

Handout #1 Chapter 4: The Gospel of St. John

The history of the site of Shechem in the Old Testament

Genesis 12:7	Yahweh appeared to Abram and promised the land to his descendants. Abram built an altar. This is the first of 3 promises to Abram that will become the Abrahamic Covenant.
Genesis 33:18-20	Jacob camped opposite the town upon his return from Paddan-Aram and purchased land from the sons of Hamor the father of Shechem and built an altar. The city is named for this gentile man who loved Dinah, a daughter of Israel.
Genesis 34	The site of a failed covenant, a failed marriage, and a terrible injustice when the gentiles of Shechem, who had submitted to circumcision, were murdered by the sons of Jacob/Israel.
Deuteronomy 27:4,11-12	Site designated by Moses (between Mt. Ebal and Mt. Gerizim) for renewal of Covenant oath.
Joshua 8:30-35	Site of the reaffirmation of the Covenant oath and the blessing of the people as ordered by Moses in Deuteronomy 27
Joshua 24	Joshua called a great assembly of all the tribes of Israel. The reaffirmation of the Covenant before Joshua's death.
Judges 8:29-9:21	Shechem incited to follow a false king of Israel who betrays them.
1Kings 12:1-25	Great Assembly of the 12 tribes to proclaim Rehoboam, son of Solomon, as King of Israel. The site of the beginning of the end of Israel as a united kingdom. After the civil war the rebel Jeroboam, new King of Israel, makes Shechem his capital.
Hosea 6:7-9	Priests commit murder on the road to Shechem—broken Covenant.
Jeremiah 41:1-10	Murder of the men from Shechem and Samaria by Jews lead by a descendant of David. These men had come in peace to mourn the destruction of the Temple at Jerusalem and to bring offerings.

HANDOUT #2: Gospel of John chapter 4

It is interesting to look at the comparisons between Jesus' witness to Nicodemus in chapter 3 and the Samaritan woman in chapter 4 as a comparison of two people who are also representatives of the histories of their people. Jesus' witness to these two is the beginning of the prophecy of Ezekiel 37:15-28 *"The word of Yahweh was addressed to me as follows, 'Son of man, take a stick and write on it, 'Judah and those Israelites loyal to him.' Take another stick and write on it, 'Joseph (Ephraim's wood) and all the House of Israel loyal to him.' 'Join one to the other to make a single piece of wood, a single stick in your hand. And when the members of your nation say, 'Will you not tell us what you mean?' say, 'The Lord Yahweh says this: I am taking the stick of Joseph (now in Ephraim's hand) and those tribes of Israel loyal to him and shall join them to the stick of Judah. I shall make one stick out of the two, a single stick in my hand.' ...I shall make them into one nation in the country, on the mountains of Israel, and one king is to be king of them all; they will no longer form two nations, nor be two separate kingdoms.... I shall be their God and they will be my people. And the nations will know that I am Yahweh the sanctifier of Israel, when my sanctuary is with them for ever.'"*

John chapter 3	John chapter 4
Nicodemus	The Woman
From the land of Judah (tribes of Judah & Benjamin)	From the land of Israel (the land of the 10 tribes)
Citizen of Jerusalem the city of the true faith of the Covenant	Citizen of Shechem, a city connected to the Covenant but also with violence and betrayal, and false worship
Pharisee, educated, elite Jewish male	Mixed breed, idolatrous female
Knows the Law and the Prophets	Knows only the first 5 Books, the Torah
Representative of the Old Covenant people	Representative of a people no longer in Covenant with God.
Cannot recognize the Messiah	Acknowledging her sins, she receives the gift of faith and recognizes the Messiah

The cure of the Royal Official's son compared to the cure of the Centurion's servant in the Gospels of John, Matthew, and Luke:

John 4: 43-54	Matthew 8:5-13
Jesus is in Cana	Jesus went to Capernaum
Court official from Capernaum comes to Jesus	A centurion comes to Jesus
Requests Jesus to heal his son who has a fever	Servant paralyzed at home
Jesus challenges the crowd to have faith without the proof of signs	Jesus offers to come to his home
For a second time the royal official pleads with Jesus	Centurion humbly submits that he is unworthy to have Jesus in his home but has confidence that Jesus can heal his servant from a distance
Jesus sends the father home with the promise that the boy will be healed	Jesus commends his faith and pronounces that his request is granted
The father believes and returns home	The man returns home
He is told by friends that the boy was healed at the hour he was with Jesus	The servant is cured before the man arrives

Luke 7:1-10

Jesus went into Capernaum
Centurion sent Jewish elders to speak to Jesus
Request is to heal a favorite servant who is sick and near death
Centurion is credited with building the synagogue.
Centurion comes himself to plead with Jesus
Humbly offers that he is not worthy to have Jesus in his home
vs. 8 " <i>Let my boy be healed by your giving your word</i> " (perhaps an indication that the "servant" was a young son)
Jesus commends his faith
The boy is healed