

1. “... shall be in him a fountain of living water” part two

The previous time if you remember, we were looking at John 4, where The Lord spoke with the Samaritan woman at Jacob's well. Remember 'Peggy' ?

In Paul's letter to the Galatians much later, he writes...,
“Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree"), that the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.” (Galatians 3:13-14 NKJV)

It's amazing isn't it, how you can read something loads of times and then one time you read it and realise that you've missed what it actually says eh ? And in that verse, Paul says...
“that the blessing of Abraham might come upon ‘the Gentiles’ in Christ Jesus .” The promise of the Spirit which had to go to the Jews first but was never intended to be exclusive.

And that was what the Lord was alluding to in his conversation with the Samaritan woman.
In verse 10 of John chapter 4, He said to her....,
“If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, 'Give Me a drink,' you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water.” (John 4:10 NKJV)

“the gift of God” and “living water”, both veiled references to the Holy Spirit at that time..., which was the promise of The Spirit through faith in Him.
The Jews were waiting for the Messiah and clearly these Samaritans also shared the same hope but the revelation of a Saviour who would take away the sin of the whole world ... and the outpouring of The Holy Spirit afterwards on all believers, both Jew and Gentile, seems to have been a complete mystery, only to be revealed after the cross.

Which makes it all the more remarkable really, when you see what the men of the city said after The Lord had stayed there at Sychar for 2 days, at their request.
Then they said to the woman, "Now we believe, not because of what you said, for we ourselves have heard Him and we know that this is indeed the Christ, the Saviour of the world.” (John 4:42 NKJV)

Obviously it wouldn't be until after He had become our sin offering and been raised from the dead, living proof of God's acceptance and that all our sins had been dealt with forever., that forgiveness through faith in Jesus could be preached....but these folks were primed and ready.

And it was Paul, the apostle to the Gentiles, who wrote...,
“In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation;... in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise,” (Ephesians 1:13 NKJV)

So that's us... and John 4:14, is the verse at heart of this study, where The Lord, speaking of The Holy Spirit of promise, said...,
“...whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst.... But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain (pege) of water, springing up into everlasting life.” (John 4:14 NKJV)

And I know there's no doubt but if there was any., just a few chapters further on in John 7, it says...,
“On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "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." But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.” (John 7:37-39 NKJV)

Which first and foremost speaks of The Lord Jesus, doesn't it ? Who in our place, was smitten of God on the cross for all our sins...., typified by Moses when he struck the rock at God's instruction after the children of Israel had been complaining and crying out for water.

It was the rock that received the blow, just as Jesus did on our behalf at the whipping post and on the cross...., while the blessing was poured out on the complainers. Scripture says that a fountain of water burst out in abundance from the rock.

“Who turned the rock into a pool of water, the flint into a fountain (mayan) of waters.” It says, in Psalm 114:8 NKJV

The punishment for all our sin fell on Him “one died for all, therefore all died”, scripture tells us.. and having dealt with sin and been raised from the dead, living proof that the offering was acceptable..., He was glorified and sat down at The Father's right hand.

2.

And that river of living water has been flowing from the throne of God ever since hasn't it ? Imparting life to all who believe on Jesus as their Saviour.

And this gift of The Spirit He said, would be like a fountain, a spring of water within us, springing up unto everlasting life.

And previously we were looking at springs and that unique characteristic that sets them apart from any other type of well, in that they never stop giving..., a constant flow, with no effort on our part other than to draw water from them.

If you remember, we looked at a couple of springs on Kos and how by type they just speak of abundance.

And this is what The Lord says of The Holy Spirit who dwells within us, irrespective of how we think, or may feel from time to time. If there's just one thing that you take from the study, I hope it's that.

You know how it is..., sometimes The Lord can feel far away but like He said to David at the end of his life..., "*I was with you whithersoever you went.*" (2 Samuel 7:9 NKJV)

So to draw water with expectant and thankful hearts. And like you, I relish those times especially when The Word that's preached, read, or whatever., is witnessed within and there's a joy, almost like an inner "*amen, this is it ! This is the truth, walk in this.*"

It's life that's being ministered isn't it ?

In fact I was listening to one of the meetings on the website where you folks were talking along these lines..., about how praise and worship prepares the heart, even if one is tired or jaded initially ... but how the Word preached afterwards is then able to minister life to receptive hearts and the joy and invigoration that comes with that.

It reminded me of something Paul wrote to the Corinthians, you know the scripture, where he says in effect "look our hearts are enlarged, we are ready to preach the gospel to you, you're greatly loved and cherished..., be equally passionate in your response." Something like that..., I won't go there as it's quite long but you know the one. But we do get loaded up with all kinds of things like Martha ... and The Lord saying to her, "*one thing is needful*", which is to draw from him.

But time spent in praise and worship really is so valuable eh? Giving everyone a chance to switch off to the cares and things of the day that fill one's mind, so readily.... and just to look to The Lord instead and be reminded of His great love for us and His one desire, which is to bless and build us up in Christ, to minister life to us .

It's just like that scripture in Isaiah 12, which we looked at last time, if you remember..., "with **'joy'** you will draw water out of the wells of salvation".

"Behold, God is my salvation, I will trust and not be afraid; 'For YAH, the LORD, is my strength and song; He also has become my salvation.' " Therefore with joy you will draw water from the wells (mayan) of salvation." (Isaiah 12:2-3 NKJV)

Do you remember ? "The wells('mayan') of salvation, (Yeshuah/Jesus) " = (The springs of Yeshuah)
'mayan' being one of those 3 Hebrew words if you recall, that equates to the Greek word 'pege'(fountain /spring).

Which just makes me think of each one us..., the many membered body of Christ, with different gifts and callings, "*the wells(springs) of salvation*". In particular the many ministries that He's placed in the church... and some great ones too, which are like the Vourina spring on Kos if you remember, benefitting so many .

Anyway..., we've looked at the abundant and free flowing nature of The Spirit within each of us..., and in this second part I was hoping we could look at just one of the characteristics of The Holy Spirit, which is one of revelation.

Which sounds super spiritual but you know what I mean.

For example when God's Word opens to us and there's a witness within, a joy, like you've just eaten something really tasty.... and sometimes it's understanding eh, that thrills the heart ? Life giving revelation that He gives us through God's Word concerning The Lord Jesus and this so great salvation, that just inspires faith and imparts life.

Scriptures that seem to speak into a situation sometimes, being witnessed within..., or a Word from The Lord through the gifts of The Spirit that encourages and builds us up.

Always it's life giving and always points us to the finished work of Christ. Even correction is precious .

I think it's fair to say, that if one was to think of scriptures relating to The Holy Spirit..., overwhelmingly, revelation would be the characteristic that stands out.

Scripture tells us that the love of God has been shed abroad in our hearts through The Holy Spirit given to us.

That He is The Spirit of sonship, ("*and because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying, 'Abba, Father!'*" (Galatians 4:6)). And also that He is The Spirit of prophecy.

3.

But it's this particular characteristic of The Holy Spirit, of revelation..., revelation which just magnifies The Lord Jesus and His finished work and the things of God our Father, that I'd like to focus on.

And probably the first scripture that springs to mind...(springs ! That's quite appropriate eh ?), is this one in John 16..,

"I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come.

He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you. All things that the Father has are Mine. Therefore I said that He will take of Mine and declare it to you." (John 16:12-15 NKJV)

And wisdom too, if we ask . Which is just as well, as so often in the natural we seem prone to making poor choices, at least I do..., some kind of idiot gene that's been passed down I think ... but even when we do make mistakes, He comforts and draws us close and encourages us 'again'..., to just trust and learn to bring everything to Him in the first place.

I find that scripture from Proverbs always comes to mind,(usually afterwards) , *"acknowledge Him in all your ways and He will direct your paths,"* and I think, right, I'll do that.... and think of it next time too! But I'll learn.

Then you've got the Apostle John who said that we have no need that any man teach us because we have The Holy Spirit within, who teaches us all things.

"But the anointing which you have received from Him abides in you, and you do not need that anyone teach you; but as the same anointing teaches you concerning all things, and is true, and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you will abide in Him." (1 John 2:27 NKJV)

And when you look at that verse in it's full context, John points out in the first place, the importance of treasuring in our heart God's Word of Life to us concerning Jesus ... the forgiveness of sins through His blood and how The Holy Spirit we've received as a consequence of that, then leads and guides us into all the truth...,dealing with every doubt or fear.

It's an unveiling isn't it of this so great salvation that declares we are God's children, through faith ? A brand new creation in Christ, righteous and Holy in His sight, through the finished work of Jesus.

Anyway this is the verse in it's fullness, showing the Gospel and the subsequent gift of The Spirit, that go hand in hand.

"Therefore let that abide in you which you heard from the beginning." (So He's pointing us to The Gospel, the finished work of Jesus on our behalf). *"If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, you also will abide in the Son and in the Father. And this is the promise that He has promised us--eternal life.*

These things I have written to you concerning those who try to deceive you.

But the anointing which you have received from Him abides in you, and you do not need that anyone teach you; but as the same anointing teaches you concerning all things, and is true, and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you will abide in Him." (1 John 2:24-27 NKJV)

Even the gifts of the Spirit and the ministries, which are revelatory and Word based for the most part..., all there to see to it that we grow in grace and the knowledge of The Lord and possess by faith all that's ours in Christ.

You've got Paul for instance, in his letter to the Ephesians, praying that they receive The Spirit of wisdom and revelation..., referring to The Holy Spirit..,

"Therefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints, do not cease to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers:

that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, the eyes of your understanding being enlightened;

.... that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what [is] the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated [Him] at His right hand in the heavenly [places]....,"

(Ephesians 1:15-20 NKJ)

To the Corinthians he writes....., (1 Corinthians 2:12)

12 "Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God. These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual."

4.

On one occasion Jesus asked the disciples, "who do men say that I am?" And they said..., "Some say John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets."

He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter answered and said, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

Jesus answered and said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven. And I also say to you that you are Peter (petros/a stone), and on this rock (Petra/a cliff) I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it". Matthew 16: 14-18

There's different opinions on this but I believe The Lord was saying there that His church would be built and established on revelation..., revelation specifically of Himself..., through the gifts and the different ministries, by The Spirit.... as Paul pointed out to the Corinthian church,

"But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord". (2 Corinthians 3:18 NKJV)

So with The Lord Jesus saying that The Holy Spirit would be a fountain of water within us springing up unto everlasting life ... and this characteristic of The Lord who now lives within, of revelation....., there's something really interesting in The Old Testament that's worth looking at..., just to finish with.

Those two things, a spring typifying The Lord in us and revelation of God's Word.

So first we just need to get re-acquainted with those 3 Hebrew words that correspond to the Greek word **'pege'**, meaning a spring/fountain, which is how Jesus described The Holy Spirit within us.

They're **'mayan'**....., **'maqor'**....., and **'ayin'**, which all mean spring/or fountain and correspond directly to **'pege'**.

And if you remember, **'mayan'** actually comes from the word **'ayin'**, 'ayin' being the root word ... and **'maqor'** is the one that's generally used metaphorically..., figuratively.

So **'ayin'** can be seen as the principle oneand you see it reflected in some of the place names today in Israel where you see the word 'ein' at the start of the name. Ein Gedi for example by the Dead Sea, which is a famous natural spring and area. It's one of the places where David hid when being hunted by Saul who sought to kill him.

Anyway..., taking **'ayin'** as the principle one, it's really interesting to find that **'ayin'** also means 'eye'. In fact that's its primary meaning.

So in the context of what we've been looking at regarding revelation that The Holy Spirit brings to us ... who is typified as a spring within us, it's like something is being flagged, saying "take note of this".

Because with nearly 500 references of **'ayin'** as eye...and over 200 as sight..... and a few others all to do with appearance and sight, there are only 22 times according to Strong's concordance, that **'ayin'** appears in the context of a spring/ a fountain..., where it's been translated equally as either fountains or wells.

So these 22 times where it's used for a fountain or spring, flags up something really significant.

When you look at commentaries as to why this Hebrew word **'ayin'** meaning 'eye', was used by The Holy Spirit in this way..., the reason given, is usually a little bit vague...and I don't mean to be disparaging, I just can't think of the right word... but basically that no-one really knows . Which is fair enough.

Strong's for instance, saying that by analogy, it's like the eye of the landscape. And most tend to say something very similar....., the effect of sunlight reflecting on it kind of thing.

Even the pictograph though for the Hebrew letter **'ayin'**, is an eye. So there's something really special here I believe for The Holy Spirit to have inspired the writer, which was Moses, to use that word in reference to a natural spring.

Incidentally so as not to confuse, the first 2 mentions of fountains in scripture are when the fountains of the deep were broken up at the flood and then were stopped after the flood ... and the word used there is **'mayan'**. But don't forget, that comes from the root word **'ayin'**.

So we're going to look at the very first mention of **'ayin'** where it's used clearly as a fountain, a natural spring.... and then compare it with the first mention of **'ayin'** as 'eye' and I think there's something there for us.

(An encouragement to believe and trust God's Word rather than be led by natural reason and intellect, which is the area where the enemy operates .)

5.

So the first mention of '*ayin*' as a spring in the Bible is in Genesis 16:7-14 NKJV

7 Now the Angel of the LORD found her by a spring(ayin) of water in the wilderness, by the spring (ayin) on the way to Shur. And He said, "Hagar, Sarai's maid, where have you come from, and where are you going?" She said, "I am fleeing from the presence of my mistress Sarai."

Straight away, it's really marked isn't it? This is about God's Word.., about revelation ...and at a spring.

Obviously she was extremely distressed to say "*I'm fleeing.....*". And most will know what led up to this but I'll just mention it quickly, how at Sarai's bidding, Hagar her maid became pregnant by Abram in an attempt to produce an heir according to the promise, as her own natural life cycle for being able to bear children had finished.

What happened next was totally unforeseen and Sarai knowing she'd made a mistake said to Abram...

"My wrong be upon you! I gave my maid into your embrace; and when she saw that she had conceived, I became despised in her eyes. The LORD judge between you and me." So Abram said to Sarai, "Indeed your maid is in your hand; do to her as you please." And when Sarai dealt harshly with her, she fled from her presence." (Genesis 16:5-6 NKJV)

So having conceived and with Sarai being childless, it says that Hagar then despised Sarai..., it's a really strong word that's used there. So whether Sarai chastised her physically or verbally it doesn't say.., maybe both? But she was so shaken up by this, that she ran away and was trying to go back to Egypt it seems ... and had covered about 60-70 miles from Hebron to this place. Which is what, about 3 or 4 days so far in the wilderness ?(It's all there in Genesis 16.)

But to use the word "fleeing" and to have travelled this distance all alone, risking her life in the process.., you get the sense that she was very deeply affected by what had happened.

Which makes what happened next all the more remarkable...because up until this moment, everything inside her was saying, "run, get away".

9 The Angel of the LORD said to her, "Return to your mistress, and submit yourself under her hand."

Then the Angel of the LORD said to her, "I will multiply your descendants exceedingly, so that they shall not be counted for multitude."

And the Angel of the LORD said to her: "Behold, you are with child, And you shall bear a son. You shall call his name Ishmael, Because the LORD has heard your affliction. He shall be a wild man; His hand shall be against every man, And every man's hand against him. And he shall dwell in the presence of all his brethren."

13 Then she called the name of the LORD who spoke to her, You-Are-the-God-Who-Sees; for she said, "Have I also here seen Him who sees me?"

14 Therefore the well was called Beer Lahai Roi; observe, it is between Kadesh and Bered.

(Genesis 16:7-14 NKJV)

So when you look at Kadesh, this is in the wilderness, way to the south, bordering Egypt.

Beer Lahai Roi meaning, "well of the living one who sees me".

It's amazing isn't it..., a woman again, at a spring? And here The angel of The Lord meets her and the whole account is stamped all over with revelation. God's living word to her, which brought comfort, instruction and was prophetic . And she receives and accepts God's Word from The angel that had appeared and spoken to her ... and in obedience returns to Abram and Sarai. And she called the well, 'Beer Lahai Roi' , meaning, "*well of the living one who sees me*"

Everything inside up to that point was saying, "run, get away...", even at the risk of her own life.

And like the other lady of John 4, she also calls it a well (*be'er* in Hebrew) but again The Holy Spirit wants us to be aware that this was a spring.

Incidentally, this well called Be'er Lahai Roi on the way to Shur, is where Isaac would live many years later on.

Scripture tells us that when Abraham's servant brought Rebekah back with him as a bride for Abraham's son Isaac, that Isaac came by the way of Be'er Lahai Roi..., so he appears to have been already settled there at that time.

And if you look at a map and find Kadesh, you'll see that this region is the southern most part of Canaan...., right on the border with Egypt.

60 miles further on through barren and difficult terrain would have seen her back in Egypt proper, amongst her own people. That's if she made it of course... but on the strength of God's Word to her, which she believed and obeyed, she retraced those 60 miles she'd already come and returned to Abram and Sarai at Hebron instead.

One presumes she would have told them everything that happened but nevertheless it couldn't have been easy for her.

6.

But the key thing..., is that she believed God's Word to her and that's the issue here in this very first mention of 'ayin' as a spring. Isn't it interesting to find revelation of God's Word linked to the very first mention of 'ayin' as a spring? Revelation and God's Word is stamped all over it and what a good outcome for her? I wondered if Abram had prayed for her?

But God's Word found her, encouraged and instructed her ... and gave her hope and a vision for the future. Just like us .

The Lord found us and called us through His Word... and our 'seeing'..., our vision now, if you like, is as a result of having believed God's Word to us through the Gospel.

For we walk by faith not by sight, eh? Which is exactly what Hagar did in returning, she had a different vision based on God's Word.

Anyway that's the first mention of 'ayin' as a spring/fountain.

Have a look now at the very first mention of the word 'ayin', as 'eye'.

"Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, 'Has God indeed said, 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden'? And the woman said to the serpent, 'We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden but of the fruit of the tree which [is] in the midst of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.'"

And here it is

*4 Then the serpent said to the woman, 'You will not surely die. For God knows that in the day you eat of it **your eyes will be opened**, (that's the very 1st mention of the word 'ayin') and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."*

So the first mention of 'ayin' as a spring ...and the first mention of 'ayin' as eye, are both about seeing..., But what a difference?

Hagar's eyes were opened to God's Word at that spring and this probably saved her life and changed her vision entirely. She believed it and her actions and hope for the future was now based wholeheartedly on God's Word to her, which came to pass, just as He'd said.

And being led of The Spirit is The Lord's plan and purpose for us from the beginning..., his best for us.

"Therefore, brethren...," Paul says, "we are debtors--not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption (sonship) by whom we cry out, 'Abba, Father.'" (Romans 8:12-15 NKJV)

And then in Philippians 2 and verse 13,

"For it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure." (Philippians 2:13 NKJV)

Whereas Eve and then Adam, both disregarded God's Word to them and instead believed Satan's lie, which was that they wouldn't die if they ate of that tree. Persuaded, that in fact God was withholding something special from them. That was the enticement.

6 So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes (2nd mention) and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate. 7 Then the eyes of both of them(3rd mention) were opened, and they knew that they [were] naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings.

They let their senses and natural reasoning push God's Word aside and that's exactly the realm where our Adversary operates..., in the natural, on a soulish level..., reasoning things out, where one is easily stumbled.

These two opposites., faith, which is spiritual and is of the heart, believing God's Word.... and earthly wisdom, where we rely on our senses and natural reasoning. Which is highlighted so well in Proverbs 3:5-8.,

"Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths. Do not be wise in your own eyes; Fear the LORD and depart from evil. It will be health to your flesh, And strength to your bones." Proverbs 3:5-8 NKJV,

7.

And we see that contrast in those two first mentions, which is a contradiction of terms but you know what I mean. The things is, we were never intended to sit in the driving seat but that's what Adam wanted it seems. Whereas the gift of The Spirit through faith in Jesus is the fruition of God's dream for man.

"In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation;... in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise," (Ephesians 1:13 NKJV)

Anyway that's it....and just by way of encouragement, if there was only one thought that you were to retain from the study, please let it be this... because this is the heart of it..., that regardless of how you might feel from time to time, to know that within us, God's wonderful gift of The Holy Spirit, who will be with us forever..., is constantly building us up, encouraging and leading us into an ever closer relationship with The Lord Jesus. Working in us to will and to do of His good pleasure.

Quite simply, it's the truth. And having that mindset of abundance, a constant flow, it changes one's expectancy and attitude when waiting on The Lord, in everything really. Just like a natural spring that just keeps on giving and giving.

So *"With joy to draw water out of the wells of salvation."*

On the web site I've tagged a few notes on the end of the pdf file of this second part. It's just some interesting factual information from the first and second part that I left out. At least I think it's interesting, ...about Sychar, Shechem, Jacob, all sorts. Nothing unimportant really, just side issues that add some colour, that I left out because of time and not wanting to detract from the main thing I felt to share...., which was God's priceless gift to us of The Holy Spirit.

Anyway thanks for being able to share like this and to feel part of things. It really is a privilege and I'm so grateful to The Lord for His lovingkindness . Love you folks very much, bye for now.

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NOTES:

So these few thoughts are just a bit of background colour to the accounts in the study , it seemed a waste to just bin them. >>>>

Reading from John's Gospel account, prior to coming to Jacob's well in Samaria, The Lord and his disciples had already travelled from Cana in Galilee which is in the northern province, through Samaria and on into Judea to celebrate the Passover at Jerusalem. The 3 provinces, like layers of a cake, with Galilee in the North, Samaria in the middle and Judea in the South. And after Passover they had remained in Judea for a while.

We can pick it up in verse 22 of John 3 where it says...,
"After these things..., "Jesus and His disciples came into the land of Judea and there He remained with them and baptised. Now John also was baptising in Aenon near Salim, because there was much water there. And they came and were baptised."
'Aenon', means springs, natural springs... and comes from the Hebrew word, **'ayin'**, one of 3 Hebrew words equating to the Greek word **'pege'**.

Fast forward a bit more to John 4, verse1 (NKJV),
v1 "Therefore, when the Lord knew that the Pharisees had heard that Jesus made and baptised more disciples than John, (though Jesus Himself did not baptise, but His disciples), He left Judea and departed again to Galilee but He needed to go through Samaria. So He came to a city of Samaria which is called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob gave to his son Joseph.

It's reckoned that Sychar and Shechem if not one and the same, were directly adjacent to one another. The clincher is that it was near the parcel of land that belonged to Jacob and that was beside Shechem.
In fact the name Sychar, which means 'drunken,' is widely considered to be the name given to Shechem by The Jews, as a term of disrespect in relation to being idolatrous. You'll find this in Isaiah's prophecy regarding the Assyrian invasion that would come as a consequence of idolatry. Isaiah 28:1-7 .

But this spot holds a special place in the history of the nation because it was here at Shechem which is pretty much in the centre of the country and on high ground, that the Lord told Abram, " this is the land I will give to your descendants" and he built an altar there. (Genesis 12:6-7)
"Abram passed through the land to the place of Shechem, as far as the terebinth tree of Moreh. And the Canaanites [were] then in the land. Then the LORD appeared to Abram and said, "To your descendants I will give this land." And there he built an altar to the LORD, who had appeared to him". (Genesis 12:6-7 NKJV)

8.

Likewise, it was also here that Jacob first came after returning to the land in obedience to God's promise to him. The same promise given to his father Isaac and grandfather Abraham.

Because all the prior events, such as Jacob and his family fleeing by night from Haran where he had spent the last 20 years or more... and Laban's clutches..., the incident with the angel..... his meeting with Esau..., his temporary settlement at a place he named Succoth..., all of that had taken place to the east of the river Jordan, so not yet in the land at that point. But you can see that despite all his fears which he now faced up to, he believed God's word to him..., that was the greatest thing in his life and his heart was set on trusting Him.

We see that even though the children of Israel would one day claim land to the east of the river Jordan, the promised land always meant crossing over the river into the land. Which is the west side of the river Jordan. The river Jordan was effectively the boundary of the promised land.

*(Joshua 1:2-4 The Lord said to Joshua "arise **go over this Jordan**...., **to the land I am giving them.**" and also, Joshua 1:11 "in 3 days you will **cross over this Jordan to go in to possess the land** which The Lord your God is giving you to possess".)*

So Jacob and all his family, with their flocks and herds, after finally entering the land, went first to Shechem. It's where his grandfather Abraham had first stopped and God had appeared to him and it was here that Jacob bought the parcel of land close to Shechem and just like his grandfather Abraham, he too built an altar to The Lord here.

In Genesis 33:18-20 you'll find this account that links Jacob with this place.

"Then Jacob came safely to the city of Shechem, which is in the land of Canaan, when he came from Padan Aram; and he pitched his tent before the city. And he bought the parcel of land, where he had pitched his tent, from the children of Hamor, Shechem's father, for one hundred pieces of money.

Then he erected an altar there and called it El Elohe Israel"("God, the God of Israel") (Genesis 33:18-20 NKJV)

And where it says, *"Then Jacob came safely to the city of Shechem, which is in the land of Canaan..."*, you get the sense of, "Made it!" "Made it at last ! We're in the land and at the centre of His will". Just as Abram must have felt.

And for me, wanting to own this plot of land where his grandfather had received God's promise and built an altar..., comes across almost like an act of faith on his part, that he too believed and was identifying with the promise with all his heart.

The events immediately afterwards with Jacob and his family, only go to highlight how the devil attempts..,(always unsuccessfully), to mar and bring down God's plans and purposes. I've seen it in my own life and no doubt you are aware of this too.

So if you look at a map, Shechem/Sychar is right in the centre of Israel, at the head of a 20 mile long valley..., tucked away just around the corner at the head of a wide valley that leads inland from the Jordan plain area which dissects the long mountain chain running north/south through the land.

And the city is flanked with Mt Gerazim on one sideand Mt Ebal which is slightly higher on the other. It's reckoned at one point that only a distance of 500 yards separate the two mountains at their respective base.

So they straddle the valley at this point which in effect is a natural highway leading inland....and the ancient city of Shechem, meaning shoulder or saddle, describes it's position perfectly, nestled between Mt Gerazim and Mt Ebal....and this is where Jacob's well was, at the foot of Mt Gerazim. This area was like a crossroads in effect.

Just 7 miles north west of here was another hill called Samaria, which in Hebrew is 'shomron' meaning 'watch mountain', coming from the word 'shamar'(to guard or keep.) This in particular held a commanding position regarding all east/ west movement and trade and vice versa, while with Shechem it was more north /south. (1 Kings 16:23-27)

Eventually though the whole region would take that name...but the key thing is, trade and movement could easily be overseen by whoever owned this region.

And when you look at pictures of the region that show it's elevated position, it's obvious straightaway how important this place would have been strategically, with trade and what have you being funnelled through here.

Modern day Nablus occupies this spot now.

But with Shechem/Sychar being 1,800ft above sea level and the Jordan plain at the other end of the valley being 700ft below sea level before you even start! It really helps you appreciate where it says ...,

Jesus therefore, being wearied from His journey, sat thus by the spring (pege). It was about the sixth hour. (midday).

It was here at Shechem that Rehoboam met with the representatives of the 10 Northern tribes after Solomon his Father died and instead of being declared King, in a moment saw the kingdom split apart through His harsh words to them.

Consequently the 10 Northern tribes set up their own place of worship of The Lord (Yahweh), here on Mt Gerazim, which the Samaritan woman referred to if you remember.

9.

Anyway that just sets the scene of John 4: 1-6.

“Therefore, when the Lord knew that the Pharisees had heard that Jesus made and baptised more disciples than John, (though Jesus Himself did not baptise, but His disciples), He left Judea and departed again to Galilee. But He needed to go through Samaria. So He came to a city of Samaria which is called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. Now Jacob's well was there. Jesus therefore, being wearied from His journey, sat thus by the well. It was about the sixth hour.” (midday)
(John 4:1-6 NKJV)

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And finally, just to point out once more, that while all springs can be termed quite correctly as wells..., obviously not all wells are springs... but The Holy Spirit within us, is most definitely typified as a fountain , a spring (*pege*) of living water.

And it's not just translators that describe springs as wells, even scripture does this too..., in the Old Testament for instance, signifying that it's a spring, '*ayin*' in one verse.... and then in the very next verse referring to it also as a well, '*be'er*'.

For example, when Abraham's servant was sent to get a bride for Isaac, (Genesis 24), the well that he waited beside after arriving at the city of Nahor, where Rebekah then came and drew water for Him and the camels, was a spring... but is first referred to as (*be'er*) a 'well'. (Genesis 24:11)

But then afterwards in the narrative is defined more specifically as a spring '*ayin*'... in 7 verses..., 13, 16, 29, 30, 42, 43, and 45. With the word (*be'er*) being used once more in verse 20.

And when you look at the Septuagint to cross check, you find that sure enough, '*pege*' a spring, is faithfully used 7 times for '*ayin*' in this Greek equivalent of the account... and '*phrear*' twice for '*be'er*'.

So '*be'er*' corresponds to '*phrear*', which is the usual term for a well, or cistern. While our 3..., '*mayan*', '*maqor*' and '*ayin*', equate to '*pege*', a spring or fountain.

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