



The SAMARITAN Woman
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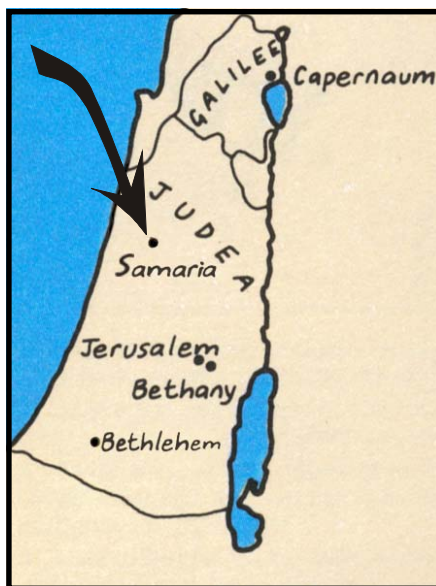


The Lord Jesus Christ was born to serve, not to be served...



Location of the area the Lord Jesus Christ ministered unto and performed miracles: Samaria was located in central Palestine in present-day northwest Jordan.

The ancient city of **Samaria** was founded in the ninth century B.C. as the capital of the northern kingdom of Israel, also known as “Shomeron” meaning **Samaria**. According to tradition, Saint John the Baptist is buried here.



Samaria has an amazing past.

The history of **Samaria** begins when the King of Israel, Omri, purchased it from Shemer its owner for two talents of silver. **Samaria** was frequently besieged. According to the Old Testament, in the days of Ahab, Benhadad II came up against **Samaria** with thirty-two vassal kings, but was defeated with a great slaughter (1 Kings 20:1-21). A second time, the next year, he assailed it; but was again utterly routed, and was compelled to surrender to Ahab (20:28-34), whose army, as compared with that of Benhadad, was no more than “two little flocks of kids.”

In the days of Jehoram, Benhadad again laid siege to **Samaria**, during which the city was reduced to the direst extremities. But just when success seemed to be within their reach, they suddenly broke up the siege, they became alarmed by a mysterious noise of chariots and horses and a great army, and fled, leaving their camp with all its contents behind them. The famishing inhabitants of the city were soon

relieved with the abundance of the spoil of the Syrian camp; and it came to pass, according to the word of Elisha, that “a measure of fine flour was sold for a shekel, and two measures of barely for a shekel, in the gates of **Samaria**” (2 Kings 7:1-20). Shalmaneser invaded Israel in the days of Hoshea, and reduced it to bondage. He laid siege to **Samaria** (B.C. 723), which held out for three years, and was at length captured by Sargon II, who completed the conquest Shalmaneser had begun (2 Kings

18:9-12; 17:3), and removed vast numbers of the tribes into captivity. The emperor Augustus later gave **Samaria** to Herod the Great, who rebuilt it, and called it Sebaste, in honor of the emperor.

The religion in **Samaria** worshiped one God—the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. The **Samaritan** religion reveres the first five books in the Holy Bible – The Pentateuch. They worshiped God using animal sacrifices. They also looked forward to the coming of the Messiah. The **Samaritans** considered themselves as descendants of the tribes of Ephraim and Manasseh and the Levite priests who lived in Shechem. They have remained true to the historic faith of Moses. They viewed Judaism as heresy. The **Samaritan** religion did not accept the entire Old Testament and their concept of God were corrupted by Paganism. Also the **Samaritan's** did not worship God in the correct place rather they worshiped Him on Mount Gerizim instead of worshiping Him in Jerusalem. These two differences account for much



of the ancient tension between **Samaritans** and Jews. Although the **Samaritans** and Jews had differences in religious beliefs they still had many common beliefs.

One of the most famous stories in the Holy Bible is in the Gospel of St. John, the story of the **Samaritan** woman. The story begins with when the Lord Jesus Christ had to pass through **Samaria** to get to Galilee from Judea, and His journey brought Him to a **Samaritan** town named Shechem near the plot of land, which Jacob had given to his son Joseph. The Lord Jesus Christ, tired from His journey, sat at the well when a **Samaritan** woman came to draw water and the Lord Jesus Christ said to her "Give Me a drink." At this time the Lord Jesus' Disciples had gone off to the town to buy provisions. The **Samaritan** woman replied, "You are a Jew. How can you ask me, a **Samaritan** and a woman, for a drink?" At this time Jews and **Samaritans** did not get along with one another. The Lord Jesus Christ replied back to her telling her if she only "recognized God's gift" and who it is that is asking her, she would have been the one asking for the drink and He would have given her "living water." She then challenged Him by saying, "Sir, you don't have a bucket and this well is deep. Where do you expect to get this flowing water? Surely you don't pretend to be greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us this well and drank from it with his sons and his flocks?" The Lord Jesus Christ then told her "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again. But whoever drinks the water I give him will never be thirsty; no, the water I give shall become a fountain within him, leaping up to provide eternal life." She then asked Him for this water. The Lord Jesus Christ told her to go and get her husband and then come

back, but she replied, "I have no husband." The Lord Jesus Christ knew she was telling the truth for she has had five men and the one she was living with now was not her husband. After she told Him that she has no husband the Lord Jesus Christ replied to her saying, "You are right in saying you have no husband! The fact is, you have had five, and the man you are living with now is not your husband. What you said is true enough." "Sir," answered the woman, "I can see you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you people claim that Jerusalem is the place where men ought to worship God." The Lord Jesus Christ told her: "Believe me, woman, an hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. Your people worship what you do not understand, while we understand what we worship; after all, salvation is from the Jews. Yet an hour is coming, and is already here, when authentic worshipers will worship the Father in Spirit and truth. Indeed, it is just such worshipers the Father seeks. God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in Spirit and truth." Later the Lord Jesus Christ told her that He is the Messiah. At this time the Lord Jesus' Disciples had come back. The woman then went out into the town and told the people "Come and see someone who told me everything I ever did! Could this be the Messiah?" Then everyone went to meet Him. Meanwhile the disciples were urging Him, "Rabbi, eat something." But He told them: "I have food to eat of which you do not know." At this the disciples said to one another, "You do not suppose anyone has brought Him something to eat?" The Lord Jesus Christ explained to them: "Doing the will of Him who sent Me and bringing His work to completion is My food. Do you not have a saying: ' Four months



more and it will be harvest!’ Listen to what I say: Open your eyes and see! The fields are shining for harvest! The reaper already collects his wages and gathers a yield for eternal life, that sower and reaper may rejoice together. Here we have the saying verified: ‘ One man sows; another reaps.’ I sent you to reap what you had not worked for. Others have done the labor, and you have come into their gain.”

Many **Samaritans** from that town believed in Him on the strength of the woman’s word of testimony: “He told me everything I ever did.” The result was that, when these **Samaritans** came to Him, they

begged Him to stay with them awhile. So He stayed there for two days, and through His own spoken word many more came to faith. As they told the woman: “No longer does our faith depend on your story. We have heard for ourselves, and we know that this really is the Savior of the world.”

So, as you can see **Samaria** with all that it went through and all that happened there pertaining to religion and war, it truly does have an amazing history. ✦

Written By: Rania Ghatas

St. Mary and Archangel Michael, Oviedo, Florida



The Lord Jesus Christ was born to serve, not to be served...



Location of the area the Lord Jesus Christ ministered unto and performed miracles: Nain was a village in Galilee, approximately 6 miles southeast of Nazareth.

At the gates of the village of **Nain** the Lord Jesus Christ raised a widow’s only son from the death.

(Luke 7: 11-17) “Soon afterward, He went to a city called **Nain**, and His disciples and a great crowd went with Him. As He drew near to the gate of the city, behold, a man who had died was being carried out, the only son of his mother, and she was a widow;



and a large crowd from the city was with her. And when the Lord saw her, He had compassion on her and said to her, ‘ Do not weep.’ And He came and touched the bier, and the bearers stood still. And He said, ‘ Young man, I say to you, arise.’ And the dead man sat up and began to speak. And He gave him to his mother. Fear seized them all; and they glorified God, saying, ‘ A great prophet has arisen among us!’ And ‘ God has visited his people!’ And

this report concerning Him spread through the whole of Judea and all the surrounding country.

»»»—Written by A Mighty Arrow—>