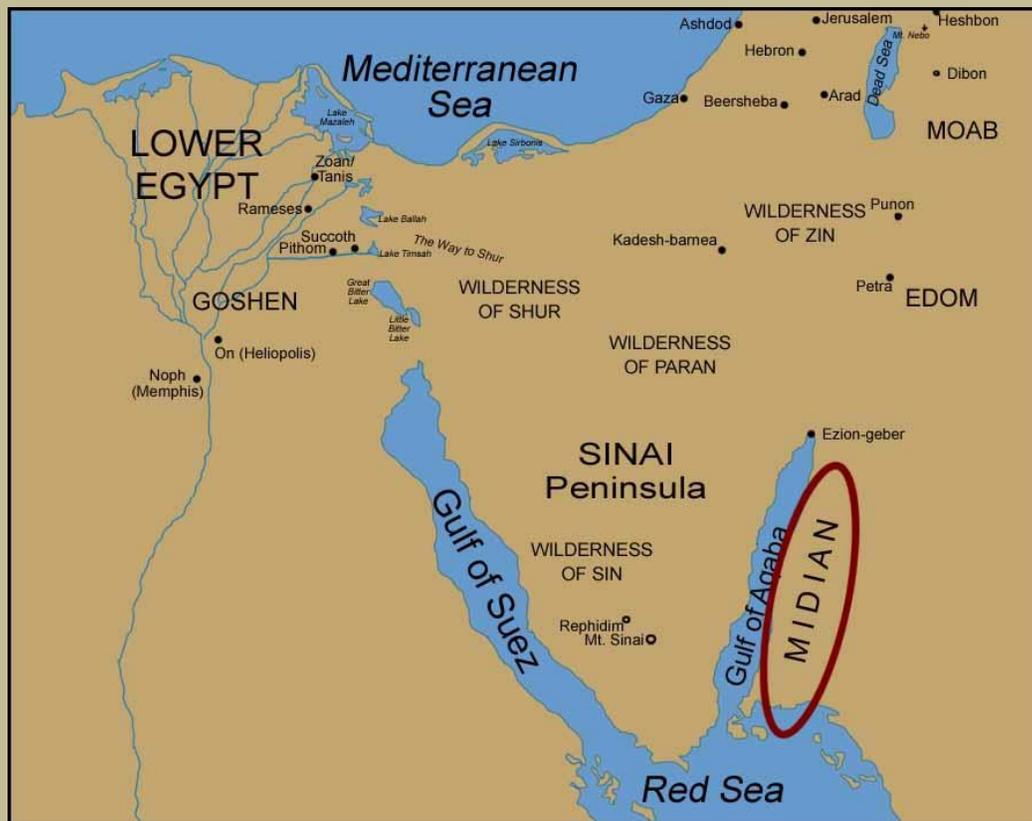
Haran was a city in Mesopotamia, today part of Syria. Jacob's trip from Beersheba to Haran was approximately 450 miles. In that long journey Jacob had a lot of time to ponder over his deceiving actions in relationship to his brother's

birthright, starting with the trade of his lentil soup, when his brother was very hungry. The Bible registers that even when in the womb of their mother they struggled together. Discomforted, Rebekah went to inquire of the Lord and He answered her saying, “Two nations are in your womb, and the separation of two peoples has begun in your body; the one people shall be stronger than the other, and the elder shall serve the younger” (Gen. 25:22-23).

That was a long and lonely road for Jacob to travel. But he too was going to find a well that would change the course of his life. On his journey, the Lord God appeared to him several times assuring him of His blessings, for it was through him that God was going to fulfill the promise to Abraham. “As he looked, he saw a well in the field and behold, there were three flocks of sheep lying by it, for out of that well the flock were watered” (Gen. 29:2). The refreshing time came to him when he saw Rachel, daughter of Laban, his mother’s brother, and the sheep of Laban his uncle. . . He kissed Rachel and he wept aloud; he told Rachel he was her father’s relative, Rebekah’s son. She ran and told her father. Laban ran to meet Jacob, and embraced and kissed him and brought him to his house (Gen. 29:10,11-13). There was quite a celebration at that well! The future sparked in their lives and God was pleased. Jacob spent twenty years living with his uncle Laban in Syria. All his sons were born in Syria, with the exception of Benjamin and daughter, Dinah. From his sons the nation of Israel was born.

Moses, an adopted son of Pharaoh’s daughter, found himself running away for his life, after having killed an Egyptian for beating a Hebrew, one of his brothers. He fled from Pharaoh’s hand and found refuge in the land of Midian, where he sat down by a well (Exodus 2:15). The Midianites descended from Midian, one of Abraham’s sons through his wife Keturah (Gen. 25: 1-2). The distance between Egypt and Midian was about 200 miles. The Midianites dwelt in the Sinai Peninsula (Exodus 3:1). As Moses sat at the well waiting for someone to come, the seven daughters of Midian priest came to draw water for their father’s flock. Meanwhile the shepherds drove them away, but Moses noticing it, stood up to help them to water their flock (Exodus 2:15-17). He was invited to eat bread with the family as a reward and was given the oldest daughter for a wife. He remained in Midian forty years before the Lord called him out. The well in Midian, served as a connection place for Moses. He had been a fugitive and disconnected with his world, but through the well he became connected with a family, who blessed him with a family of his own. God had never forgotten Moses; instead He was

preparing him for a task he never expected. Those forty years of his life in that desert were years of lessons how to be a leader in the school of life.



The most fascinating encounter at a well was when YAHSHUA met the Samaritan woman. This Samaritan woman was symbolic of the bride of Christ made up of Jews and Gentiles. This is of amazing significance to Christendom's history. The occasion for YAHSHUA to go through Samaria was when He learned that the Pharisees had been told that He was winning and baptizing more disciples than John. He then left Judea and returned to Galilee, being necessary for Him to pass through Samaria. And in doing so He arrived at a Samaritan town called Sychar, near the tract of land that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there. So YAHSHUA, tired as He was from His journey, sat down by the well. It was then about the sixth hour (about noon) (John 4:1-6).



The distance from Judea to Galilee is about 70 miles. This trip took YAHSHUA two and a half days. We have an idea how tired He was when we read “So YAHSHUA, tired as He was from His journey, sat down by the well”. The Time He arrived at the well was also of prophetic significance. The sixth hour was the beginning of the hour when darkness enveloped the whole land and earth for three hours at His death on the cross. Future redemption for the whole world was pictured here on the time of His arrival at the well to bring salvation to a lost people. At the time when YAHSHUA was resting by the well, a Samaritan came to draw water.

YAHSHUA started the dialog when He asked her for a drink. It had been ordained by God that YAHSHUA would be alone with the woman to deliver the message of salvation. The woman was puzzled that He, a Jew, was talking to her. But YAHSHUA had something more important to tell her than to follow the boundaries that separated Jews from Samaritans. The hour had come when He had to ignore traditions and rules. He, being God was not limited to the rules of men to deny a thirsty woman the very truth she was thirsting for. It was the time when He was to tear down the wall of religious prejudice and build the wall of unity of love as the Savior of the world, where Jews and Gentiles would be one in Him and He would be the head of all who would believe in Him.

Where did the Samaritans have their beginning as a people? They were half-Jews (II Kings 17:7-41). They began in 723-538 BC. From the time of the divided kingdom to the time of Judah return from Babylon in 538 BC. They were a pagan sect that grew out of the Tribe of Manasseh and Ephraim after the deportation in 723 BC. They were people who had intermarried with pagans and had continued to the time of the woman at the well of John 4. They were hated by the Jews, but YAHSHUA united them, as He had come to save the lost, Jews or Gentiles to form a bride for Himself out of that unity. YAHSHUA was the light for revelation of truth to the Gentiles. In Him there is no distinction between Jew and Greek (Gentile). The same Lord is Lord over all and He generously bestows His riches upon all who call upon Him (Rom. 10:12).

It was for the sake of the Samaritan woman and her people that YAHSHUA had to pass through Samaria. He was the well of living water, from Whom the woman and her people satisfied their spiritual thirst those two days YAHSHUA stayed with them at their request. These two days comprised the time of the Gentiles in the two thousand years given to them to hear the Gospel. So it was that at the well YAHSHUA fetched His bride at the beginning of His ministry. Many have joined in to be His bride through the written and spoken word of God, the source of our living water; the eternal well that never runs dry!