

Quenching your thirst with Living Water



Shalom All

Today is Day 29 of Month 4 on the Creator's Calendar, otherwise known as July 6, 2024 on the Roman calendar.

This past week marked "Independence Day" in the United States of America. While many Americans celebrated their supposed freedoms, few seemed to recognize or acknowledge the rapid decline of the Nation and Western culture.

Remember that we are repeating the decline of the Roman Empire because we are simply an extension of Rome. In fact, we keep time like Rome and the month of July is named after the Roman Emperor Julius Caesar.

I find it ironic that Americans celebrate their independence in a month named after the assassinated Roman leader who was betrayed by his closest friend, Senator Decimus Junius Brutus Albinus, along with a group of other Senators.

The irony is particularly poignant as we see current President Joe Biden being “stabbed in the back” by many in his political party after his dreadful performance at the recent Presidential Debate.

The current political climate in America is chaotic, to say the least. Of course, that is symptomatic of the general state of the Union. In fact, the first Presidential Debate pretty much summed it all up, with the primary issues involving the mental capacity of one candidate and the criminal status of the other.

The debate eventually devolved into a dispute concerning each candidate’s golf handicap. It is truly a sad state of affairs, but thankfully, our hope does not rest in any elected official.

Nevertheless, it can be quite a distraction making it difficult to hear the whisper of YHWH amidst all of the clamor.

Well, last week we talked about Moses on the mountain receiving the “directions” for the Children of Yisrael. Mount Sinai was not their final destination, and Moses was solidifying the terms of the covenant relationship that YHWH was inscribing in stone.

Interestingly, Moses was not alone on the mountain. His servant Yahushua was with him. Of course, it is no coincidence that the

servant of Moses would share the same name as the Messiah of Yisrael. Yahushua (Joshua) would later rule over all of Yisrael and his life provided a pattern for Yahushua the Messiah.

As we discussed, Moses and Yahushua were up on the mountain worshipping Elohim while the children of Yisrael were down below being tested. They failed the test and ended up worshipping an Egyptian god while making quite a noise.

“¹⁷ And when Yahushua heard the noise of the people as they shouted, he said to Moses, There is a noise of war in the camp. ¹⁸ But he said: ‘It is not the noise of the shout of victory, nor the noise of the cry of defeat, but the sound of singing I hear.’” Exodus 32:17-18

If you really want to worship YHWH Elohim, sometimes you need to climb the mountain, get away from all the noise, and be set apart. That was where Elijah was able to hear the whisper. (1 Kings 19:12)

Moses and Yahushua on the mountain hearkens back to the first time that we read about someone “going to worship” in the Torah. That event was a test as well, and it involved Abraham and Isaac going up another mountain in the Land of Moriah.

Abraham was told to offer his promised son, and that is what Abraham described as worship.

Here is the text again.

“¹ After these things Elohim tested X⚡-Abraham and said to him, ‘Abraham!’ And he said, ‘Here I am.’ ² He said, ‘Take your X⚡-son, your X⚡-only son X⚡-Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you.’ ³ So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his X⚡-donkey, and took X⚡-two of his young men with him, YX⚡ and X⚡ Isaac

his son. And he cut the wood for the burnt offering and arose and went to the place of which Elohim had told him. ⁴ On the third day Abraham lifted up his X-eyes and saw X-the place from afar. ⁵ Then Abraham said to his young men, 'Stay here with the donkey; I and the boy will go over there and worship (נשתחוה) and come again to you.' ⁶ And Abraham took X-wood of the burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son. And he took in his hand the fire and the knife. So they went both of them together. ⁷ And Isaac said to his father Abraham, 'My father!' And he said, 'Here I am, my son.' He said, 'Behold, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?' ⁸ Abraham said, 'Elohim will provide for himself the lamb for a burnt offering, my son.' So they went both of them together. ⁹ When they came to the place of which Elohim had told him, Abraham built X-the altar there and laid X-the wood in order and bound X-Isaac his son and laid him on X the altar, on top of the wood. ¹⁰ Then Abraham reached out X-his hand and took X-the knife to slaughter his X-son. ¹¹ But the Messenger of YHWH called to him from heaven and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" And he said, 'Here I am.' ¹² He said, 'Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him, for now I know that you fear Elohim, seeing you have not withheld your X-son, your X-only son, from me.' ¹³ And Abraham lifted up his X-eyes and looked, and behold, behind him was a ram, caught in a thicket by his horns. And Abraham went and took the X-ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son. ¹⁴ So Abraham called the name of that place: 'YHWH will provide'; as it is said to this day, 'On the mount of YHWH it shall be provided.' ¹⁵ And the Messenger of YHWH called to Abraham a second time from heaven ¹⁶ and said, 'By Myself I have sworn, declares YHWH, because you have done this X-thing and have not withheld your X-son, your X-only son, ¹⁷ I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply your seed as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your seed shall possess X the gate of his enemies, ¹⁸ and in your seed shall all the Nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice. ¹⁹ So Abraham returned to his young men, and they arose and went together to Beersheba. And Abraham lived at Beersheba." Genesis 22:1-19

This took place on a mountain in the Land of Moriah. They didn't bring any musical instruments - only wood, fire, and a knife. There were no hymnals, and there was no worship team to lead them into the presence of God. They didn't sing any songs that we know of, and they didn't make any idols.

There was nothing to look at except for the X⚡-ram caught in the thicket, which was a picture of Yahushua with a crown of thorns on His head.

Of course, the promised son Isaac carrying the wood was a picture of the Promised Son Yahushua carrying the wood of His execution stake.

Indeed, the entire crucifixion of Yahushua was a fulfillment of this prophetic worship event. It was the ultimate act of worship on His part as He gave up His strength and His kabod in obedience to His Father. (Psalm 29:1)

We already mentioned the existence of the aleph tau (X⚡) that points to the powerful Messianic significance of this event.

Abraham passed the test because he obeyed the voice of YHWH. Because of his obedience, YHWH saved his son and all those from the Nations through his promised Seed. His obedience resulted in blessings for him, his seed and the Nations. This is a foundational principle in the Covenant walk that the Children of Yisrael later failed to grasp in their journey out of Egypt and beyond.

Abraham and Isaac provided an incredible example of worship through their complete submission and obedience.

They were both giving up their kabod and strength. They were both willing to give up the thing that mattered the most. Abraham was

willing to give back the promised son and Isaac was willing to give back his life and the promise that was to flow through him and his seed.

That is the essence of worship - giving everything. Their actions were a pattern for the ultimate act of worship provided through the Father and the Son.

It is interesting that the event ends with a reference to Abraham going to live near a well. The word for well is “be’er” (בְּאֵר), and the place called “Beer sheba” literally means “well of the oath.”

The emphasis on that well is significant because the story of its creation immediately preceded the event involving Isaac. (See Genesis 21) None of this is a coincidence, and the text of the Torah points our attention to a well and the promised son.

In ancient times, water was directly related to life. It was not piped to people’s homes. You needed to find a source and then draw from that source in order to live.

Sadly, when we consider the children of Yisrael who left Egypt, they just wanted to party. They weren’t interested in giving up anything. They wanted a god that would satisfy their needs on their schedule.

While Abraham was tested and passed, the Children of Yisrael were repeatedly tested. They ended up failing those tests and testing YHWH through their failures. (Numbers 14:22)

They failed the seventh test involving the golden calf, just as they had failed the tests at Meribah and Massah.

How about you? Are you passing the test of worship, or are you actually testing YHWH through your behavior?

When we consider the issue of worship, David provided some interesting insight.

Just as Yahushua (Joshua) had been a servant before he ruled over Yisrael, so too David was a shepherd before he became king. He understood the lessons of the shepherd and the need for the sheep to follow the shepherd and listen for his voice. The farther you stray, the harder it is to hear the whisper.

Read what David stated about worship.

“⁶ Oh come, let us worship (שִׁתְּחוּהוּ) and bow down (כִּרְעוּהוּ); let us kneel before YHWH, our Maker! ⁷ For He is our Elohim, and we are the people of His pasture, and the sheep of His Hand. Today, if you hear His voice, ⁸ do not harden your hearts, as at Meribah, as on the day at Massah in the wilderness, ⁹ when your fathers put Me to the test and put Me to the proof, though they had seen My work. ¹⁰ For forty years I loathed that generation and said, ‘They are a people who go astray in their heart, and they have not known My ways.’ ¹¹ Therefore I swore in My wrath, ‘They shall not enter My rest.’” Psalm 95:6-11

While this Psalm does not specifically identify David as the author, Hebrews 4:7 ascribes Psalm 95 to David. It seems correct, and David understood that worship involved more than simply physically bowing. The Hebrew word “karah” (כִּרְעוּהוּ) means “to bow down, kneel, very low.”

Worship begins in the heart and results in a physical act of bowing down. I think it was Chuck Missler who used to say, “Let’s bow our hearts in prayer,” and that is probably a good verbal description of how we approach worship.

Did you notice how the Psalm specifically mentions the events at Meribah and Massah? It was the sixth test when the Children of Yisrael camped at Rephidim, right before the golden calf, and it involved water.

They were thirsty and they wanted something to drink. Instead of waiting for the provision from YHWH, they started to argue with Moses.

“¹ All the congregation of the people of Yisrael moved on from the wilderness of Sin by stages, according to the direction of YHWH, and camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. ² Therefore the people quarreled with Moses and said, ‘Give us water to drink.’ And Moses said to them, ‘Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test YHWH?’ ³ But the people thirsted there for water, and the people grumbled against Moses and said, ‘Why did you bring us up out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and our livestock with thirst?’ ⁴ So Moses cried to YHWH, ‘What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me.’ ⁵ And YHWH said to Moses, ‘Pass on before the people, taking with you some of the elders of Yisrael, and take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. ⁶ Behold, I will stand before you there on the rock at Horeb, and you shall strike the rock, and water shall come out of it, and the people will drink.’ And Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Yisrael. ⁷ And he called the name of the place Massah and Meribah, because of the quarreling of the people of Yisrael, and because they tested YHWH by saying, ‘Is YHWH among us or not?’” Exodus 17:1-7

Clearly, YHWH knew that they needed water to drink. He already showed them miracles and even accommodated their taste buds at Marah because they didn’t like the bitterness of the water.

YHWH was testing them like He tested Abraham.

They were impatient, and they tested YHWH by doubting Him and His ability to provide for them. They were thirsty, and they wanted immediate satisfaction. They even accused Him of bringing them out of Egypt to kill them all. Imagine that!

They were a people who did not listen to His voice and they went astray in their hearts. As a result, they did not know His ways. That is why they were so quick to worship an Egyptian cow god while Moses was on the Mountain.

YHWH tests His people, just like He tested Adam and Chawah in the beginning.

We have already examined the message given through the first woman – Chawah (חַוָּה). The first woman's name was intimately connected with the Hebrew word for “worship” (שִׁתְחֹוּה). Did you see her name in the Psalm above?

The message from the very beginning was that Elohim was building a house for the Son. That is embedded within the first word, “B’resheet.” Another message from the beginning is that the Bride must understand worship.

Yahushua was that Son that we saw at the beginning. He was the Word (ⲪⲚ) that came in the flesh.

“¹² But those that received Him, to them He gave authority to become the sons of Elohim, even to that believe on His Name, He gave the right to become sons of Elohim, ¹³ those who had not been born of blood, nor of the desire of the flesh, nor of the desire of man, but of Elohim.” John 1:12-13 From the Aramaic Bible in Plain English

Did you catch that? He came to give the right to become sons of Elohim, and it was not a matter of your own flesh or blood. The

invitation is for anyone. The only requirement is that we must be born from Elohim, and that birth begins inside of us – in our hearts.

Yahushua demonstrated from His first miracle at Cana (Qana) that He came to “acquire” (qana) a bride.

He spent His time with the twelve and the seventy, revealing what was expected from the Bride who would be called from the lost sheep of the House of Yisrael scattered amongst the Nations.

That is why we read about many powerful instances when Yahushua interacted with women. In fact, He specifically revealed that He was the Messiah for the first time to a foreign woman at a well.

This revelation occurred at one of my favorite places to visit in the Land near Shechem. Specifically, it was at Jacob’s well, located in the field purchased by Jacob, which would have passed to Joseph. (see Genesis 33:18-20)

That, in and of itself, had great significance. You see, most of the Yahudim traveling between Jerusalem and the Galilee avoided Samaria. The Yahudim and the Samaritans were bitter enemies.

Of course, this situation vividly demonstrates the failure of the House of Yisrael and the House of Yahudah.

The House of Yisrael had been expelled from the Land because they chose to worship two golden calves. People from the Nations were then brought in by the Assyrians to replace them.

Since Yisrael failed to shine as a light to the Nations, the Nations were literally brought into the Covenant Land. They were known as the Samaritans, and these people from the Nations became the neighbors

of the remnant of the House of Yahudah that returned after their Babylonian exile.

And what was the response of the Yahudim? Did they seize upon the opportunity to teach the Nations the ways of YHWH?

Sadly, no. Instead, they became bitter enemies. They once again failed to shine as a light to the Nations and fulfill Abraham's promise to be a blessing to them.

Well, Yahushua made an intentional point to travel through Samaria, and He placed a special focus on the Samaritans. So much so that He was called a Samaritan by the Pharisees. (John 8:48)

After Passover, Yahushua stopped there on His way north to the Galilee. His direction is actually significant as we shall see.

"³ He left Yudea and departed again for Galilee. ⁴ And He had to pass through Samaria. ⁵ So He came to a town of Samaria called Sychar (Shechem), near the field that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. ⁶ Jacob's well was there; so Yahushua, wearied as He was from his journey, was sitting beside the well. It was about the sixth hour. ⁷ A woman from Samaria came to draw water. Yahushua said to her, 'Give me a drink. ⁸ (For his disciples had gone away into the city to buy food.) ⁹ The Samaritan woman said to him, 'How is it that you, a Yahudi ask for a drink from me, a woman of Samaria?' (For Yahudim have no dealings with Samaritans.) ¹⁰ Yahushua answered her, 'If you knew the gift of Elohim and Who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water.' ¹¹ The woman said to him, 'Sir, you have nothing to draw water with, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? ¹² Are you greater than our father Jacob? He gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did his sons and his livestock.' ¹³ Yahushua said to her, 'Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, ¹⁴ but whoever drinks of the

water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.’¹⁵ The woman said to him, ‘Sir, give me this water, so that I will not be thirsty or have to come here to draw water.’” John 4:3-15

This is an incredible encounter. First of all, the text said that “He had to pass through Samaria.” Logistically, that is not the case. In fact, the traditional Pilgrimage route followed the Jordan River Valley.

So it appears that this encounter was a necessary part of Yahushua’s teaching.

It occurred at a deep well, a source of cold refreshing water. Yahushua and the woman were both thirsty, and Yahushua brought up the issue of living water.

Remember the test that David referred to in Psalm 95? At Massah and Meribah the children of Yisrael were physically thirsty and that physical thirst revealed their hardened hearts.

They failed to understand that the test was spiritual in nature, and that was what Yahushua was telling the woman. The water from that well would only temporarily quench a person’s thirst.

Yahushua was offering the woman living water, while He was asking her for physical water. That was an interesting contrast. He was asking for a literal drink because He was tired and thirsty. At the same time, He was offering her eternal life.

Her response was immediate. She wanted some.

The woman was following a dead religious tradition. Her being there was the reason why the lost sheep of the house of Yisrael were lost. There was deep hatred between the Yahudim and the Samaritans

because the Samaritans were a constant reminder that the lost sheep of the house of Yisrael were still lost and the prophecies concerning the restoration of Yisrael had not been fulfilled.

I can assure you that the Pharisees would never have had that conversation with any Samaritan, let alone a woman. They did not know how to love their neighbors, and they didn't even know who their neighbors were. (Luke 10) They considered Samaritans to be "unclean" - like lepers.

That is why James and John were ready to call down fire on Samaritans at one point.

"⁵² And He sent messengers ahead of Him, who went and entered a village of the Samaritans, to make preparations for Him. ⁵³ But the people did not receive Him, because His face was set toward Jerusalem. ⁵⁴ And when His disciples James and John saw it, they said, 'Master, do you want us to tell fire to come down from heaven and consume them?' ⁵⁵ But He turned and rebuked them. ⁵⁶ And they went on to another village." Luke 9:52-56

James and John were essentially asking Yahushua if they could "nuke them."

Hey, why not just wipe them out? They were, after all, just a bunch of foreigners. They definitely weren't the chosen people. So just kill them and get rid of the problem once and for all. That way they could move more settlers into the territory. It sounds very familiar to what we are witnessing today.

Well, that was not what Yahushua had in mind at all. Yahushua responded by rebuking them.

I can only imagine the rebuke.

Are you kidding Me? Haven't you been watching Me? Haven't you learned anything? You want to kill these people because they are foreigners and offended you. They are your neighbors. You are supposed to love them as yourself. (Leviticus 19:18)

Don't you remember what I taught you?

"⁴³ You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' ⁴⁴ But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, ⁴⁵ so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. ⁴⁶ For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? ⁴⁷ And if you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? ⁴⁸ You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect." Matthew 5:43-48

This is another example of how Yahushua was teaching contrary to the people who wrote the Dead Sea Scrolls. The Torah never told the Yisraelites to hate their enemy, but the authors of The Community Rule, designated as Scroll 1QS, did.

The Dead Sea Sect interpreted Leviticus 19 to apply strictly to "sons of light," and they were instructed to hate the sons of darkness. This is why I repeatedly warn people not to fall into the doctrines and solar calendars followed by these sects. Yahushua refuted their teachings on several occasions.

Indeed, it wasn't the Samaritans who were scheduled to be removed from the Land. There is still a remnant of the Samaritans on Mount Gerizim to this very day. It was actually the Yahudim and the Dead Sea communities who were scheduled for judgment and removal, because their hearts were hard. They allowed room for hate.

Christian Zionists would do well to take note of Yahushua's rebuke. They shouldn't be arming the Jewish people to annihilate the Samaritans. Oops. I meant the Palestinians. Instead, they should be loving them all by telling them about Yahushua.

Of course, most Christian Zionists don't even mention the Name of Yahushua, lest they offend the Jewish People. Can you believe that? Their theology and understanding of the Messiah are completely backward.

As we continue to examine the exchange between Yahushua and the Samaritan woman, it is interesting to note that women generally gather water together in the early morning hours when it is not so hot. They needed water to make bread in the morning and for the household to function throughout the day. Instead of gathering water with the other women, she was alone in the afternoon.

Not only was she a Samaritan, but she was a Samaritan woman. As it turns out, she was also an outcast among the Samaritan women. So she was an outcast among outcasts. This is what makes this private exchange between her and Yahushua so incredible. Even she was shocked that He would talk to her.

Yahushua didn't just speak to her, He offered the gift of eternal life to her.

Now consider the rest of the encounter.

"¹⁶ Yahushua said to her, 'Go, call your husband, and come here.'¹⁷ The woman answered him, 'I have no husband.' Yahushua said to her, 'You are right in saying, I have no husband;¹⁸ for you have had five husbands, and the one you now have is not your husband. What you have said is true.'¹⁹ The woman said to him, 'Sir, I perceive that you are a prophet.

²⁰ Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, but you say that in Jerusalem is the place where people ought to worship.’²¹ Yahushua said to her, ‘Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father.²² You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Yahudim.²³ But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship Him.²⁴ Elohim is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.²⁵ The woman said to him, ‘I know that Messiah is coming. When He comes, He will tell us all things.²⁶ Yahushua said to her, ‘I who speak to you am He.’²⁷ Just then His disciples came back. They marveled that He was talking with a woman, but no one said, ‘What do you seek?’ or, ‘Why are you talking with her?’²⁸ So the woman left her water jar and went away into town and said to the people,²⁹ ‘Come, see a man who told me all that I ever did. Can this be the Messiah?’³⁰ They went out of the town and were coming to Him.” John 4:15-30

He specifically directed her attention to her marital status and history, which she admitted. Was she an adulterous woman, or was she a victim of abusive marriage laws? There are arguments for both sides.

Again, the fact that she was retrieving water alone in the afternoon would tend to imply that she was ostracized by the other women in the community, who would all gather water in the morning. Further, this encounter appears to be a picture of the Messiah calling His foreign and adulterous Bride from the Nations.

But the bottom line is that she was lonely and thirsty.

She asked for the living water and her request was met with a response - “go call your husband and come here.”

What did her husband have to do with the living water?

It takes me back to another intimate conversation with a woman in the Garden. I always wondered where Adam was when Chawah encountered the nachash. The Husband is the protector of the family, and Adam was specifically commanded to “work and to watch” the Garden. (Genesis 2:15)

The nachash conversed with the worshipper Chawah and deceived her with a lie. That resulted in the disease of sin entering mankind, which caused separation and death.

Yahushua was doing the exact opposite with the woman at the well. He was actually offering an antidote to the woman that would reverse the effect of the sin in the Garden. He was offering truth and providing the key to worship that would lead to eternal life.

The encounter also reminded me of Hosea wooing the unfaithful Gomer, who represented the House of Yisrael. In fact, do you remember the pattern of the Patriarch named Yahushua (Joshua)? He was first named Hosea, before Moses changed His name to Yahushua. (Numbers 13:16)

These parallels are all important and purposeful. That was why Yahushua made this a mandatory stop, even though He was weary and thirsty. He later told His disciples that His food was to do the will of the Father and finish His work. He reminded them that there was a harvest there that could not be ignored or put off. (See John 4:31-38)

The Samaritan woman had some religious knowledge, but she didn't know the truth. Once she perceived that Yahushua was a prophet, she wanted to know who was right, the Samaritans or the Yahudim. She wanted to know where to worship.

She referred to their mutual father Jacob, but then deviated with her religious fathers and their traditions.

She discerned He was a prophet because He understood the very circumstances that had left her dry and thirsty. Her religion didn't offer any solutions. It didn't quench her thirst.

It involved a Temple on a Mountain where Yahushua (Joshua) once renewed the marriage Covenant with the generation that was birthed from the wilderness. That was the physical context of this entire event. They were conversing under the shadow of that mountain.

The Temple and the religious system that had developed in Jerusalem was no different. The Temple in Jerusalem hearkened back to Melchizedek and the offering of the promised son by Abraham.

It was an important place in the Covenant journey, but it had become an empty, dry, and corrupted institution that was about to be judged and destroyed. It would be the place where the Yahudim religious leaders actually conspired to kill the Messiah.

So while both mountains were significant, Yahushua knew they were both going to be destroyed.

There are actually still remains of the Samaritan Temple on Mount Gerizim that you can go and visit. It's a very interesting place.

Jerusalem is different. People dispute where the Temple was located because it was destroyed by Titus and then completely erased by Emperor Hadrian. While the Jewish people pray toward a Herodian wall, there are no remains of a Temple beyond that Wall, only the Dome of the Rock.

So Yahushua was emphasizing that ultimately it was not going to be important **where** you worship, but rather **how** you worship.

Again, you have to understand how revolutionary this encounter was between Yahushua and the Samaritan woman. He actually told her that He was the Messiah. While everyone else was asking and wondering, Yahushua volunteered the information to her.

The woman knew that a Messiah was coming, and He would tell them all things. She believed that Yahushua was the Messiah because He understood her circumstances.

But the Samaritans didn't know the Father. That was a problem and Yahushua was very blunt in telling her that her traditions were flawed. He didn't tiptoe around the sensitive subject of religion so He could get a free drink of water from her. He wasn't concerned about offending her; He was simply intent on telling her the truth.

On other occasions, he made a clear correlation between knowing both the Father and the Son. You cannot have one without the other.

Yahushua said *"Whoever has seen Me has seen the Father."* John 14:9

He also said: *"Whoever does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him."* John 5:23

"³⁵ The Father loves the Son and has given all things into His hand. ³⁶ Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of Elohim remains on him." John 3: 35-36

"The one who hears you hears Me, and the one who rejects you rejects Me, and the one who rejects Me rejects Him who sent Me." Luke 10:16

Our treatment of the Son is directly connected to our treatment of the Father. These words apply just as easily to the Yahudim and the Samaritans in Yahushua's time. And they apply to everyone today, including the Jewish People. No one gets a free pass.

I don't know how Christian Zionists grapple with the words of Yahushua. They should not be sending money and bombs to the modern State of Israel to kill Samaritans. Oops, I did it again.

Instead, true followers of Yahushua should call themselves Tzyonists. They should be pointing them to the living waters that flow from the Messiah and the New Jerusalem - Mount Tzyon. Who cares if Jewish people get offended by Yahushua? That's not our concern.

You can show me all the pictures you want of IDF soldiers wearing tefillin and praying from a siddur. That doesn't justify anything if they continue to reject and dishonor the Son. But again, I will continue to repeat the fact that there are many Christians who simply do not believe Yahushua. They say they do, but their actions betray them. They are not worshipping in spirit and in truth.

The bottom line is that there are a lot of people scattered throughout the Nations who think they are worshipping the Father in the heavens because they cling to the traditions of their earthly fathers.

They need to know the Father and worship him in spirit and truth. That is what Yahushua came to reveal. He came to open their eyes so they could see the lies inherited from their fathers and repent. The Prophet Jeremiah prophesied that it would happen.

"¹⁹ O YHWH, my strength and my stronghold, my refuge in the day of trouble, to you shall the Nations come from the ends of the earth and say: 'Our fathers have inherited nothing but lies, things in which there is no profit. ²⁰ Can man make for himself gods? Such are not gods!' ²¹

Therefore, behold, I will make them know, this once I will make them know My power and My might, and they shall know that My Name is YHWH.” Jeremiah 16:19-21

This sounds a lot like my journey out of Christianity. I prayed and read my Bible from childhood, but I inherited lies along the way. I didn't even know the name of the Father I was praying to and the Son who I asked into my heart.

When He revealed Himself to me, I had a choice to make. I could harden my heart and stiffen my neck by clinging to the familiar traditions I had inherited, or I could throw them all away.

Only when we discard the false traditions of religions can we truly worship the Father in spirit and in truth.

It is interesting to note that the Samaritan woman was so excited that she left her vessel behind. She got the water she needed and desired. Her thirst had been quenched and she then became a witness.

I grew up in the Christian Church with the understanding that we needed to “witness for Jesus.” It is interesting that her witness was not “Jesus loves you.”

Her testimony was very personal – “He was a man Who told her all that she ever did.” Of course, that was her understanding of what the Messiah would come to do.

Did she fully understand His message? Probably not at that point, but she literally “ran with it.”

Ultimately it was about worship. Not on Mount Gerizim or Mount Moriah, but rather Mount Tzyon.

The story of the Samaritan woman resulted in many Samaritans believing in Yahushua.

Now I wonder if they still went to the Samaritan Temple on Mount Gerizim after that? Or did they try to go to Jerusalem and fit in with the Yahudim? Did they understand that it was no longer about worshipping on a particular mountain at a desolate Temple?

Remember the incident when James and John wanted to call down fire on the Samaritans? They wanted to be like Elijah and treat the Samaritans like the priests of Baal. I doubt the Samaritans would have been welcome in Jerusalem.

Now I mentioned earlier that Yahushua's direction was significant. When He met the Samaritan woman, He was headed north toward the Galilee. His back was to Jerusalem. When Yahushua set His face toward Jerusalem, the Samaritan response was different. (See Luke 9:52-53)

It wasn't just the Yahudim who harbored hate within their hearts. As long as Yahushua had his back to Jerusalem, the Samaritans were willing to acknowledge Him and welcome Him, because it did not contradict their disdain for Jerusalem.

On the contrary, some Samaritans rejected Yahushua when He set His face towards Jerusalem and was intent upon going there to observe the Appointed Time of Passover. He did not reinforce their religious traditions that favored Mount Gerizim over Jerusalem.

This is very much like what many Christians do. They are more than happy to worship a christ named Jesus, who they believe abolished the Torah. Jesus supports their lawless lifestyle, so they have no problem believing in him.

When you introduce them to Yahushua the Messiah, the Torah in the flesh, most Christians reject Him. They have hardened their hearts and will not listen to His voice. They want to follow the lies that they inherited from their fathers.

They do not want to obey. Therefore, they do not welcome Yahushua, the Messiah, into their communities, congregations, or churches. They much prefer the christ that they call Jesus.

So what are we supposed to do when people offend us and reject Yahushua. Are we supposed to hate them and call down fire from heaven?

Not according to Yahushua. If you follow Yahushua, you are not supposed to punish or retaliate. We simply need to keep spreading the Good News, and our testimony should be personal.

How did you first meet Yahushua, and what did He show you? That is how you witness to others.

From the message at the well, we know that Yahushua came with living water and a marriage proposal to an adulterous Bride who needed to be immersed in the living water. They are the only waters that can purify her - not just on the outside but on the inside as well. (see Matthew 23:25-26)

The conversation at the well was a picture of the House of Yisrael, and that is why it took place at Shechem, in the tribal territory of Ephraim, the son of Joseph elevated to the firstborn of Yisrael.

Many of us from the exiled House of Yisrael started in a pagan church, and then we drank water from Jacob's well. We discovered our Hebrew roots, but that's not the end of it.

We need to immerse in those living waters, and they won't be coming from the ashes of a red heifer sacrificed by Orthodox Jews who reject the Son.

We need to be like the Samaritan woman at the well. When we meet Yahushua and drink His living water, we then need to be a witness for Him to the Nations, even to those we have been taught to hate.

We don't call down fire on our enemies; we show them the love of Yahushua.

That is how we worship the Father in spirit and in truth, when we quench our thirst with Living Water offered by the Son.

Berakhot

Todd

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PS: I sure would appreciate it if you would keep my family, friends and the brethren in South Texas in your prayers. We certainly welcome the rain, but RVs don't stand up well against hurricane winds and possible tornadoes.

Shema Yisrael (Hear O Yisrael) are the words that Yahushua spoke when asked what was the First Command.

*"The first of all the Commandments is: 'Hear, O Yisrael,
YHWH our Elohim, YHWH is one.'"
Mark 12:29*

*"He who has ears to hear, let him hear!"
Matthew 11:15*