

## LIFE HAPPENS AT THE WELL

Wells, rivers, lakes and streams meant life to the people in biblical times. Think of how many times we go to the faucet to get a drink, to make tea, or to cook. If we get thirsty while traveling, we stop at a convenience store and buy a bottle of water. In most places in the United States, water is readily available for personal hygiene purposes. We tend to take water for granted. Years ago, I lived far out in the country and we got our water from a well that was run by an electric pump. When the electricity would go off, so would the water. Being that far out and at the end of an electric line, this was not an uncommon occurrence. I learned to always have jugs of water on hand just in case. The longest I was ever without water was 2 or 3 days due to a winter storm causing broken power lines. I remember not being too concerned the first day or so, but after a while water conservation became a big deal in our house. With two little boys and no way to get to town due to icy roads, I became very aware of how many water jugs I had left. But even having lived through these experiences, I still have no idea what it must have been like for those in Bible times. They had no backup plan. They either had water or they didn't. Therefore, life happened around the wells.

Let's look at just a few wells mentioned in the Word.

In Genesis 16:7-14, Hagar has just been abused by Sarai, her mistress, because she was carrying Abram's child...a pregnancy Sarai forced upon her in the first place. She was beaten so she ran away and sat down by a well where an angel came to her and spoke with her. The name of this well was Beerlahairoi meaning "Well of the Living One Seeing Me".

The next well I read about is found in Genesis 21:25-34. This story is about Abraham and Abimelech. The two men were about to enter into a covenant relationship at a well. But it was also the place where Abraham confronted Abimelech for something his men had done. Once the rebuke happened and the covenant took place, the well was named Beersheba meaning "Well of the Seven Fold Oath" because seven animals were sacrificed to complete the covenant.

In Genesis 24, Abraham's servant was taking a trip to seek a wife for Isaac. He wanted to get just the right girl for his master's son so he asked the Lord to give him a sign by having the chosen woman do very specific things so that he would know without a doubt she was the one for Isaac. It all had to do with giving him water from a well and watering his camels from a well. Everything he asked for, the Lord gave him. Prayer was answered at the well.

In Genesis 26, Isaac had several rounds with wells. There was a famine in his land so the Lord told him to move to a new place where he would be blessed. Isaac obeyed. Think for a minute about traveling many miles being dependent on there being wells along the way to sustain you. There were no convenient stores for your family to grab a bottle of

water and continue on the way. Wells were important. Isaac knew his father had dug several wells back in the day so he knew where to go. However, when he arrived there he found that the enemies had stopped up the wells with dirt. Isaac re-dug the wells of his father and named them the same thing his father had named them. There arose a fuss over these wells. One of these wells was named Esek which means “contention” and another was named Sitna, meaning “strife”. When contention and strife happened, Isaac moved on. He dug another well and there was no arguing over it so he called the well Rehoboth. Rehoboth means “wide place”. Isaac said, “For now the Lord has made room for us and we shall be fruitful in the land.”

In Genesis 29, Jacob meets Rachel, his future wife, at the well. If you read this story, you will see that there was a custom or tradition for watering the animals. All the animals would be gathered and then watered at a certain time. A lid was kept on the well until *the time* came to water. Rachel brought her animals at a different time to water. Jacob asked if she could go ahead and water and the keepers of the well said the time hadn’t come yet. Jacob removed the lid from the well so that she could do her watering. This well belonged to his family so apparently he had the authority to do that.

Another familiar well is found in John 4. This is where Jesus, being weary from traveling, sat and visited with the Samaritan woman. It was not a good thing to talk to a woman, much less a Samaritan woman but Jesus didn’t play by those rules. He accepted her and ministered to her by telling her all about herself. We would call that a word of knowledge.

Vegetation grows around wells. Several times in scripture it refers to many fruitful trees growing by wells.

In general, life happened around wells.

- Sad, hurting and desperate people are seen by the Living One
- Covenant relationship among friends / neighbors
- Covenant relationship as in a marriage arrangement
- Friendships formed (it was a woman’s job to get water each evening so the women would gather and visit as they were working)
- Rebukes and confrontation
- Answered prayer
- There is room for everyone at the well.
- Rest for the weary
- Provision (cattle were watered and kept alive)
- Encounters
- Acceptance
- Words of Knowledge
- Lids removed
- Authority
- Fruit
- Life

What does this have to do with us today? The Bible says, “*Christ in us the hope of glory*”. Isaiah 12:3 tells us, “*Therefore with joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.*” The word ‘salvation’ in this passage is “Yeshua”. Yeshua is like the words sozo and soteria. So we can draw from healing, prosperity, deliverance, forgiveness, eternal life, and victory. John 7:37 & 38 Jesus said, “*If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.*” It doesn’t take much studying to see that we are wells. There is Living Water flowing in and through us.

As we saw in scripture, there are things that can keep wells from being productive. The enemy can cover them with dirt (sin, demonic spirits, generational sin, etc.). We also saw that lids of customs and traditions hindered the use of wells. Strife and contention kept wells from being useful. In 2 Peter 2, we see that false teachers are like wells without water.

Water is still life today. In the natural, it may be readily available to us. We probably don’t know of too many people physically dying of thirst and dehydration in our neighborhoods. However, many around us are dying of thirst...dying for a drink of Living Water...the Water that we carry. I will ask you what the Lord asked me. What is happening at your well?

- Are sad, hurting and desperate people seen by the Living One at your well?
- Are covenant relationship among friends and neighbors happening at your well?
- If you are looking for a mate, are you looking for a covenant relationship at the well?
- Are friendships being formed at your well?
- Are rebukes and confrontations happening in love at your well?
- Are prayers being answered at your well?
- Is there room for everyone at your well?
- Is there rest for the weary at your well?
- Do you believe provision, healing, deliverance, forgiveness and peace are happening at your well?
- Are you encountering Jesus at your well?
- Is there acceptance at your well?
- Are words of knowledge flowing at your well?
- Are lids being removed at your well?
- Are you using the authority you’ve been given at your well?
- Is there fruit growing around your well?
- Is life happening at your well?

Lord, stir up the deep, deep wells within us. We want to be free flowing...freely giving what we have so freely received.

