

SHECHEM

Shechem, (Shoulder), you have carried the burden of Israel from the days of Abram upon his entrance to the Land from Haran, in his sojourn from Ur of the Chaldees at the command of the LORD of Glory who appeared to him and spoke to him there: *"Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will show thee" (Genesis 12:1).*

Shechem, you were the first to welcome Abram though he was a stranger and foreigner to the Hivites living in your domain. *"And Abram took Sarai his wife, and Lot his brother's son, and all their substance that they had gathered, and the souls that they had gotten in Haran; and they went forth to go into the Land of Canaan; and into the Land of Canaan they came. And Abram passed through the Land unto the place of Shechem, unto the Plain of Moreh. And the Canaanite was then in the Land. And the LORD appeared unto Abram, and said, 'Unto thy Seed will I give this Land': and there builded he an altar unto the LORD, who appeared unto him" (Genesis 12:5-7).*

Shechem, you were the first to welcome Abram and the last to hear the words of Joshua and the covenant he made with the children of Israel when he *"gathered all the tribes of Israel. . .and called for the elders of Israel, and for the heads, and for their judges, and for their officers; and they presented themselves before God. So Joshua made a covenant with the people that day, and set them a statute and an ordinance in Shechem. And Joshua wrote these words in the Book of the Law of God, and took a great Stone, and set it up there under an oak, that was the sanctuary of the LORD. And Joshua said unto all the people, Behold this Stone shall be a witness unto us; for it has heard all the words of the LORD which He spoke to us: it shall be therefore a witness unto you, lest you deny your God" (Joshua 24:1, 25-27).*

Shechem, you are the first and the last, the beginning of promise of possession and cleansing of sin from the Land through Abram and the Seed; and the last, the fulfillment of the promise and completion of possession and cleansing through Joshua and the Tribes. You are the seat of and the establishment of the Covenant between the LORD and His people. Shechem, within your bounds was written by Joshua the Testimony of the Book of the Law, along with the Witness of the Great Stone, set up under the oak of Moreh where Abram's sojourn began; the very place

where he made his claim to the promise, spoken to him by the mouth of the LORD. Yes, the exact sacred location where the first Altar was built and where Abram called upon the Name of the LORD (cp. Genesis 12:7).

Shechem, first and last, alpha and omega, beginning and end; you are the archtype of Christ and a revelation of Him, upon Whose shoulder the Kingdom and the Government of God shall stand (cp. Revelation 1:8, 11; 21:6; 22:13) *"For unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given, and the government shall be upon His shoulder (Heb. Shekem). . ."* (Isaiah 9:6a).

Shechem did you know the significance of those days of the Patriarchs that would forever alter you and bring renewal and cleansing to the Land in which you dwell? Yes, Shechem, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob are the beginning of days for you, and after so long a time the Seed has returned in Joshua and the Tribes, which pre-figure the true Seed Who would enter your borders in His time and bring His Living Water to all who abide within you there.

Shechem, by promise of Jacob you have been given to Joseph his son by Rachel, and to the Tribe of Ephraim by allotment by Joshua (cp. Genesis 48:22; Joshua 24:32) The bones of Joseph have been brought out of Egypt as he requested (Genesis 50:25), and now lie in the *"parcel of ground which Jacob bought of the sons of Hamor the father of Shechem for an hundred pieces of silver. . ."* (cp. Genesis 33:19). Yes, Joseph lies in that hallowed place with the consecrated Altar Jacob built there and called by the name El-Elohe-Israel, *"the mighty God of Israel"* (Genesis 33:20). Yes, even Joseph, the one sold into slavery by his brothers, who descended into Egypt and who serves as a very special type of Christ, a Lamb offered for the people and whose sacrifice made the way *"to save much people alive"* (Genesis 50:20). It was at that Altar and by the bones of Joseph that the claim to the Land is made firm and you Shechem belong to the LORD and the Land in which you dwell is cleansed. Yes, once again may it be said, Jacob made his claim to the Land, even as his father Abraham did before him by the Altars they built as a glorious proclamation of faith in the promises of God given to them and the Seed.

Oh, Shechem over 400 years have passed since the promises were made to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob concerning you and the Land of Promise. But the time has come, and the *"fourth generation"* (Genesis 15:16) has arrived. Joshua and the Tribes have taken possession and have

established new government and a new kingdom, Israel, in the Land. Shechem, you are a witness and a testimony to the faithfulness of God, our Father, whose words will never fail and whose promises will always be fulfilled in their time.

Shechem, you have become a City of Refuge from the avenger of blood; and a City for the sons of Aaron, the Kohathite family of Levites, along with your suburbs, the pasturelands for all their cattle to graze in the fertile valley between Mount Ebal to the North and Mount Gerizim to the South (Joshua 21:21).

Shechem, your streams of water that issue from the numerous springs that flow to every slope of the valley provide ample sustenance to the spreading vegetation in every direction in your environs. Jacob and his sons availed of your pastures for the grazing of their flocks (Genesis 37:13). Your waters flow forever from your aquifer and water summit deep within your Land. Jacob, who saw your beauty and your ample supply of water within, dug a well for his family and cattle to supply all their needs. Shechem, through famine, wars, and ever changing migrations of people throughout each generation that followed, you remained in your place awaiting the blessings from Mount Gerizim and the South winds that blow softly.

Now Shechem, your time has come. The Messiah, Jesus of Nazareth, has come to proclaim the complete fulfillment of all the promises made to the Fathers, and to bring salvation to all who dwell within your borders there. The Scriptures tell us:

Jesus left Judea, and departed into Galilee.

And He must needs go through Samaria.

Then came He to a City of Samaria called Shechem, near to the parcel of ground Jacob gave to his son, Joseph.

Now Jacob's Well was there. Jesus, therefore being weary with His journey, sat thus on the Well: and it was about the sixth hour.

There came a woman of Samaria to draw water. Jesus said unto her, "Give Me to drink."

For the disciples had gone away into the City to buy food.

Then said the woman of Samaria unto Him, "How is it that you being a Jew, ask drink of me, which am a woman of Samaria?" Now the Jews have no dealings with the Samaritans.

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

*The woman said to Him, "Sir, you have nothing to draw with, and the Well is deep, from where then have you that living water?
Are you greater than our father, Jacob, who gave us the Well, and drank thereof himself, along with his children and his cattle?"
Jesus answered and said to her, "Whosoever drinks of this water shall thirst again.
But whosoever drinks of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life."
The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, that I thirst not, neither come here to draw."
(John 4:3-15)*

Oh, Shechem, we must needs come to you in our journey. We have been to Gilgal, Jericho, Hebron, Gibeon and Gibeon; we have been to Shiloh and Bethel, but we must needs come to thee, for you reveal still more to us of Him, for Whom you are the type and shadow. You reveal still more of Him, Who gives us living water, and from Whom springs forth as a well the water of Life. Shechem, you are the Shoulder (*shekem*) that carries the Key to the House of David "to open and none shall shut; and to shut and none shall open" (cp. Isaiah 22:22). You are the beginning and you are the end of possession of Him Who is Life (cp. John 14:6). Oh, Shechem, with your key, open our eyes to see the Greater One: greater than "our father, Jacob"; greater than king Solomon (cp. Matthew 12:42); greater than the prophet, Jonah (cp. Matthew 12:41); "greater than our father, Abraham" (John 8:53). Yes, the Son is "counted worthy of more glory than Moses" a servant in the house; but Christ, the Son of David, is the "Son over His own house, whose house are we" (cp. Hebrews 3:3-6a).

Oh, Shechem, we believe! Not on the testimony of another, "for we have heard Him ourselves, and know that this is indeed the Christ, the Savior of the world" (John 4:42).