

# Shechem - Sychar

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- One of the most ancient and important cities of Palestine It is called:
  - Sichem **Genesis 12:6**
  - Sychar **John 4:5**
  - Sychem **Acts 7:16**
- Shechem means “shoulder” or “slope.”
- Located some forty miles north of Jerusalem in the pass between Mount Gerizim and Mount Ebal.
- Abraham camped there after leaving Ilaran. He found Canaanites living there. Knowing that this was the land God had promised him, he built an altar. **Genesis 12:6-8**
- Jacob also came to Shechem and found Hivites living in the area. He bought a parcel of ground from Hamor, chief of Shechem, for a “hundred pieces of money.” Therein he built an altar and dug a well. The well enabled him to be independent of his neighbors. **Genesis 33:18-20**
- In Shechem, Dinah, Jacob’s daughter was seduced, resulting in the capture of Shechem and the killing of all the male inhabitants by Simeon and Levi, Jacob’s sons. **Genesis 34**
- Joseph’s body was brought back from Egypt and buried at Shechem. **Joshua 24:32**
- Shechem was originally given to the tribe of Ephraim, but later became a Levitical city and a city of refuge. **Joshua 24:32**
- Abimelech, illegitimate son of Gideon, agitated the people of Shechem until they revolted and made him their king (Judges 9). He reigned for three years and was then driven from the city. He completely destroyed Shechem and sowed the land with salt. **Judges 9:25-45**
- Later, the city was rebuilt and Rehoboam, Solomon’s son was inaugurated king at Shechem.

- The actual split in the kingdom of Israel came here with two tribes rebelling against Rehoboam and making Jeroboam their king (**1 Kings 12**). They fortified the city and eventually it became their capital city.
- Joshua assembled the Israelites at Shechem and gave them his farewell address. **Joshua 24:1-15**  
**Joshua 24:15** – “And if it seems evil to you to serve the LORD, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.”
- The city was later conquered and its people carried away into Assyrian captivity. **2 Kings 17:5-6**
- Jesus talked with the Samaritan woman at Jacob’s well. John 4 (The well is about 120 feet deep. Its water is excellent.) Joseph’s tomb is about 540’ north of the well.

