

John 4:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then cometh he to a city of Samaria, which is called Sychar,
near to the parcel of ground that Jacob gave to his son Joseph.

Analysis

The city of Sychar connects to Jacob's history in the land, linking Jesus' mission to Israel's patriarchal heritage. John emphasizes the historical and theological continuity between Old Testament promises and their New Testament fulfillment in Christ. The plot of ground Jacob gave Joseph symbolizes Israel's inheritance, which Christ has come to claim and transform.

Historical Context

Sychar was likely near ancient Shechem in Samaria. Jacob purchased land there (Genesis 33:19) and gave it to Joseph (Genesis 48:22). This area held deep significance in Israel's history as the site of covenant renewal under Joshua.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How does Jesus' journey through Samaria challenge ethnic and religious prejudices?

2. What does it mean that Christ claims and transforms the inheritance of the patriarchs?

Interlinear Text

ἔρχεται	οὕν	εἰς	πόλιν	τῆς	Σαμαρείας	λεγομένην	Συχάρ
cometh he	Then	to	a city	G3588	of Samaria	which is called	Sychar
G2064	G3767	G1519	G4172		G4540	G3004	G4965
πλησίον	τοῦ	χωρίου	ὃ	ἔδωκεν	Ἰακώβ	Ἰωσήφ	
near	G3588	to the parcel of ground	G3739	gave	that Jacob	Joseph	
G4139		G5564		G1325	G2384	G2501	
τῷ	υἱῷ	αὐτοῦ·					
G3588	son	G846					
	G5207						

Additional Cross-References

Joshua 24:32 (Parallel theme): And the bones of Joseph, which the children of Israel brought up out of Egypt, buried they in Shechem, in a parcel of ground which Jacob bought of the sons of Hamor the father of Shechem for an hundred pieces of silver: and it became the inheritance of the children of Joseph.

Genesis 33:19 (Parallel theme): And he bought a parcel of a field, where he had spread his tent, at the hand of the children of Hamor, Shechem's father, for an hundred pieces of money.

Genesis 48:22 (Parallel theme): Moreover I have given to thee one portion above thy brethren, which I took out of the hand of the Amorite with my sword and with my bow.

John 4:12 (Parallel theme): Art thou greater than our father Jacob, which gave us the well, and drank thereof himself, and his children, and his cattle?