

"Jesus Sees Women" Lesson Four

The Woman Who Had Five Husbands

The Five Husbands of Samaria

2 Kings 17:24 The king of Assyria brought people from Babylon, Cuthah, Avva, Hamath, and Sepharvaim, and placed them in the cities of Samaria in place of the people of Israel; they took possession of Samaria, and settled in its cities.

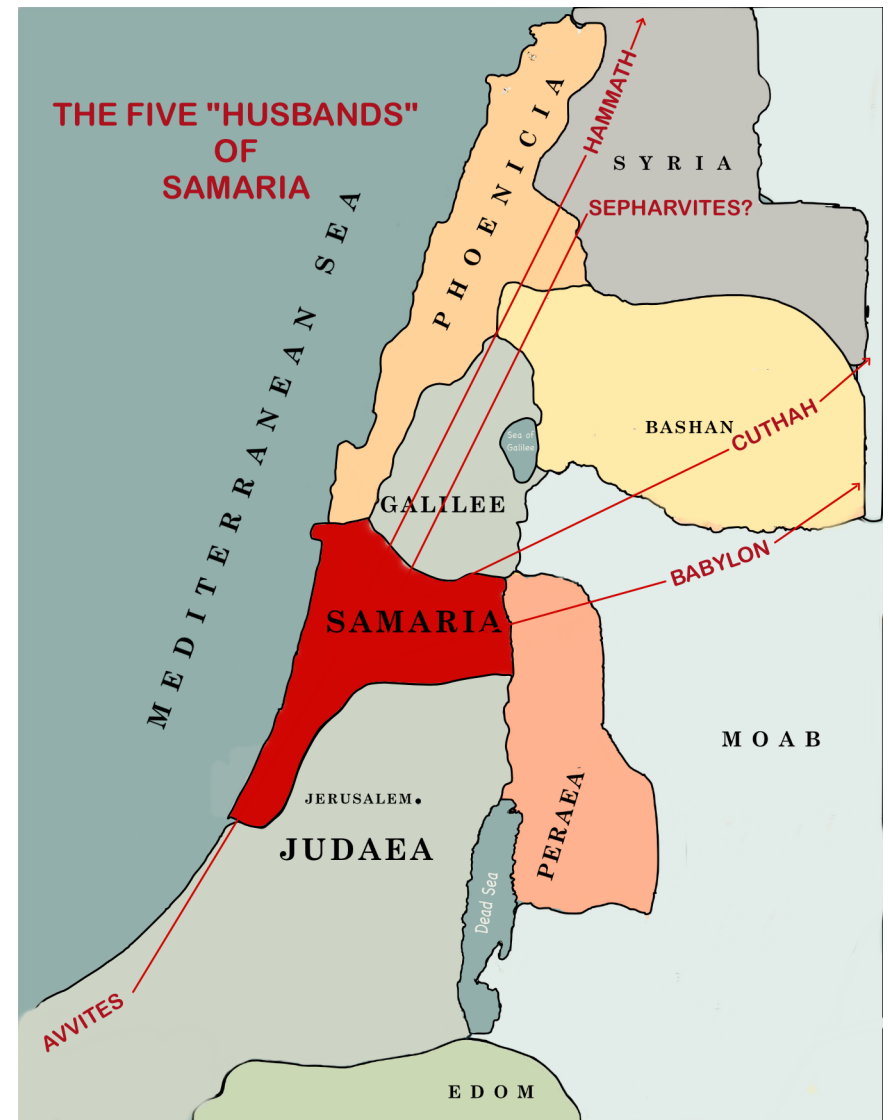
Meanwhile, the Jews who were left behind in Samaria, intermarried with the five nation groups. God sent lions to devour them because they worshipped other gods. The king of Assyria ordered a Jewish priest to come teach the new inhabitants about the God of Israel.

28 So one of the priests whom they had carried away from Samaria came and lived in Bethel; he taught them how they should worship the Lord. **29** But every nation still made gods of its own and put them in the shrines of the high places that the people of Samaria had made, every nation in the cities in which they lived; **30** the people of Babylon made Succoth-benoth, the people of Cuth made Nergal, the people of Hamath made Ashima; **31** the Avvites made Nibhaz and Tartak; the Sepharvites burned their children in the fire to Adrammelech and Anammelech, the gods of Sepharvaim.

32 They also worshiped the Lord and appointed from among themselves all sorts of people as priests of the high places, who sacrificed for them in the shrines of the high places. **33** So they worshiped the Lord but also served their own gods, after the manner of the nations from among whom they had been carried away.

34 To this day they continue to practice their former customs. They do not worship the Lord and they do not follow the statutes or the ordinances or the law or the commandment that the Lord commanded the children of Jacob, whom he named Israel.

Therefore, the the (corrupted) Yahweh of the Samaritans is who Jesus refers to as the sixth "husband" with whom they are "living."



Babylonian's God – Succoth-benoth, "booths of daughters," chambers wherein women were placed for prostitution; or booths or tabernacles in which images of certain goddesses were worshipped

Cuth(ah)'s God – Nergal god of death, war, and destruction. representing the sun of noontime and of the summer solstice that brings destruction, high summer being the dead season in Mesopotamia

Hamath's God – Ashima goddess of "Fate" identified with various deities from Phoenicia, Elephantine, and Mesopotamia having similar names

Avvites's God – Nibhaz God of death, mummification, embalming, the afterlife, cemeteries, tombs, the Underworld

Sepharvites's God – Adrammelech, Anammelech unknown god and goddess, most likely Syrian, requiring child sacrifice