

"The Wonder at Jacob's Well" July 20, 2025: Church in the Park, Bancroft: I. Franck

Intro: 56 years ago—an encounter this night in 1969—Neil Armstrong walks on the moon.

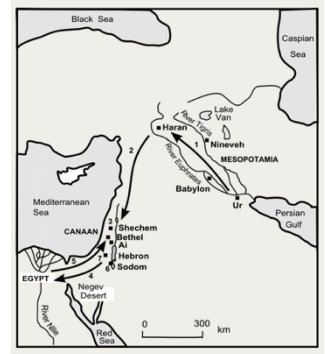
1. A Greater Encounter: John 4

⁴ Now he had to go through Samaria. ⁵ So he came to a town in Samaria called Sychar, near the plot of ground Jacob had given to his son Joseph. ⁶ **Jacob's well** was there, and Jesus, tired as he was from the journey, sat down by the well. It was about noon. ⁷ When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, **"Will you give me a drink?"** ⁸ (His disciples had gone into the town to buy food.) ⁹ The Samaritan woman said to him, "You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?" (For Jews do not associate with Samaritans.) ¹⁰ Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and **he would have given you living water.**" ¹¹ "Sir," the woman said, "you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where can you get this living water?" ¹² Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did also his sons and his livestock?" ¹³ Jesus answered, **"Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, ¹⁴ but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life."** ¹⁵ The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water so that I won't get thirsty and have to keep coming here to draw water." (We will return)

(Pause)

2. Appointments in Time and Space:

- Genesis 12:6-7: Abram arrives in Canaan at Shechem.
- He builds an altar to God, having safely completed his 400 mile journey.
- Genesis 33: Jacob returns from Padan Aram to Shechem--builds an altar ("Mighty is the God of Israel") here and has a well dug on property he buys there.
- Genesis 37: This is also where Joseph was sold as a slave. But Jacob brings back the bones of Joseph from Egypt and has them buried here at Shechem—1 Kilometer north of his well.
- Deuteronomy 11 & 27 & Joshua 8: The Israelites under Moses and Joshua commit to God and his Law--the blessings are pronounced from Mt. Gerazim, and curses from Mt. Ebal—both next to Shechem, near Jacob's well.
- Joshua 21: Shechem is one of the Cities of Refuge.
- Joshua 24: The covenant is renewed at Shechem, and Joshua dies there after he sets up sacred stones of remembrance for the people to take a stand for God.
- Judges 9: But also a place of conflict—Gideon's 70 sons were murdered here, and Abimelek made king.
- 1 Kings 12: The great Schism—Rehoboam, son of Solomon, was to be crowned in Shechem—but the rebellion split the north from south. Only Jesus will be King.



- God has fashioned all these events in this location—but the greatest focal point of all is Jesus—who comes into this world like Abraham, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, Joshua, but greater. This chapter reveals to a people estranged from God the salvation of Jesus!

John 4: ¹⁶ He told her, "Go, call your husband and come back." ¹⁷ "I have no husband," she replied. Jesus said to her, "You are right when you say you have no husband. ¹⁸ The fact is, you have had five husbands, and the man you now have is not your husband. What you have just said is quite true."¹⁹ "Sir," the woman said, "I can see that you are a prophet. ²⁰ Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you Jews claim that the place where we must worship is in Jerusalem."²¹ "Woman," Jesus replied, "believe me, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. ²² You Samaritans worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know, for salvation is from the Jews. ²³ Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. ²⁴ God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth." ²⁵ The woman said, "I know that Messiah" (called Christ) "is coming. When he comes, he will explain everything to us."²⁶ Then Jesus declared, "I, the one speaking to you—I am he."

The Disciples Rejoin Jesus

²⁸ Then, leaving her water jar, the woman went back to the town and said to the people, ²⁹ "Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did. Could this be the Messiah?" ³⁰ They came out of the town and made their way toward him.

Many Samaritans Believe

³⁹ Many of the Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me everything I ever did." ⁴⁰ So when the Samaritans came to him, they urged him to stay with them, and he stayed two days. ⁴¹ And because of his words many more became believers. ⁴² They said to the woman, "We no longer believe just because of what you said; now we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this man really is the Savior of the world."

3. Conflict & Salvation in this world:

- Not a perfect place, not a perfect woman, not a perfect family.
- An encounter with Jesus is the central miracle of life. That can happen to all of us.
- What appointment do you have with Jesus in 2025?
- July 21 my own and Carol's anniversary—a miracle for me!
- July 22nd my own spiritual Birthday—my memory of finding Jesus as my Saviour! Let me tell you about it.
- ***Are you thirsty? Do you have a water jar, or the well of living water yourself? Let me invite you to find Jesus tonight. "Spring up, O well!"***