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Title: When God Showed Up at the Well: Missional Revelation in the Narratives of Hagar the Egyptian (Genesis 16) and the Samaritan Woman (John 4).

Abstract:

In the patriarchal framework of the Hebrew world, the narratives of Hagar the Egyptian (Gen. 16) and the Samaritan woman at the well (John 4) are remarkable for their theological significance in Scripture and the missional insight they provide. In these biblical accounts, two vulnerable women at the bottom of the social hierarchy encounter the Living God and receive a divine revelation about God's person and mission. Throughout Scripture, God's revelation to women is a recurring motif that includes the narratives of women such as Hagar (Gen. 16), Miriam (Ex. 15), Deborah (Judg. 4-5), Mary (Luke 1), Anna (Luke 2:36-38), the Samaritan woman (John 4), and Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women at Jesus' tomb (Luke 24:1-12). The narratives of Hagar and the Samaritan woman are particularly distinctive as the two accounts mirror each other in several significant ways: 1). Both women are non-Hebrews; an Egyptian and a Samaritan respectively, 2). Both women are socially marginalized and have been cast off by their husbands, and 3). And both women encounter God in a place of spiritual significance, a spring of water. Beyond their socio-cultural similarities, however, the fact that both women receive an insight about God that hitherto was unknown is worthy of consideration. In this paper, I will explore both narratives and the crucial insights that they provide towards our understanding of the universal mission of God.