

SAMARIA

Cities of the Bible





SAMARIA



SAMARIA IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

Samaria and Ahab

- Ahab made Samaria a haven for idolatry – 1 Kings 16:30-33
- God sent Elijah to Samaria in response to Ahab's sin
 - Elijah brought punishment in drought and relief in rain – 1 Kgs. 17:1; 18:1-2
 - Ahab's and Samaria's sin continued despite God's grace seen in His deliverance of them – 1 Kgs. 20:42
 - Even God's judgment against him did not stop his evil ways – 1 Kgs. 21:17-19, 21-24; 22:37-38; 2 Kgs. 10:1-11
- God's grace continued despite its sin – 2 Kgs. 6:24-24, 31; 7:1ff



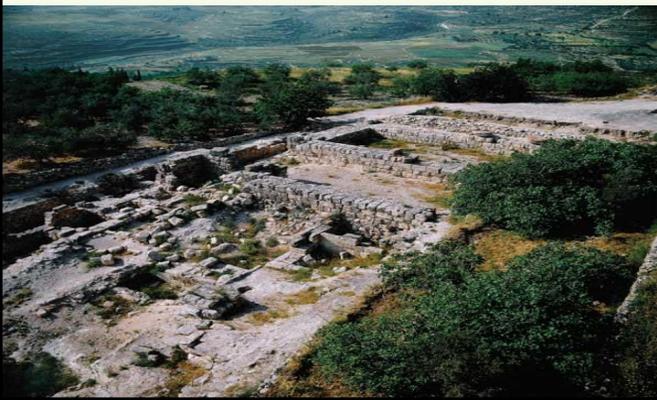
Samaria, Sin, and Destruction

- God's grace, mercy, and deliverance was lost upon Samaria.
 - They refused to repent – 2 Kgs. 13:6
 - Despite God's warnings they continued their sin for 100 more years resulting in destruction by the Assyrians - Hos. 13:16; 2 Kgs. 17:6
- The Assyrian king filled Samaria with foreigners.
 - Because they did not know God they suffered – 2 Kgs. 17:25
 - A priest from among Israel's captives was sent to teach them about God, resulting in continued idolatry and disobedience to God – 2 Kgs. 17:29, 32-35



What Samaria Shows Us

- It was a land whose people “feared the Lord,” but only as they chose to do so.
 - They mixed idolatry with their worship
 - They refused to repent
 - Even in their destruction God promised grace in their restoration – Jer. 31:5; Ezek. 16:53ff.
- In Samaria’s history we see the foundation of the Jewish prejudice against them
 - There was never a time Samaria was faithful
 - The settlement of Gentiles in it that further perverted worship added insult to injury – Jn. 8:48





SAMARIA IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

Jesus and
the
Samaritan
Woman
–
John 4

- Jesus had to pass through Samaria, which was not the norm – 4:4, 7-9, 27
- Jesus turned the conversation to living water and she believed and told others – 4:28-30, 39-42
- The despised, rejected, half-breed, idolatrous Samaritans were visited by God's Son, and they gladly received Him.



Jesus and the Ten Lepers

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Luke 7:11-19

- Jesus healed 10 lepers, outcasts, men separated from their people by a disease they did not ask for.
- Jesus' power was bestowed on them.
 - The results were indicative of Jesus's work among the Jews and the Samaritans.
 - Nine of the Jews did not glorify God or give thanks!
 - The outcast among outcasts saw the grace and wonder of Christ's power and thanked God.
 - From among the Samaritans who sickened the Jews by their idolatry was found one **whose faith made them well**.
 - If we would open our eyes, how many outcasts *like us* would listen, believe, and be made well?



Jesus and One's Neighbor

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Luke 10:30-37



- Jesus replied to the question, “who is my neighbor?” with a story of compassion.
- Note the contrasts:
 - The Jewish priest and Levite showed no compassion
 - The despised Samaritan showed compassion to a Jew indicative of the God the Jews claimed to serve.
- Could we find ourselves in the same boat as these Jews when we consider our attitude toward sinners?

Samaria and the Early Church



- Jesus commissioned the apostles to preach to Samaria – Acts 1:8
- The apostles and other Jewish disciples did not immediately go there.
 - Disciples were pushed there by Saul’s persecution – Acts 8:1
 - Those scattered went preaching the word – Acts 8:4-8, 12-13
- The power of the gospel is seen in the establishment of faithful churches in Samaria – Acts 9:31