

John 5:1-9 POOL AT BETHESDA



John 5:1-9 After this, there was a Judean festival; and Yeshua went up to Yerushalayim. 2 In Yerushalayim, by the Sheep Gate, is a pool called in Aramaic, **Beit-Zata**, 3 in which lay a crowd of invalids — blind, lame, crippled. [waiting for the moving of the waters; 4* {{ 4 for an angel of Yahveh went down at certain seasons into the pool and stirred up the water; whoever then first, after the stirring up of the water, stepped in was made well from whatever disease with which he was afflicted.}}] 5 One man was there who had been ill for **38 years**. 6 Yeshua, seeing this man and knowing that he had been there a long time, said to him, **“Do you want to be healed?”** 7 The sick man answered, “I have no one to put me in the pool when the water is disturbed; and while I’m trying to get there, someone goes in ahead of me.” 8 Yeshua said to him, **“Get up, pick up your mat and walk!”** 9 Immediately the man was healed, and he picked up his mat and walked. Now **that day was Shabbat**, (some versions have removed verse 3b-4)

There are a lot of things we need to understand before these verses come alive. First we must look at the location of this 50-60 foot deep pool at Bethesda. It was located right next to the Temple of Asclepius (Aesculapius), the Greek god. Asclepius was supposedly the god of healing. He was also a deity said to have walked on water. Notice that part of verse 3 and all of 4 are in brackets. Brackets means it was not in the original transcripts. This area in brackets is a serious error. The pool at Bethesda was a deep spring fed pool and when people saw the bubbles coming up from the bottom periodically, they said it was Asclepius stirring up the waters for healing. It was no angel from the Lord doing this as the verse seems to say.

Now let’s look again at what it says. Imagine Yeshua standing there talking to this man who was sick for 38 years. He was simply saying to the man: “do you want to spend another 38 years waiting for a mythical healing from Asclepius, or would you like Me to heal you with the power of Yahveh, the one true Father in Heaven?” If we understand the Feasts properly, we will be reminded of the “water libation ceremony” that was carried out each day for seven days during the Feast of Sukkot (Booths). Every day the High Priest would take water from the pool of Siloam and pour it on the altar, praying that Yah would send the rain for their crops. If we read a little further in John we will see that it was at the climax of this joyous ceremony that Messiah stood up and cried, **John 7:37-38 “If anyone is thirsty, let him come unto me and drink. Whoever puts his trust in me, as scripture says, rivers of living water will flow from his inmost being.”** The people were rejoicing and celebrating in the fact that Yahveh would send the latter rains. Then Messiah stood up and cried, **“if anyone puts their trust in Me, rivers of living water will flow from their innermost being”**. Yeshua was implying that He was the Living Water sent from Yah that they had all been praying for, for centuries. With this in mind, it gives us a much greater depth and understanding of the text. Messiah’s statement echoes an earlier statement He made to the woman at the well (John 4:13-14). John gives the interpretation of Messiah’s statement and refers to it as latter time when the Spirit would be poured out on those who believed (John 7:39).



Asclepius (Aesculapius) is the Greek god depicted as a snake on a pole (in some cases two snakes) that is the logo of most doctors and chiropractors around the world. That is the god many doctors have made an oath to. To understand more, one needs to look at the Hippocratic Oath taken by most doctors.

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