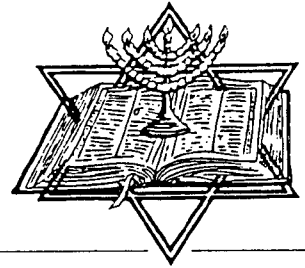


MORIEL

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The Woman at the Well

WHEN THEREFORE THE LORD KNEW that the Pharisees had heard that Jesus was making and baptizing more disciples than John (although Jesus was not baptizing, but his disciples were), He left Judea, and departed again into Galilee.

And He had to pass through Samaria. So he came to a city of Samaria, called Sychar, near the parcel of ground that Jacob gave to his son Joseph; and Jacob's well was there.

Jesus therefore, being wearied from His journey, was sitting thus by the well. It was about the sixth hour.

There came a woman of Samaria to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." For His disciples had gone away into the city to buy food.

The Samaritan woman therefore said to Him, "How is it that You, being a Jew, ask me for a drink since I am a Samaritan woman." (For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.)

Jesus answered and said to her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that says to you, 'Give Me a drink,' you would have asked Him, and he would have given you living water."

She said to Him, "Sir, you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep; where then do you get that living water?"

You are not greater than our father Jacob, are you, who gave us the well, and drank of it himself, and his sons and his cattle?"

Jesus answered and said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water shall thirst again; but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water I shall give him shall become in him a well of water springing up to eternal life."

The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so I will not be thirsty, nor come all the way here to draw."

He said to her, "Go, call your husband and come here."

The woman answered and said, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You have well said, 'I have no husband'; for you have had five husbands, and the one whom you now have is not your husband; this you have said truly."

The woman said to Him, "Sir, I perceive that You are a prophet. Our fathers worshiped in this mountain, but you people say that in Jerusalem is the place where men ought to worship."

Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, an hour is coming when neither in this mountain, nor in Jerusalem, shall you worship the Father.

You worship that which you do not know; we worship that which we know, for salvation is from the Jews.

But an hour is coming and now is, when the true worshipers shall worship the Father in spirit and truth; for such people the Father seeks to be His worshipers.

God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.

The woman said to Him, "I know that Messiah is coming (He who is called Christ); when that One comes, he will declare all things to us." Jesus said to her, "I who speak to you am He."

And at this point His disciples came, and they marvelled that He had been speaking with a woman; yet no one said, "What do You seek?" or "Why do You speak with her?"

So the woman left her water pot, and went into the city, and said to the men, "Come, see a man who told me all the things I have done; this is not the Christ, is it?" They went out of the city and were coming to Him (John 4:1-30).

To understand the story of the woman at the well, we begin by looking at the well.

Types of the Holy Spirit

In biblical typology, different liquids typify the Holy Spirit in different aspects.

New wine is a liquid which represents the Holy Spirit in the aspect of worship. Another liquid is oil, which speaks of the anointing of the Holy Spirit.

But the living water, in Scripture, is always the Holy Spirit outpoured. Jesus explained it this way:

"He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, 'From his innermost being shall flow rivers of living water.'" But this He spoke of the Spirit whom those who believed in Him were to receive; for the Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified (John 7:38-39).

Jesus said directly that living water is the Holy Spirit outpoured.

The incident where Jesus taught about living water took place at Succoth—the Feast of Tabernacles or Booths (John 7:2,10). One of the regular events of that Feast was the taking of water from the Pool of Siloam in a procession, lead by the Levites, to the Gabbatha where the water would be poured out on the stones.

It is against this background that Jesus identified Himself as the One who would give living water to anyone who was thirsty and willing to come to Jesus to drink.

For I will pour out water on the thirsty land and streams on the dry ground; I will pour out My Spirit on your offspring and My blessing on your descendants (Isaiah 44:3).

The Holy Spirit is outpoured—the natural rain produces living water which goes into the water table.

Gabbatha = A paved area of Jerusalem, outside the Governor's residence; the place where Pilate delivered Jesus over to the Sanhedrin for crucifixion (John 19:16).

Why is it that someone like Reinhard Bonnke has such tremendous success in Africa, but nothing much happens when he goes to Germany or England or Australia?

And furthermore, I withheld the rain from you while there were still three months until harvest. Then I would send rain on one city and on another city I would not send rain; one part would be rained on, while the part not rained on would dry up (Amos 4:7).

There are many misguided evangelical church leaders in the world to day who believe that, if they get the right program, they will get the right results.

This thinking comes from the Church Growth Movement and is an example of people taking a high-tech world view and applying it the church.

Get the right software package for your hardware and your computer will do what you want.

They repackage their ecclesiology and missiology according to the pattern of our high-tech world, rather than according to Scripture.

It's raining in Africa, it's raining in Brazil, it's raining in Indonesia; there's a drought in Britain and Australia.

The Bible says that, by God's direction, one place will be rained on, but another will not be rained on and dry up.

God is sovereign — He can be petitioned, but not manipulated

The Holy Spirit must be outpoured. And it doesn't matter how many programs they have and how much money they spend, they are not going to make it rain.

God is sovereign. He can be petitioned, but not manipulated.

The different types of Jews

Next we need to understand the Samaritans of Jesus' day. At that time, Jews had no dealings with Samaritans. In a similar fashion today, Protestants in Northern Ireland (for example) have no dealings with Catholics.

The kinds of Jews who were around at the time of Jesus' first coming correspond convincingly to the kinds of Christians who are around today.

Sadducees. The Sadducees were anti-supernatural rationalists. They denied the resurrection, they denied the supernatural, denied angels, an afterlife and so on. Today we have Anglican bishops who deny the Virgin Birth and the Resurrection. The Sadducees were very much akin to liberal Protestants.

Zealots/Herodians. Then there were people who could not distinguish between their politics and their pulpit. The ones on the left were called *Zealots*. Josephus writes a lot about them. Some of Jesus' disciples were Zealots.

Today it is called *Liberation Theology*. They say that the central event of the Bible is not the resurrection of Jesus, but the Exodus out of Egypt—because it was the political liberation of a nation—and they combine that teaching with Marxist dialectics.

The left wing includes the Roman Catholic version in South America, or the liberal Protestant version of Bishop Tutu and others in Africa.

The ones on the right were called the *Herodians*. The equivalents today are the Dutch Reformed Church in South Africa, the Fundamentalists in the American South, and the Strict Presbyterians in Northern Ireland. They cannot distinguish between their political opinion and the Bible.

Essenes. The third group were strange cults, who knew something pivotal was about to occur in Jewish history, something of eschatological and Messianic significance, but they cut themselves off from everyone else and developed very strange beliefs concerning it. The foremost of these were the Essenes, who we know about from the Dead Sea Scrolls.

Today there are all kinds of bizarre adventist cults within Christianity.

Samaritans. When the Ten Northern tribes went into Captivity, a small minority remained in Israel and intermarried with the Assyrians.

These people mixed the Bible with paganistic religion. They had a mountain other than Mount Zion (Mount Gerizim), they had a kingship other than from the

House of David, they had a priesthood other than the Levitical priesthood.

They were descended from the people who were the nemesis of Ezra and Nehemiah in the rebuilding of the wall of Jerusalem and the Temple.

The Jews hated the Samaritans. They saw them as mongrels who mongrelised Judaism.

Today they are the Catholics, Anglo-Catholics and the Eastern Orthodox Church; people who combine paganism with the Bible. For example, the Roman Catholic Church has a priesthood other than the Levitical priesthood, they have a separate Holy City, and so on.

Most crucially, the Samaritans had a different doctrine of salvation. Under both the Old and New Covenant, the key issue was: **How is sin atoned for?**

In the Old Covenant, it was the Temple, with the proper sacrifices conducted by the proper priests, at the proper time, and at the proper location. The Samaritans had a rival priesthood and a rival mountain.

How is sin atoned for?

They weren't just arguing about real estate, they were arguing about soteriology, about salvation.

Pharisees. Their doctrines were far better than everybody else, far closer to the truth. Jesus agreed with them on most issues. When he fought with the Sadducees, it was only because they gave Him a hard time. Normally he ignored the Sadducees. He dealt mainly with the Pharisees.

There were two main groups of Pharisees: the followers of the *School of Shammai* and the *School of Hillel*. Rabbi Shaul of Tarsus (St Paul) came from the School of Hillel.

The Pharisees were usually right on most things, but they had problems.

One was the *oral law*—they took their tradition and gave it equal authority with Scripture.

Another problem was religious pride, which blinded them. And they were a materialistic aristocracy who, instead of feeding the sheep, used their position to aggrandise themselves.

oral law = Collection of teachings and sayings about the five books of Moses, a form of commentary that "placed a hedge about" the Law.

Midrash

They understood **midrash**. They understood the *Seven Midroth* of Rabbi Hillel, who formulated them (though the contents had been around long before). They understood the deeper mysteries of the Bible.

For instance, if a Jewish Christian were reading John's Gospel in the first century, he would have recognised that John chapters one, two and three, was a midrash on Genesis chapters one, two and three—the *new creation* is a midrash on the original *creation* in Genesis.

God walked the earth in the creation in Genesis and God walked the earth in John.

God came to separate the light from darkness in the creation in Genesis and God came to separate the light from darkness in the new creation in John.

The Spirit moved on the water to bring forth the creation in Genesis and—*born of water and the Spirit*—the Spirit moved on the water to bring forth the new creation in John.

In the creation in Genesis there was the small light and the great light, and in John there was the small light—John the Baptist—and the great light—Jesus.

We see the **Tree of Life** in Genesis, in Ezekiel, in John and in Revelation.

In John, the Tree of Life is represented by the fig tree. So when Nathaniel asked, "How do you know me?" (John 1:48), Jesus answered, "I saw you under the fig tree..." What Jesus was saying to him, in midrash, in Jewish metaphor, was not simply that He saw him under a literal fig tree—although He did.

Jesus was saying to Nathaniel, "I saw you from the creation. From the foundation of the world, I foreknew you."

Jesus said that the Pharisees had "taken away the key to knowledge" (Luke 11:52), the key to understanding these things.

The church, over the centuries has lost this key to understanding. They are reading a Jewish book as if it were a Gentile one; they're reading a Hebraic book with a Hellenistic mind.

Our hermeneutics are very westernised; they come from sixteenth century humanism, not from the writers of the New Testament.

Just look at the way the New Testament handles the Old. It is obvious that the church has seen only part of the light. Our grammatical-historical method was a cor-

rection of the *gnosticism* and *scholasticism* of medieval Roman Catholicism.

The key is to go back to understanding the Bible the way the apostles did, as a Jewish book.

You can see in the Gospels that Jesus took the keys to understanding the Scripture—which the Pharisees used to create a political, financial and social power base for themselves, to make themselves an elite, religious aristocracy—and gave them to the common people.

That is why they hated Him. They should have been feeding the ordinary, common people, but they were not.

You can see this when Jesus, as a little boy, went to Jerusalem for his *bar mitzvah*. They were astounded. Where did he get this wisdom? How did this kid learn midrash? (Luke 2:47).

Jesus gave the key to understanding the Bible to the ordinary people.

For example, He reiterated the parable of the vineyard, from Isaiah 5:1-7, in Matthew 21:33-4. And it says, *When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard Jesus' parables, they knew he was talking about them*—because they knew the midrash.

But he had to explain to His disciples privately what the parables meant. That is why the Pharisees hated Him: Jesus was showing all their cards.

A Jewish rabbi in Samaria

In the same way, today, that you won't find a Strict Presbyterian minister—in his orange sash and bowler hat—walking down the road in Catholic West Belfast, you normally would not find a Jewish rabbi walking through Samaria.

A Jewish rabbi returning from Jerusalem at Passover time, on his way back to Galilee, passing through Samaria, would have been doing the same thing. It went against everything they believed.

gnosticism = A religious movement which taught salvation, not by faith or works, but by the possession of secret knowledge, *gnosis* (Gk.).

scholasticism = A form of Christian philosophy and theology developed during the medieval period of European history by scholars who came to be known as "school men".

bar mitzvah = Literally, *son of duty*, a ceremony in Judaism whereby a male is accepted into the congregation of men.

To this day, Orthodox Jews pray, *Thank God I was not born a dog, a Gentile or a woman*. (If you think Christianity and Judaism is sexist, you should see what it replaced in the pagan world. Women were property, or less.)

Jesus went against every social convention to make Himself known to this woman. He was more open, more loving, more caring, and more direct with her—and revealed more about Himself to her—than He did to His own Jewish disciples, at this point. He told her directly that He was the Messiah.

Two evils

And He wanted to give her living water. The idea here is midrash. What Jesus was doing was drawing on Jeremiah 2:13, *For My people [the Jews] have committed two evils: they have forsaken Me, the fountain of living waters, to hew for themselves cisterns, broken cisterns, that hold no water*.

Jeremiah predicted that the Jews would commit two evils: the first evil is that they would reject the Messiah, the fountain of living water, the One who would give the Holy Spirit. The second evil is that they would create another religion, one that could hold no water, a broken cistern.

The Jewish religion of today, Rabbinic Judaism, is not the Christianity of Moses and the Torah. There is no Temple, there is no priesthood; it is a religion invented by man, which has developed over a period of centuries.

Much the same as Roman Catholicism is not the Christianity of the New Testament, Rabbinic Judaism is not the Judaism of the *Tenach*.

On the roof of every Orthodox synagogue is the term *ichabod*—the glory has departed. They know the Temple has been destroyed.

Jewish Christians eat the Passover with lamb. They can do that because they still have a High Priest. His name is *Yeshua*.

Orthodox Jews and other Jews will eat it with poultry, as a testimony to the fact that they cannot keep the Passover properly.

Tenach = Hebrew name of the Old Testament; it is an acronym of the three sections of *Torah* (the Pentateuch), *Neviim* (the Prophets) and *Ketuvim* (literally "Writings", such as Psalms, certain histories and Wisdom literature).

Rabbinic Judaism invented

It says in Daniel 9:26 that the Messiah would come and die before the Second Temple would be destroyed. That is where Old Testament Judaism ended.

We read in the Talmud that a scarlet cord hung before the Holy of Holies on Yom Kippur. If the scarlet cord turned white, the people's sins had been forgiven. We are told that for forty years before the Temple was destroyed, the cord did not turn white. In other words, after the time of Jesus, the sins of the Jewish people were not forgiven. (That is in the Talmud; the rabbis admit that.) They are under the curse of the Law.

Another religion was begun in Yavneh (a town in Palestine) by *Rabbi Yohanan ben Zaccai*, a classmate of *Rabbi Shaul of Tarsus* (St Paul) in the School of Hillel, which was taught by *Rabbi Gamaliel* (the grandson of *Rabbi Hillel*).

There were a number of famous rabbis in that School at that time. Another one was *Rabbi Onkelos*, who did some Targumim translations of the Bible.

But, undoubtedly, the two most famous of these rabbis were *Rabbi Yohanan ben Zaccai* and *Rabbi Shaul of Tarsus*. Every Jew would follow one of these two rabbis after the Temple was destroyed.

At that time, *Rabbi Yohanan ben Zaccai* began the germ of what evolved into Rabbinic Judaism, where the rabbi would replace the Levitical priesthood, the synagogue would replace the Temple, and where tradition and extra-biblical writings would begin taking the place of much of the Torah.

Rabbi Yohanan ben Zaccai was known as the "Mighty Hammer". When he was on his deathbed, his disciples came and found him weeping. They asked him why he was weeping and he replied, "I am about to meet *Ha Shem*, blessed be His name, and there are two roads before me—one to Paradise and one to Gehenna.

Talmud = Part of the authoritative documents of Judaism, the Talmud consists of the Mishnah and Gemara. The other authoritative books are the Midrashim.

Midrashim = Hebrew, plural of Midrash.

Targumim = Hebrew, plural of Targum, a translation or paraphrase of parts of the Old Testament in Aramaic or dialect of Judea. All of the Targums taken together form a paraphrase of the whole Old Testament, except Nehemiah, Ezra and Daniel.

And I do not know to which of these two roads he will sentence me. That's why I'm weeping."

The founder of Rabbinic Judaism said he had no assurance of salvation when he died.

But his classmate, *Rabbi Shaul of Tarsus* said, "*The time of my departure has come... in the future there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award me on that day...*" (2 Timothy 6-8).

Midrash—seeing connections

In the Jewish way of looking at the Bible, when two things happen at the same geographical location, there is usually a theological and spiritual connection between them.

For instance, King David was born at Bethlehem; Jesus, the 'Son of David' was born at Bethlehem.

Elijah, Elisha and John the Baptist all had the same spirit. Elijah ended his ministry on the plain of Jericho, Elisha began his ministry on the plain of Jericho and the ministry of John the baptist took place on the plain of Jericho.

Rebekah at the well

A first century Christian would have sought to understand John chapter four by considering the stories of a woman at the well in the Old Testament. *Where has this happened before? How is it fulfilled in Jesus?*

Midrash asks, Where has this happened before?

We never base doctrine on type or allegory. We use type and allegory to demonstrate doctrine that is elsewhere plainly stated in Scripture. We are not gnostics, thank God. We are not in the Vineyard. We are people who respect the Word of God.

Ha Shem = Hebrew, literally *The Name*. This was a common Jewish euphemism, used to avoid speaking the name of God.

Whenever you see something happening in midrash, you need to go back and see where it happened before.

When Abraham was old, he sent a servant to get a bride for his son (Genesis 24). He placed gifts—jewellery—on a train of camels to be given to his kinsmen, to prove that he was sent by Abraham.

The father sent a servant to prepare a bride for his son. **God sent the Holy Spirit to prepare a Bride for Jesus.** (This is a picture of the tri-unity of the Godhead.)

The servant prayed that he would be guided through circumstances in finding God's appointed bride for Isaac.

And it came about before he had finished speaking, that behold, Rebekah who was born to Bethuel the son of Milcah, the wife of Abraham's brother Nahor, came out with her jar on her shoulder.

And the girl was very beautiful, a virgin, and no man had laid with her; and she went down to the spring [a well] and filled her jar, and came up.

Then the servant ran to meet her, and said, "Please let me drink a little water from your jar."

At first Laban, Rebekah's brother, was suspicious of the servant but, when he saw the presents, he was convinced.

Then the girl ran and told her mother's household about these things. Now Rebekah had a brother whose name was Laban; and Laban ran outside to the man at the spring.

And it came about that when he saw the ring, and the bracelets on his sister's wrists, and when he heard the words of Rebekah his sister, saying, "This is what the man told me," he went to the man; and behold, he was standing by the camels at the spring.

And he said, "Come in, blessed of the Lord! Why do you stand outside since I have prepared the house, and a place for the camels?" (Genesis 24:28-31).

The gifts were given to prove that the servant was sent to get a bride for the son. (That is the Book of Acts.)

This story of a woman at a well surfaces again in the Gospel of John, with another woman who says, "*Jacob... gave us this well and drank of it himself...*" (John 4:12).

Rachel at the well

And he [Jacob] looked, and saw a well in the field, and behold, three flocks of sheep were lying there beside it, for from that well they watered the flocks.

Now the stone on the well was large. When all the flocks were gathered there, they would then roll the stone from the mouth of the well, and water the sheep, and put the stone back in its place on the mouth of the well.

And Jacob said to them, "My brothers, where are you from?" And they said, "We are from Haran."

And he said to them, "Do you know Laban the son of Nahor?" "We know him."

And he said to them, "Is it well with him?" And they said, "It is well, and behold, Rachel his daughter is coming with the sheep."

And he said, "Behold, it is still high day; it is not time for the livestock to be gathered. Water the sheep, and go, pasture them."

But they said, "We cannot, until all the flocks are gathered, and they roll the stone from the mouth of the well; then we water the sheep" (Genesis 29:2-8).

Not until the resurrection, and the stone is rolled away, is the Spirit given.

Like Rachel and Leah...

Jacob was involved with two women. He desired Rachel, but he didn't get Rachel at first. He got Leah—the one he didn't come for.

It was only after he learned to love Leah as much as he loved Rachel, that he got Rachel. In the beginning, Leah had all the babies. In the end, Rachel's womb became fruitful.

Jesus came for the Jews (John 1:11), but He won't get the Jews until He takes the Gentile church and loves them as much as He loves Israel and the Jews.

Then, as it says in Romans 11, the Jews will turn back to Him and He will get Israel.

In the beginning, the Gentile church had all the babies. In the end, Israel will become a fruitful vine (Rom. 11:25-26).

The **Book of Ruth** is read in the synagogue at Shavuot (the feast of Weeks—Pentecost). Ruth tells the story of a rich man who takes a Jewish bride, and a child called *Redeemer* is born in Bethlehem.

And the people said to Boaz, "May the Lord make the woman who is coming into your house like Rachel and Leah, both of whom built the house of Israel" (Ruth 4:11). This is because the church is to be made up of both Jew and Gentile.

Speaking on a spiritual plane

There is a phenomenon in John's Gospel which begins with Nathaniel, then Nicodemus, and which recurs throughout John. Jesus spoke on a spiritual plane—*You must be born again*—but the people listened to Him on a natural plane—*How can a man enter again into his mother's womb?*

There are examples of this throughout John's Gospel. It occurs in the other Gospels as well and throughout Scripture generally, but John's Gospel is the place among the New Testament books where it is most conspicuous.

Jesus healed the paralytic by the Pool of Bethesda and told him, "Pick up your pallet and go your way" (John 5:8). If the guy had been healed and no longer needed the pallet, why did Jesus say "Pick up the pallet"? Because the pallet is a type of the Cross—the thing to which he was to keep his flesh confined.

In other words, Jesus was saying midrashically, in figure, "Take up your cross and follow Me. Go the way of the Cross."

Jesus frequently spoke on a spiritual level to people who were thinking on a physical level. So it was with the woman at the well.

When Jesus met her, he broke every social convention in showing her recognition at all. And he began revealing things about Himself to her that He hadn't revealed to His disciples yet.

Jesus showed great love and acceptance to a woman who Jews would have considered immoral, and a Samaritan on top of it!

How is sin atoned for?

They began to talk. She seemed to believe most of the things that Jews believed. She believed in the **Patriarchs**—*"our father Jacob"*. She believed in the **Torah**. (The Samaritans didn't hold the entire Bible to be canonical, but they held to the Torah.) She believed the **Messiah** was coming, the same as the Jews.

Ultimately she even believed that Jesus was the Messiah, apparently.

Some people would say, "That's good enough. They've got the Bible, they believe in the Patriarchs, they believe in Jesus. That's good enough!"

But, as soon as she began, "Our fathers have this mountain, you have that mountain," what did Jesus do?

The issue is not real estate, or some peripheral issue, the issue is central:

Where is sin atoned for?

How is sin atoned for?

The Roman Catholic Church teaches that salvation comes primarily from the sacraments of *baptism* and *penance*.

This is called **sacramentalism** and **baptismal regeneration**.

Salvation does not come by the sacraments. It comes by being born again.

But even though we, or an angel from heaven, should preach to you a gospel contrary to that which we have preached to you, let him be accursed (Galatians 1:8).

Paul is saying, get away from such people. Have nothing to do with them. Even if they are an angel of God, reject them.

When Moses struck the rock (Exodus 17:6), and the living water flowed, it was like Jesus being crucified and the Holy Spirit being given.

When Moses struck the rock more than once (Numbers 20:11), he was not able to enter the Promised Land. It was counted a great sin. It was like crucifying Jesus again.

**Moses
striking the rock
more than once,
was like crucifying
Jesus again**

The Roman Catholic Church beats the Gehenna out of the thing every time they have a Mass.

They say the Mass is the same as the sacrifice of Calvary. Jesus dies again and again and again.

That is their teaching.

Once...for all time

We have a high priest *who does not need daily, like those high priests [under the Old Covenant] to offer up sacrifices, first for his own sins, and then for the sins of the people, because this He did once for all when He offered up Himself* (Heb. 7:27).

Jesus died once. Not daily, like the Roman Church teaches in the doctrine of the Mass—they say it is the same sacrifice, that Christ dies sacramentally.

Not through the blood of goats and calves, but through His own blood, He entered the holy place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption (Hebrews 9:12)

For by one offering He has perfected for all time those who are sanctified (Hebrews 10:14).

Satan will always try to get Christians to deny the sufficiency of the Cross in some way. Every perversion of Christianity will deny the Cross in some way.

Every deception will try to get you, the believer, away from the Cross.

Every deception will try to get you, the believer, away from the Cross

The Prosperity Preachers (Hagin, Copeland, etc.) teach that Jesus descended into hell, became one nature with Satan and was born again in hell. That's where He won the victory.

And because the Cross is not central to their view of salvation, the Cross is not central to their view of the Christian life, as in picking it up and following Jesus and living a crucified life.

The Jehovah's Witnesses call it a "tor-ture stake". They don't even want to call it a Cross. They believe salvation comes through their organisation.

Much of what is taught in the areas of Inner Healing and Deliverance is a subtle form of spiritual seduction, designed to deny the sufficiency of the Cross. These people find someone and claim their great grandmother was a witch, or something, and tell them that *they* have to be delivered and set free from that thing.

The biblical basis of healing

All healing in the Bible is predicated on two things: the first is forgiveness and the second is the Cross.

No matter what anybody did to me, I did worse things to God. No matter how I was hurt or rejected, I did worse to God.

He is willing to forgive me, and I want Him to forgive me, but His condition is that I ask Him for the grace and strength to forgive others. That is the first basis of Christian inner healing.

The second is, *Consider yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus* (Romans 6:11).

You have been crucified with Christ; you are a new creation. That abused child, that rejected wife, that whatever, is dead. You are a new creation.

Therefore if any man is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come (2 Corinthians 5:17).

The devil will always try to get you to deny the sufficiency of the Cross; to dig up the old man or the old woman and live with it in some way.

Now I'm not suggesting that people who come from these backgrounds don't need counselling and restoration and help in various ways. They do. But what they need must always be based on those two principles: forgiveness and the Cross.

Roman Catholicism also denies the sufficiency of the Cross of Jesus.

Jesus and the woman at the well were not simply arguing about *we had this mountain and you had that mountain*.

The question was: Where is sin atoned for? How are we forgiven?

Before He goes any further in the conversation, He tells her: *Lady, you're a nice girl. I like you. I'm going against every social convention in speaking to you—because you're a Samaritan, you're a woman, you're supposedly a prostitute. I'm breaking all the rules in talking to you, but I've got to tell you something. Salvation comes from the Jews.*

Spirit AND truth

Spirit AND truth. She had the right spirit, but she did not have the truth. Perhaps the Pharisees had the truth, but they did not have the right spirit.

It is relatively easy for God to take someone who has the right spirit and give

them the truth; it is usually more difficult to take someone who has the truth and give them a right spirit.

You can see this with very Calvinistic people and the attitudes they have. The predestination thing, and their elitist mentality often translates into racism.

Practically everywhere there has ever been a hyper-Calvinistic church, there has been a history of injustice. The American South, with the segregation and the slavery—hyper-Calvinism; the Dutch Reformed Church and *apartheid* in South Africa—hyper-Calvinism; the Strict Presbyterians in Northern Ireland—hyper-Calvinism. It goes all the way back to Calvin's Police State in Geneva.

Not fit for human consumption

Jesus took the same attitude toward the woman at the well as he did to the Syrophenician woman with the demon possessed daughter. *"It is not good to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs"* (Mark 7:27).

On the surface, that sounds like a very racist statement, but I assure you that Jesus loved that little Syrophenician girl just as much as He loved any little Jewish girl.

But what He was saying to that woman was, *"Your religion is not fit for human consumption. I cannot give you what I have as long as you believe that stuff."*

Before He went any further in the conversation, He corrected her wrong religion. *"Your religion is for dogs, not for humans."*

Roman Catholicism is for dogs; it is not for human beings. It is idolatry. Praying to the dead is an abomination. Salvation does not come by the sacraments, it comes by the blood of Jesus being shed on the Cross on our behalf.

Spirit AND truth. It is not good enough to have the truth, if you don't have the right spirit. Neither is it good enough to have the right spirit, if you don't have the truth.

What did Jesus say? *Lady, salvation comes from the Jews. You don't know what you're talking about. They've got the truth.*

Salvation comes from evangelicals; not from Rome. There are many Roman Catholics like this woman at the well. They have the right spirit.

When the Jews began rejecting the apostles in the Book of Acts, many Samaritans began opening to the gospel. And many Roman Catholics are open today.

God at work among Catholics

It is in Roman Catholic countries that God is working. While pentecostals are declining in Great Britain, Catholics are coming to Christ in the millions in Italy, Haiti, Phillipines, and Brazil.

In Europe, it is the Eastern Orthodox countries and Roman Catholic countries that never had the Reformation, where the church is beginning to grow. In Ireland today, more Catholics are coming to Christ than Protestants.

The same is occurring in Italy, Spain, Portugal, Romania, Albania, Russia—countries that never had the Reformation, that is where the gospel is going.

Where is the church declining? England, Wales, Scotland, Holland, Germany, Switzerland, Scandanavia—places that have had the truth for centuries.

The Catholics have a right spirit and they want the truth. They are hungry. God loves the Catholic people. They represent the future. Protestantism is the past.

In Santiago, Chile, twenty thousand people get saved every week and leave the Roman Catholic Church. In the Phillipines it is the same.

In Guatamala, ten per cent of the population left the Roman Church over a period of ten years.

That is why the Pope keeps going back there with his little tap dance:

*Ave Maria,
Gee it's good to see ya,
Please don't leave.*

What did Jesus say?

What did Jesus say? Did He speak about Catholics the same way Michael Harper does? Or the way that George Carey does? Or the way John Wimber does?

"That's okay if you pray to the dead. It's okay if you have another doctrine of salvation. As long as you believe in the Bible and you believe in Jesus, that's good enough."

No, it wasn't good enough. **Salvation comes from the Jews.** It's not that mountain, that's not the way your sins are going to be forgiven. It's not the sacraments.

That is what Jesus said. And if we love Catholic people, that is what we should say.

Ecumenism?

Now when the enemies of Judah and Benjamin heard that the people of the exile were building a temple to the Lord God of Israel, they approached Zerubbabel and the heads of the fathers' households, and said to them, "Let us build with you, for we, like you, seek your God; and we have been sacrificing to Him since the days of Esarhaddon king of Assyria, who brought us up here."

But Zerubbabel and Jeshua and the rest of the heads of the fathers' households of Israel said to them, "You have nothing in common with us in building a house to our God..." (Ezra 4:1-3).

What does the Ecumenical Movement say?

"Come, let us build with you. We're all one. We believe in Jesus. We have one Bible. We believe what you believe. We're against abortion, too. We're against homosexuality, too [even though many of our priests are homosexuals]."

Hezekiah was a good king, but he made a terrible mistake—he showed his treasures to the king of Babylon. And the king of Babylon, as Jeremiah predicted, came and took them.

When you see Evangelicals sharing their treasures with Rome, you can be sure that those treasures are going to be carried away one day. All the Roman Catholic literature on Ecumenism says the same thing, that it is the road back to Rome. They openly admit it. It is only the silly Protestants who don't know any better.

The present Pope says he wants to see one Europe with one church—the Roman Catholic Church.

We're told by people who promote Ecumenism that this is the way to bring revival, or it is the way to see Roman Catholics saved.

But if you look at the places where Roman Catholics are being saved (like Brazil, or Mexico, or the Phillipines)—not in their thousands, or tens of thousands, or hundreds of thousands, but in their millions—they are all coming out of Rome. Those people will tell you, "We have left Babylon. Now we are Christians."

It is only in post-Christian societies,

with a Charismatic Movement which is no longer based on Scriptural truth (if it ever was), and with leaders who either do not know the Word of God or who don't care about it, that you find the heresy of Ecumenism being embraced.

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"Let us build with you", they say. But Zerubbabel and Jeshua said, "You have no part in building the city of our God."

Gnosticism

Remember that Roman Catholicism is based on *gnosticism*. Whenever you deal with a gnostic, you will find they use the same terms you do, but mean something different by them.

For instance, when you talk to someone in the New Age (which is essentially gnostic, you might say, "I saw the light". And they will tell you, "I saw the light, too."

Only, you have one definition of the Light, which is Jesus (John 1:9), and they have a different definition, which is the Cosmic Illumination of the Inner Self, but you both "saw the light".

When the Restoration people use words like "kingdom" and "victory", they mean different things by those terms than the Bible does.

At an Ecumenical Forum with Roman Catholic and Protestant theologians, the Protestant theologian will say, "We're saved by grace". And the Catholic theologian will agree, "Yes, we're saved by grace."

Now the English word "grace" means "undeserved favour". The Hebrew word for "grace" is *chesed*, it means God's

mercy in the covenant. The Greek word for "grace" is *charis*, meaning "gift".

So, when the Evangelical is thinking about, "We're saved by grace", they are thinking of God's gift, God's mercy in the covenant, or God's undeserved favour.

To Roman Catholicism, "grace" is an ethereal substance earned by the sacraments.

So they can both agree, "We're saved by faith," but they have two very different definitions of what that term actually means.

Leave the water pot, not the people

Spirit AND truth. The woman took Jesus' words about the living water on board.

So the woman left her water pot, and went into the city, and said to the men, "Come, see a man who told me all the things that I have done; this is not the Christ, is it?" (John 4:28).

She left her water pot after she met Jesus and went to the people in the city. She left her religion, but not the people in it. Converted Roman Catholics should leave the Roman Catholic Church, but not the people in it.

There is only ONE Mediator

Salvation does not come by the sacraments. You must be born again. The Roman Catholic Church is leading millions of people into hell by teaching that salvation comes through the sacraments.

Praying to Mary is praying to the dead—it is an abomination to God. In the rosary, for every prayer said to God, a person says ten prayers to Mary.

Blessed art thou among women... Yes she was. But Holy Mary, mother of God? That is not in the Bible. It is blasphemy.

Pray for us sinners now, and at the hour of our death? That is putting Mary in the place of Jesus. The Bible says that there is ONE mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus (1 Timothy 2:5).

The Bible says that Jesus alone is the Redeemer. Rome teaches that Mary is the Co-Redeemer. This all comes from the Babylonian cult religions. It is not from the Bible.

There are Roman Catholic people who really love Jesus and who are really seeking God.

If somebody has the right spirit, they will take the truth. If they have the wrong spirit, they won't accept it.

More questions than answers

The Roman Catholic Cardinal, *Henry Edward Manning* (1808-92), said in his autobiography that, as a priest, he knew of thousands of reasons why people became Roman Catholics.

But he only knew of one reason why someone would leave the Roman Catholic Church—that was because they had read the Word of God and ended up with more questions than any priest could ever possibly hope to answer.

Scholars say that at least seventy per cent of the Roman ritual is of pagan origin. *Cardinal John Henry Newman* (1801-1900), in his treatise *The Development of the Christian Religion*, stated that "Temples, incense, oil lamps, votive offerings, holy water, holy days and seasons of devotion, processions, blessing of fields, sacerdotal vestments, the tonsure (of priests, monks and nuns), images, etc., are all of pagan origin" (p.359).

Two of their greatest theologians, *Thomas Aquinas* and *Augustine of Hippo*, denied the Immaculate Conception.

St Bernard, their own saint, denied Transubstantiation. The whole thing is ridiculous.

When you see people in the Roman church who claim to be born again, who will not leave when they are shown the truth, they were either not saved to begin with or they are backslidden into rebellion.

When Roman Catholics with the right spirit hear the truth, they will receive it gladly.

**All over the world
there are men and
women at the well.**

**They are waiting
for Jesus.**

**They are waiting
for us.**

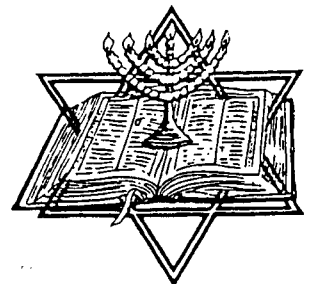
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