

The **Good News** that John Wrote

***...that you may believe that
Jesus is the Christ, the Son of
God, and that believing you
may have life in his name.***

John 20.31

Life in the Spirit

Objectives of the Class

- To behold in our hearts the glory of Christ
- To participate more deeply in life in the Spirit
- To become more conformed to His image

Prayer Before Reading Scripture

Shine within our hearts, loving Master, the pure light of Your divine knowledge and open the eyes of our minds that we may comprehend the message of Your Gospel. Instill in us also reverence for Your blessed commandments, so that having conquered all sinful desires, we may pursue a spiritual life, thinking and doing all those things that are pleasing to You. For You, Christ our God, are the light of our souls and bodies, and to You we give glory together with Your Father who is without beginning and Your all holy, good, and life giving Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Overview

John 4:1-42

DIVISION OF THE PROMISED LAND TO THE 12 TRIBES OF ISRAEL

ConformingToJesus.com

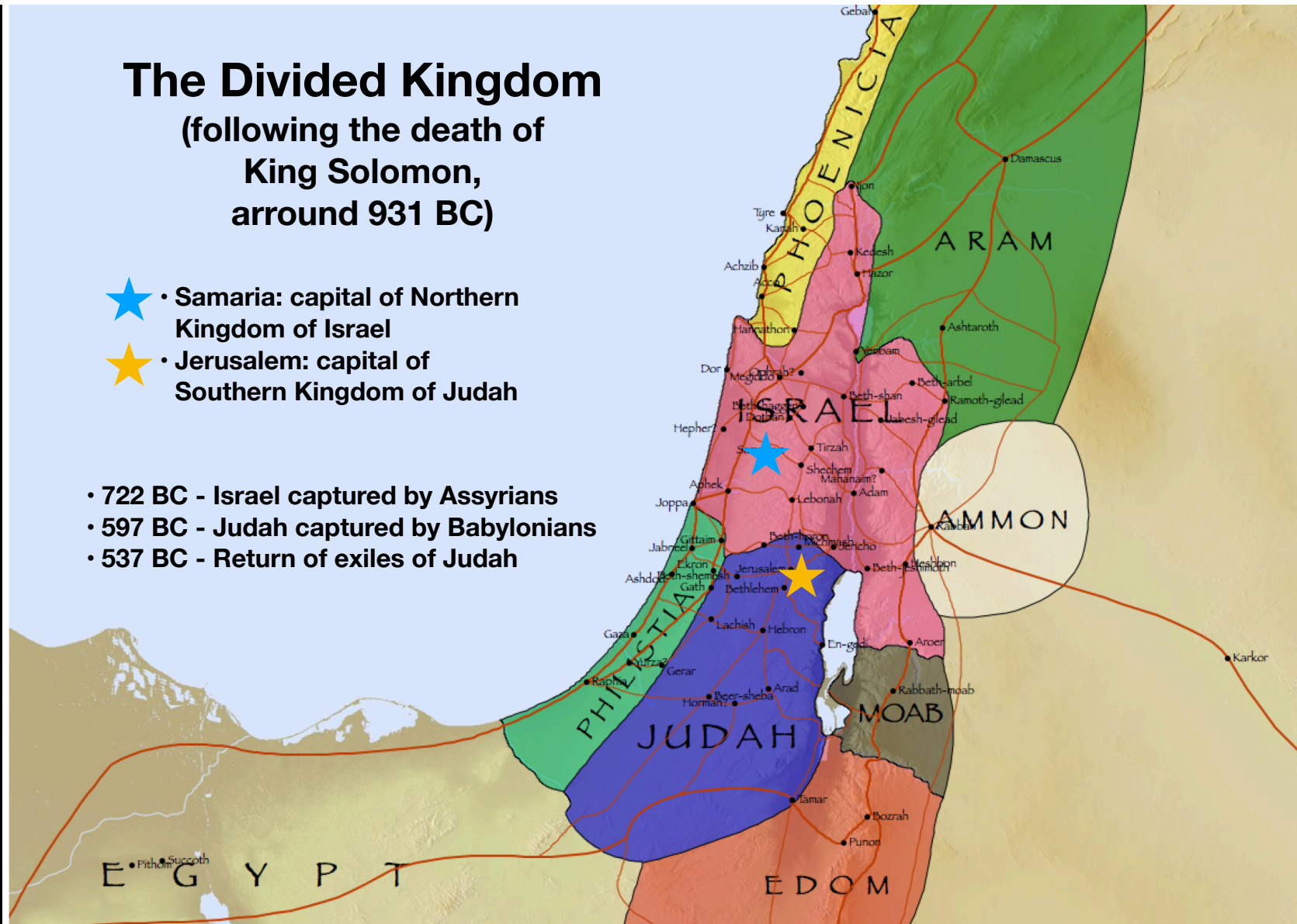


The Divided Kingdom

(following the death of
King Solomon,
around 931 BC)

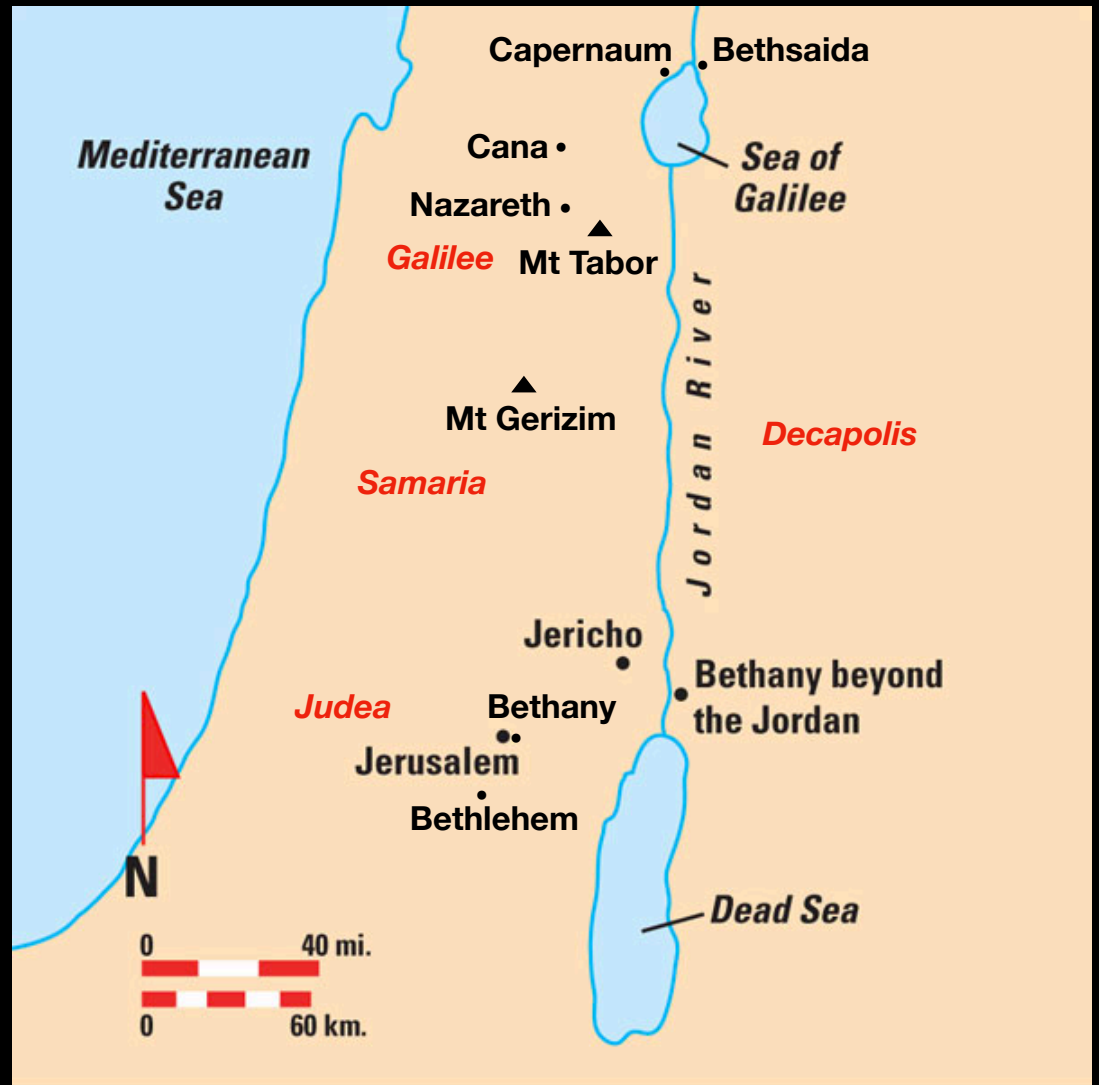
- ★ • Samaria: capital of Northern Kingdom of Israel
- ★ • Jerusalem: capital of Southern Kingdom of Judah

- 722 BC - Israel captured by Assyrians
- 597 BC - Judah captured by Babylonians
- 537 BC - Return of exiles of Judah



Samaria

- Direct route between Galilee and Jerusalem was through Samaria
- Jews and Samaritans did not like each other
- Religious Jewish men did not talk with a women in public



St. Photini of Samaria



- Baptized by the Apostles
- “Photini” means “enlightened one”
- Proclaimed the Gospel in Carthage
- Martyred 146 AD under Emperor Nero

Watch
John 4:1-42

Study

John 3:1-21

John 4.1-4 The Pharisees heard that Jesus was winning and baptizing more disciples than John. (Actually, Jesus himself did not baptize anyone; only his disciples did.) So when Jesus heard what was being said, he left Judea and went back to Galilee; on his way there he had to go through Samaria. (GNB)

1. Why did Jesus leave Judea and head for Galilee?
2. Why didn't Jesus Himself baptize?
3. Why did Jesus *have* to pass through Samaria?

John 4.5-6 In Samaria he came to a town named Sychar, which was not far from the field that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by the trip, sat down by the well. It was about noon. (GNB)

John 4.7-8 A Samaritan woman came to draw some water, and Jesus said to her, “Give me a drink of water.” (His disciples had gone into town to buy food.)
(GNB)

John 4.9 The woman answered, “You are a Jew, and I am a Samaritan—so how can you ask me for a drink?” (Jews will not use the same cups and bowls that Samaritans use.)
(GNB)

John 4.9 The Samaritan woman said to him, “How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?” For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.

1. What did Jewish law forbid that surprised the woman?
2. What other events in the Gospels indicate the relationship between Jews and Samaritans?
3. Watch how Jesus skillfully answers the woman’s questions.

John 4.10 Jesus answered, “If you only knew what God gives and who it is that is asking you for a drink, you would ask him, and he would give you life-giving water.” (GNB)

John 4.10 Jesus answered her, “If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, ‘Give me a drink,’ you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water.” (RSV)

1. What does Jesus perceive about the woman?
2. What kind of water does ‘living water’ (ὕδωρ ζῶν) normally refer to in Greek?

John 4.11-12 “Sir,” the woman said, “you don’t have a bucket, and the well is deep. Where would you get that life-giving water? It was our ancestor Jacob who gave us this well; he and his children and his flocks all drank from it. You don’t claim to be greater than Jacob, do you?” (GNB)

John 4.11-12 The woman said to him, “Sir, you have nothing to draw with, and the well is deep; where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well, and drank from it himself, and his sons, and his cattle?” (RSV)

1. What is significant about the woman addressing Jesus as “Sir” (Κύριε)?
2. What is significant about the phrase “our ancestor Jacob”?

John 4.13-14 Jesus answered, “Those who drink this water will get thirsty again, but those who drink the water that I will give them will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give them will become in them a spring which will provide them with life-giving water and give them eternal life.” (GNB)

John 4.13-14 Jesus said to her, “Every one who drinks of this water will thirst again, but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst; the water that I shall give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.” (RSV)

1. What is it that Jesus is calling “water”?

John 4.15 “Sir,” the woman said, “give me that water! Then I will never be thirsty again, nor will I have to come here to draw water.” (GNB)

John 4.15 The woman said to him, “Sir, give me this water, that I may not thirst, nor come here to draw.” (RSV)

1. What kind of thirst is satisfied by the water Jesus gives?

John 4.16-18 “Go and call your husband,” Jesus told her, “and come back.” “I don’t have a husband,” she answered. Jesus replied, “You are right when you say you don’t have a husband. You have been married to five men, and the man you live with now is not really your husband. You have told me the truth.” (GNB)

John 4.16-18 Jesus said to her, “Go, call your husband, and come here.” The woman answered him, “I have no husband.” Jesus said to her, “You are right in saying, ‘I have no husband’; for you have had five husbands, and he whom you now have is not your husband; this you said truly.” (RSV)

1. This is a clue as to why the woman came to the well at noon.

John 4.19-20 “I see you are a prophet, sir,” the woman said. “My Samaritan ancestors worshiped God on this mountain, but you Jews say that Jerusalem is the place where we should worship God.” (GNB)

John 4.19-20 The woman said to him, “Sir, I perceive that you are a prophet. Our fathers worshiped on this mountain; and you say that in Jerusalem is the place where men ought to worship.” (RSV)

1. Note how she responded to Jesus knowing about her life.
2. What mountain is she referring to?

John 4.21 Jesus said to her, “Believe me, woman, the time will come when people will not worship the Father either on this mountain or in Jerusalem. (GNB)

John 4.21 Jesus said to her, “Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. (RSV)

1. Access to the presence of God will not be tied to either location.

John 4.22 You Samaritans do not really know whom you worship; but we Jews know whom we worship, because it is from the Jews that salvation comes. (GNB)

John 4.22 You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. (RSV)

1. What did Jesus mean “you do not know what you worship”?
2. What does Jesus mean by “salvation is from the Jews”?

John 4.23-24 But the time is coming and is already here, when by the power of God's Spirit people will worship the Father as he really is, offering him the true worship that he wants. God is Spirit, and only by the power of his Spirit can people worship him as he really is." (GNB)

John 4.23-24 But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for such the Father seeks to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth." (RSV)

1. What does Jesus mean by "worship in spirit" (**ἐν πνεύματι**)?
2. What does Jesus mean by "worship...in truth" (**ἐν... ἀληθείᾳ**)?

John 4.25-26 The woman said to him, “I know that the Messiah will come, and when he comes, he will tell us everything.” Jesus answered, “I am he, I who am talking with you.” (GNB)

John 4.25-26 The woman said to him, “I know that Messiah is coming (he who is called Christ); when he comes, he will show us all things.” Jesus said to her, “I who speak to you am he.” (RSV)

1. What were the Samaritan's expectations regarding the Messiah?

John 4.27-30 At that moment Jesus' disciples returned, and they were greatly surprised to find him talking with a woman. But none of them said to her, "What do you want?" or asked him, "Why are you talking with her?" Then the woman left her water jar, went back to the town, and said to the people there, "Come and see the man who told me everything I have ever done. Could he be the Messiah?" So they left the town and went to Jesus. (GNB)

John 4.31-33 In the meantime the disciples were begging Jesus, “Teacher, have something to eat!” But he answered, “I have food to eat that you know nothing about.” So the disciples started asking among themselves, “Could somebody have brought him food?” (GNB)

1. Why so often did Jesus talk figuratively?

John 4.34 “My food,” Jesus said to them, “is to obey the will of the one who sent me and to finish the work he gave me to do. (GNB)

John 4. Jesus said to them, “My food is to do the will of him who sent me, and to accomplish his work. (RSV)

1. What goal is God working towards that for Christ is His food?
2. How does God feel about people being eternally separated from Him?
2 Peter 3.9-14
3. How, then, should we live?

John 4.35-38 You have a saying, ‘Four more months and then the harvest.’ But I tell you, take a good look at the fields; the crops are now ripe and ready to be harvested! The one who reaps the harvest is being paid and gathers the crops for eternal life; so the one who plants and the one who reaps will be glad together. For the saying is true, ‘Someone plants, someone else reaps.’ I have sent you to reap a harvest in a field where you did not work; others worked there, and you profit from their work.” (GNB)

1. What do the fields and crops signify?
2. Why did Jesus talk this way instead of plainly saying what He meant?
3. Who is it that worked and now the Apostles are benefiting from it?
4. What probably was happening when Jesus said, “take a good look at the fields”?
5. What else did Jesus say about “the harvest field”? **Matthew 9.35-37**.

John 4.39- 42 Many of the Samaritans in that town believed in Jesus because the woman had said, “He told me everything I have ever done.” So when the Samaritans came to him, they begged him to stay with them, and Jesus stayed there two days. Many more believed because of his message, and they told the woman, “We believe now, not because of what you said, but because we ourselves have heard him, and we know that he really is the Savior of the world.” (GNB)

The Great Commission

- **Matthew 28.18-20:** Jesus drew near and said to them, “I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. Go, then, to all peoples everywhere and make them my disciples: baptize them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and teach them to obey everything I have commanded you. And I will be with you always, to the end of the age.”
- **Acts 1.8:** When the Holy Spirit comes upon you, you will be filled with power, and you will be witnesses for me in Jerusalem, in all of Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

Seeing Jesus

- **John 12.20-1:** ...at the feast were some Greeks. So these came to Philip...and said to him, “Sir, we want to see Jesus.”
 - **John 4.29:** “Come and see the man who told me everything I have ever done. Could he be the Messiah?”
1. What do we want people to see, when they see our lives?
 2. What do we want people to say, after visiting our parish?
 3. What is the primary characteristic of being in God’s likeness? **1 John 4.7-12.** Of a disciple of Christ? **John 13.35.**

Watch and Apply

John 4:1-42

Achieving the Objectives of the Class

- To behold in our hearts the glory of Christ
 - What did you observe that revealed to you the glory of Christ?
- To participate more deeply in life in the Spirit
 - What did you learn that can help you to participate more deeply in the life of the Spirit?
- To become more conformed to His likeness
 - What did you observe in Christ that you need to conform to?