

John 8:1-8 WRITING IN THE SAND



What is often called one of the biggest mysteries of the Bible is found in John 8. In this passage we see Yeshua writing something in the sand as the Pharisees tried to trick Him in regards to the issue of adultery. **John 8:1-8** *"But Yeshua went to the Mount of Olives. 2 Early in the morning He came again into the temple, and all the people were coming to Him; and He sat down and [began] to teach them. 3 The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman caught in adultery, and having set her in the center [of the court], 4 they said to Him, "Teacher, this woman has been caught in adultery, in the very act. 5 "Now in the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women; what then do You say?" 6 They said this to trap him, so that they might have ground for bringing charges against him; but Yeshua bent down and **began writing in the dust with his finger.** 7 When they kept questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, "**The one of you who is without sin, let him be the first to throw a stone at her.**" 8 Then he bent down and wrote in the dust again."*

Exactly when did this "writing in the sand" take place?

If we look back a few verses we will see when this situation took place as described in: **John 7:37-38** *"Now **on the last day of the festival, Hoshana Rabbah,** Yeshua stood and cried out, "If anyone is thirsty, let him keep coming to me and drinking! 38 Whoever puts his trust in me, as the Scripture says, rivers of living water will flow from his inmost being!"* This verse reveals what Yeshua said on the last great day of the Fall Feasts. The altercation took place one day after the Feast of the Last Great Day.

The Pharisees had just heard Yeshua declare that He was the fountain of living water, and all who come to Him could have the water of life. They were attempting to test Him according to the law of Moses. **Lev. 20:10** *'If a man commits adultery with another man's wife, that is, with the wife of a fellow countryman, both the adulterer and the adulteress must be put to death'*. Now, according to torah, both the adulterer and the

adulteress had to be present in order for the Priest to make a judgement on the issue. So right off the start, the Pharisees were breaking torah by presenting the issue without the two witnesses. **Deut. 19:16-19** *"If a malicious witness comes forward and gives false testimony against someone, 17 then both the men involved in the controversy are to stand before ADONAI, before the cohanim and the judges in office at the time. 18 The judges are to investigate carefully. If they find that the witness is lying and has given false testimony against his brother," 19 you are to do to him what he intended to do to his brother. In this way, you will put an end to such wickedness among you."*

They were saying this, testing Him, so that they might have grounds for accusing Him. But Yeshua stooped down and with His finger wrote on the ground. But when they persisted in asking Him, He straightened up, and said to them, *"He who is without sin among you, let him [be the] first to throw a stone at her."* Again He stooped down and wrote on the ground.

Exactly what was Yeshua writing in the sand?

The pharisees failed to produce any witnesses, so Yeshua knelt down and began to write the names of the Pharisees who had falsely accused the lady; in order of the oldest to the youngest. That is what Yeshua was writing in the sand. Rabbi Yeshua was writing down the names of the false accusers, Pharisees of that synagogue (sect), from oldest to youngest. The Old Testament prophet Jeremiah, spoke of this in Jer. 17:13. *"depart from me shall be written in the earth"*

We must always keep in mind that everything in the Old Testament is a shadow of what is in the Renewed Testament. **Jer. 17:13** *O Yahveh, the hope of Israel, all that forsake thee shall be ashamed, and they that depart from me shall be written in the earth, because they have forsaken Yahveh the fountain of living waters.* The Pharisees knew exactly what Jeremiah the great Prophet said in the scrolls, and were caught with their hands in the cookie jar, you might say. They slowly backed away as they saw Yeshua write their names in the sand.

Where was Yeshua standing when this altercation took place?

What many don't understand is that Yeshua was teaching to the people in the women's court, outside the Temple's main court. Yeshua was speaking to women and gentiles (goyim), in the Temple, which was unheard of for a man to do, never-mind a Rabbi.

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