11/9/22



1

Jesus' marriage proposal

Reading John 4 in an Old Testament context

Andrew Scott Meeson

WILL YOU MARRY EME?





3





5

11/9/22

The ART of BIBLICAL NARRATIVE Scene Robert Alter

Stranger travels to a foreign land
Stranger encounters a 'girl' (na'arah) at a well
Someone draws water from the well
Girl rushes home to tell of stranger's arrival
Stranger invited to girl's home and fed
A marriage is arranged

7 8

Stranger travels to a foreign land	Servant travels to Aram-Naharaim
	Servant travels to Aram-Nanaram
Stranger encounters a 'girl' (na'arah) at a well	Stranger meets Rebecca
Time of day	Evening, the time for girls drawing water



9 10

Narrative	Gen 24
Stranger travels to a foreign land	Servant travels to Aram-Naharaim
Stranger encounters a 'girl' (<i>na'arah</i>) at a well	Stranger meets Rebecca
Time of day	Evening, the time for girls drawing water
Someone draws water from the well	Rebecca gives servant a drink & draws for camels
Extraordinary feat/obstacle overcome	Rebecca waters 10 camels



11 12

Narrative	Gen 24
Stranger travels to a foreign land	Servant travels to Aram-Naharaim
Stranger encounters a 'girl' (<i>na'arah</i>) at a well	Stranger meets Rebecca
Time of day	Evening, the time for girls drawing water
Someone draws water from the well	Rebecca gives servant a drink & draws for camels
Extraordinary feat/obstacle overcome	Rebecca waters 10 camels
Girl rushes home to tell of stranger's	Rebecca ran to tell her mother's
arrival	household
Stranger invited to girl's home and fed	Laban ran to meet servant, etc.
A marriage is arranged	Gen 24:50-51

Stranger travels to a foreign land Servant travels to Aram-Naharaim Jacob flees to Aram Naharaim Stranger encounters a 'girl' (na'oroh) at a well Stranger meets Rebecca Jacob meets Rachel
Time of day Evening, the time for girls drawing water Evening, the time for girls flocks

13 14



Narrative	Gen 24	Gen 29
Stranger travels to a foreign land	Servant travels to Aram- Naharaim	Jacob flees to Aram
Stranger encounters a 'girl' (na'arah) at a well	Stranger meets Rebecca	Jacob meets Rachel
?Time of day	Evening, the time for girls drawing water	Midday, time for watering flocks
Someone draws water from the well	Rebecca gives servant a drink & draws for camels	Jacob watered Laban's flock
?Extraordinary feat/obstacle overcome	Rebecca waters 10 camels	Jacob removes the stone
Girl rushes home to tell of stranger's arrival	Rebecca ran to tell her mother's household	Rachel ran and told her father
Stranger invited to girl's home and fed	Laban ran to meet servant, etc.	Laban ran to meet Jacob, etc.
A marriage is arranged	Gen 24:50-51	Gen 29:18

15 16

Narrative	Gen 24	Gen 29	Exod 2
Stranger travels to a foreign land	Servant travels to Aram-Naharaim	Jacob flees to Aram	Moses flees to Midian
Stranger encounters a 'girl' (na'arah) at a well	Stranger meets Rebecca	Jacob meets Rachel	Moses meets seven daughters
Time of day	Evening, the time for girls drawing water	Midday, time for watering flocks	time for women to water flocks
Someone draws water from the well	Rebecca gives servant a drink & draws for camels	Jacob watered Laban's flock	Moses waters flock
Extraordinary feat/obstacle overcome	Rebecca waters 10 camels	Jacob removes the stone	Moses saves the girls from shepherds
Girl rushes home to tell of stranger's arrival	Rebecca ran to tell her mother's household	Rachel ran and told her father	daughters return to father, Reuel
Stranger invited to girl's home and fed	Laban ran to meet servant, etc.	Laban ran to meet Jacob, etc.	"Invite him to break bread!"
A marriage is arranged	Gen 24:50-51	Gen 29:18	Exod 2:21



Is John 4 alluding to a betrothal scene?



17 18

Narrative	John 4
Stranger travels to a foreign land	
Stranger encounters a 'girl' (na'arah) at a well	
Time of day	
Someone draws water from the well	
Extraordinary feat/obstacle overcome	
Girl rushes home to tell of stranger's arrival	
Stranger invited to girl's home and fed	
A marriage is arranged	

Narrative John 4

Stranger travels to a foreign land Jesus travels through Samaria

19 20

Narrative	John 4
Stranger travels to a foreign land	Jesus travels through Samaria
Stranger encounters a 'girl' (na'arah) at a well	Jesus meets Samaritan Woman at 'Jacob's well'
	well'

Stranger travels to a foreign land	
Stranger travers to a foreign failu	Jesus travels through Samaria
Stranger encounters a 'girl' (na'arah) at a well	Jesus meets Samaritan Woman at 'Jacob's well'
Time of day	Midday, time woman comes to draws water

21 22

Narrative	John 4
Stranger travels to a foreign land	Jesus travels through Samaria
Stranger encounters a 'girl' (na'arah) at a well	Jesus meets Samaritan Woman
Time of day	Midday, time woman comes to draws water
Someone draws water from the well	"Give me a drink!" "you would have asked him"

Stranger travels to a foreign land	Jesus travels through Samaria
Stranger encounters a 'girl' (na'arah) at a well	Jesus meets Samaritan Woman
Time of day	Midday, time woman comes to draws water
Someone draws water from the well	"Give me a drink!" "you would have asked him"
Extraordinary feat/obstacle overcome	Ethnic hostility/division No bucket Never thirst again/eternal life

23 24

Narrative	John 4
Stranger travels to a foreign land	Jesus travels through Samaria
Stranger encounters a 'girl' (na'arah) at a well	Jesus meets Samaritan Woman
Time of day	Midday, time woman comes to draws water
Someone draws water from the well	"Give me a drink!" "you would have asked him"
Extraordinary feat/obstacle overcome	Ethnic hostility/division No bucket Never thirst again/eternal life
Girl rushes home to tell of stranger's arrival	vv. 28-29

Narrative	John 4
Stranger travels to a foreign land	Jesus travels through Samaria
Stranger encounters a 'girl' (na'arah) at a well	Jesus meets Samaritan Woman
Time of day	Midday, time woman comes to draws water
Someone draws water from the well	"Give me a drink!" "you would have asked him"
Extraordinary feat/obstacle overcome	Ethnic hostility/division No bucket Never thirst again/eternal life
Girl rushes home to tell of stranger's arrival	vv. 28-29
Stranger invited to girl's home and fed	v. 40

26 25

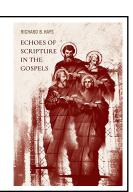
Narrative	John 4
Stranger travels to a foreign land	Jesus travels through Samaria
Stranger encounters a 'girl' (na'arah) at a well	Jesus meets Samaritan Woman
Time of day	Midday, time woman comes to draws water
Someone draws water from the well	"Give me a drink!" "you would have asked him"
Extraordinary feat/obstacle overcome	Ethnic hostility/division No bucket Never thirst again/eternal life
Girl rushes home to tell of stranger's arrival	vv. 28-29
Stranger invited to girl's home and fed	v. 40
A marriage is arranged	???





The typological echo ... opens the story to various possibilities for *figurative interpretation* ...
John 4 is intelligible apart from intertextual reference to Jacob, but the narrative takes on an **added layer of significance** for readers who hear the echoes of Genesis.

27

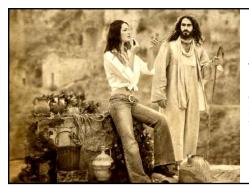




28

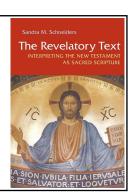
The portrayal of Jesus as the Bridegroom

29 30



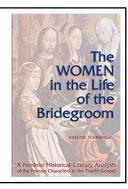
The (mis-) portrayal of the Samaritan Woman?

the entire dialogue between Jesus and the woman is the "wooing" of Samaria to full covenant fidelity in the New Israel by Jesus, the New Bridegroom.



31 32

As betrothed and bride of the messianic bridegroom on behalf of the Samaritan people, the Samaritan woman represents the Samaritan people with whom God desires to reestablish familial relations. The Samaritan woman is never named because she is not important in her own right. She is important only to the extent that she is "woman" and "Samaritan," the two aspects of her character that are essential for her to fulfill her role.



The portrayal of Jesus as the Giver of Life

33 34

Questions & Discussion

