

Why Do You Believe?

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John 4

39 And many of the Samaritans of that city believed in Him because of the word of the woman who testified, "He told me all that I ever did."

40 So when the Samaritans had come to Him, they urged Him to stay with them; and He stayed there two days.

41 And many more believed because of His own word.

42 Then they said to the woman, "Now we believe, not because of what you said, for we ourselves have heard Him and we know that this is indeed the Christ, the Savior of the world."

43 Now after the two days He departed from there and went to Galilee.

44 For Jesus Himself testified that a prophet has no honor in his own country.

45 So when He came to Galilee, the Galileans received Him, having seen all the things He did in Jerusalem at the feast; for they also had gone to the feast.

46 So Jesus came again to Cana of Galilee where He had made the water wine. And there was a certain nobleman whose son was sick at Capernaum.

47 When he heard that Jesus had come out of Judea into Galilee, he went to Him and implored Him to come down and heal his son, for he was at the point of death.

48 Then Jesus said to him, "Unless you people see signs and wonders, you will by no means believe."

49 The nobleman said to Him, "Sir, come down before my child dies!"

50 Jesus said to him, "Go your way; your son lives." **So the man believed the word that Jesus spoke to him,** and he went his way.

51 And as he was now going down, his servants met him and told him, saying, "Your son lives!"

52 Then he inquired of them the hour when he got better. And they said to him, "Yesterday at the seventh hour the fever left him."

53 So the father knew that it was at the same hour in which Jesus said to him, "Your son lives." **And he himself believed, and his whole household.**

54 This again is the second sign Jesus did when He had come out of Judea into Galilee.

John 5

1 After this there was a feast of the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem.

2 Now there is in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate a pool, which is called in Hebrew, Bethesda, having five porches.

3 In these lay a great multitude of sick people, blind, lame, paralyzed, *waiting for the moving of the water.*

4 For an **angel** went down at a certain time into the pool and stirred up the water; then whoever stepped in first, after the stirring of the water, was made well of whatever disease he had.

John 5

4 for a messenger at a set time was going down in the pool, and was troubling the water, the first then having gone in after the troubling of the water, became whole of whatever sickness he was held.

(Young's Literal Translation)

John 5

4

(Revised Standard Version)

John 5

4 for an angel of the Lord went down at certain seasons into the pool, and troubled the water: whosoever then first after the troubling of the waters stepped in was made whole, with whatsoever disease he was holden.

(American Standard Version)

John 5

4 (Translation omits this verse)

(Twentieth Century New Testament)

In the Greek

4 For an angel <aggelos> went down at a certain time into the pool and stirred up the water; then whoever stepped in first, after the stirring of the water, was made well of whatever disease he had.

32. aggelov aggelos, ang'-el-os

from aggello (probably derived from 71; compare 34) (to bring tidings); a messenger; especially an "angel"; by implication, a pastor:--angel, messenger.

Matthew 11

10 "For this is he of whom it is written: 'Behold, I send My messenger <aggelos> before Your face, Who will prepare Your way before You.'

11 "Assuredly, I say to you, among those born of women there has not risen one greater than John the Baptist; but he who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

Matthew 25

41 "Then He will also say to those on the left hand, 'Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels <aggelos> :

Acts 5

19 But at night an angel <aggelos> of the Lord <kurios> opened the prison doors and brought them out, and said,

20 "Go, stand in the temple and speak to the people all the words of this life."

John 1

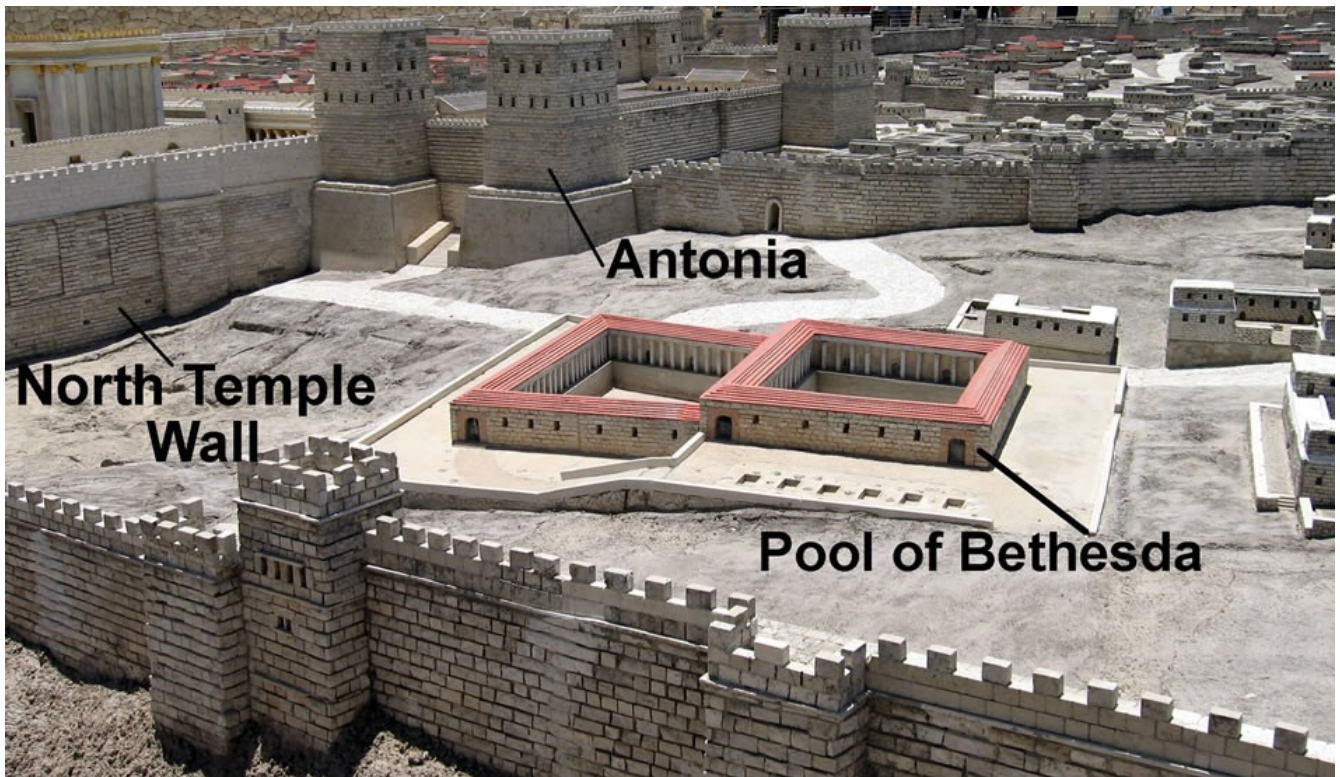
51 And He said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, hereafter you shall see heaven open, and the angels <aggelos> of God <theos> ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."

Pool of Bethesda

- Bethesda means House of Grace(or Healing)
- Until the 1800s Scholars doubted the existence of this pool
- Historical and archaeological evidence suggests pool was built in honor of the Greek God of Healing

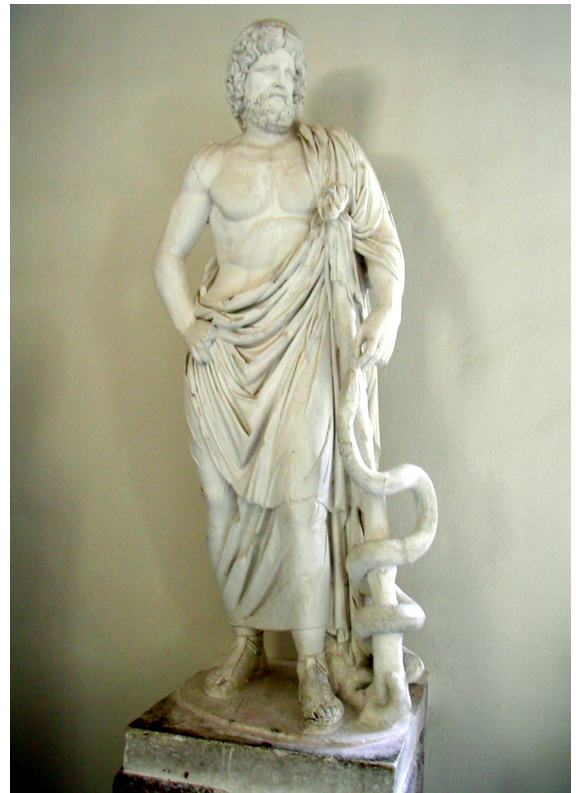
Bethesda Today – Byzantine Ruins:





Asclepius – Greek God of Healing

- First mention: Homer's Illiad
- Major Cult by Christ's time
- Greek competition for “Savior”
- Temples of Healing erected
 - Notably in Pergamum and Corinth



Modern Example of an “Asclepius”: Lourdes, France

- February 11, 1858 Bernadette Soubirous vision
- 1st 18 month Louis-Justin Bouholtz – meningitis and infant paralysis
- 1885 Catholic Church est. Medical Bureau
- 1902-03: Dr. Alex Carrel & Marie Ferrand (TB)
- By 1974 4000 vouched for by doctors, 1200 “miracles” verified by Bureau,
- 62 pronounced “miracles” by Catholic Church's Canonical Commission

John 5

5 Now a certain man was there who had an infirmity thirty-eight years.

6 When Jesus saw him lying there, and knew that he already had been in that condition a long time, He said to him, "Do you want to be made well?"

7 The sick man answered Him, "Sir, I have no man to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up; but while I am coming, another steps down before me."

8 Jesus said to him, "Rise, take up your bed and walk."

9 And immediately the man was made well, took up his bed, and walked. And that day was the Sabbath.

10 The Jews therefore said to him who was cured, "It is the Sabbath; it is not lawful for you to carry your bed."

11 He answered them, "He who made me well said to me, 'Take up your bed and walk.'"

12 Then they asked him, "Who is the Man who said to you, 'Take up your bed and walk'?"

13 But the one who was healed did not know who it was, for Jesus had withdrawn, a multitude being in that place.

14 Afterward Jesus found him in the temple, and said to him, "See, you have been made well. Sin no more, lest a worse thing come upon you."

15 The man departed and told the Jews that it was Jesus who had made him well.

16 For this reason the Jews persecuted Jesus, and sought to kill Him, because He had done these things on the Sabbath.

17 But Jesus answered them, "My Father has been working until now, and I have been working."

18 Therefore the Jews sought all the more to kill Him, because He not only broke the Sabbath, but also said that God was His Father, making Himself equal with God.

19 Then Jesus answered and said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do; for whatever He does, the Son also does in like manner.

20 "For the Father loves the Son, and shows Him all things that He Himself does; and He will show Him greater works than these, that you may marvel.

21 "For as the Father raises the dead and gives life to them, even so the Son gives life to whom He will.

22 "For the Father judges no one, but has committed all judgment to the Son,

23 "that all should honor the Son just as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him.

24 "Most assuredly, I say to you, **he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life**, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life.

25 "Most assuredly, I say to you, the hour is coming, and now is, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God; and those who hear will live.

(NKJV)

How Should We Pray?

- We have the privilege of praying for life
 - **Matthew 9:28** And when He had come into the house, the blind men came to Him. And Jesus said to them, "Do you believe that I am able to do this?" They said to Him, "Yes, Lord." 29 Then He touched their eyes, saying, "According to your faith let it be to you." 30 And their eyes were opened. And Jesus sternly warned them, saying, "See that no one knows it."
- God defends His name
 - **Isaiah 53:5** But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed.
6 All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.
- The focus of our prayer and faith is Jesus Christ
- Christ is our answer, not a special pool, not a special pill – but Jesus Christ

Practical Prayer Steps

-Taken from Catherine Marshal's book, *Something More*

- Ask, "Lord, what do you want to tell me about this situation?"
- "How do You want me to pray?"
- "What do you want me to do?"

We are called to a life of prayer and faith.

**Our part is to focus on Jesus Christ;
to decide now that we will praise Him no matter what the outcome;**

In His great love He will determine outcomes.