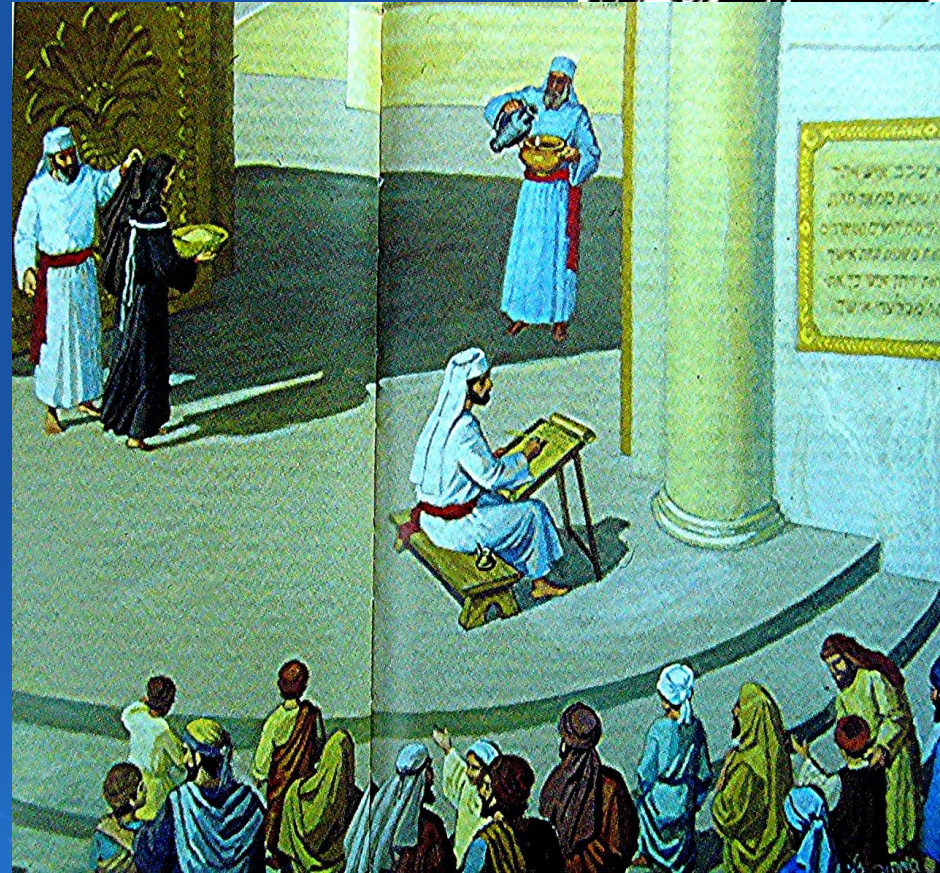


# NUMBERS 5: WOMAN ACCUSED OF ADULTERY

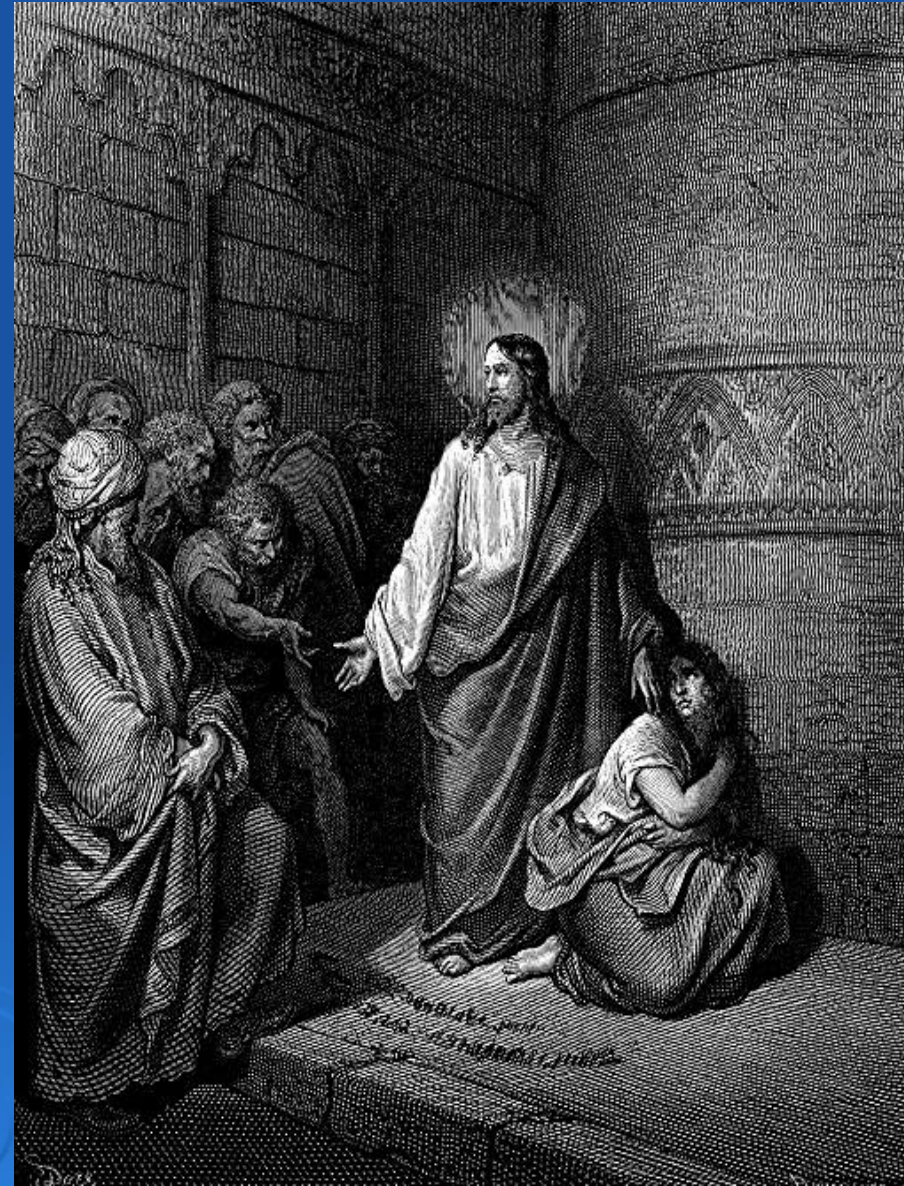


- The woman is suspected but does NOT confess
- Trial by God
- This is different from the Leviticus law of the woman who is caught and confesses
- Husband bring wife to the priest at the Tabernacle
- Oath is written on a scroll and washed off into a cup of “holy water” (living water)
- Dust from the Tabernacle floor is added
- Woman drinks and what happens in the future indicates her guilt or innocence



# JOHN 8: WOMAN CAUGHT IN ADULTERY

- Story must be taken in context of Torah
- No admission of woman as to her guilt
- Goal was to discredit Jesus
- This passage is said to show that:
  - 1) Yeshua is all merciful
  - 2) sinners have no right to judge anyone else



# ODDITIES ABOUT THIS STORY



- Only question for Yeshua is to confirm her punishment
- **Standard Christian interpretation:**
- 1) Yeshua says that unless the men are sin-free they have no right to accuse or punish
- 2) Yeshua ignores the crime, let's her off the hook, and says just don't sin anymore
- This story has routinely been removed and added back in over the centuries

# WHERE'S THE CONFESSION OF FAITH?

- The subject of faith never came up
- No implication that the woman even knew who Yeshua was
- Adultery is a God-ordained capital offense
- **EX. 20: 13** *“Do not commit murder, do not commit adultery”*
- **LEV.20:10** *“...adulteress must be put to death”*
- Implication is that Jesus simply dismisses crime and violations of Torah
- The Jesus Pattern is that He forgives the spiritual consequences NOT the earthly



# LET HE WHO IS WITHOUT SIN CAST THE FIRST STONE



- If only a sinless person can accuse another or be a witness or punish another, all justice systems would break down
- Unlikely the standard interpretation of this story is correct
- Were the accusers being truthful? Perhaps NOT.

# THE WITNESSES BEGIN THE STONING



- Witnesses were the 1<sup>st</sup> to throw the stones
- Reason was as a deterrent to false or frivolous testimony
- A false witness participating in an unjust execution was a murderer
- Yeshua told the men to go ahead and stone her, **UNLESS** they were participating in sin
- The sin was false witness

# SHE SHOULD HAVE BEEN TAKEN DIRECTLY TO THE PRIESTS

- Without confession, she should have had the water-ordeal ritual
- Water ordeal was still being practiced in Jesus' day
- Mishnah, Sotah 9, water-ordeal outlawed just before 70AD
- Reason: it was misused by men who wanted to be rid of their wives





# JESUS WRITING IN THE DUST

- Some inventive, but wrong, conclusions
- 3 ingredients of water concoction: Holy Water, dust, ink of letters of oath
- Holy Water = Living Water
- Dust taken from Temple floor because it was made holy by God's presence
- Ink: God's name was part of written oath
- A Biblical oath, by definition, contained God's name



# NUMBERS 5 AND JOHN 8 ARE CONNECTED



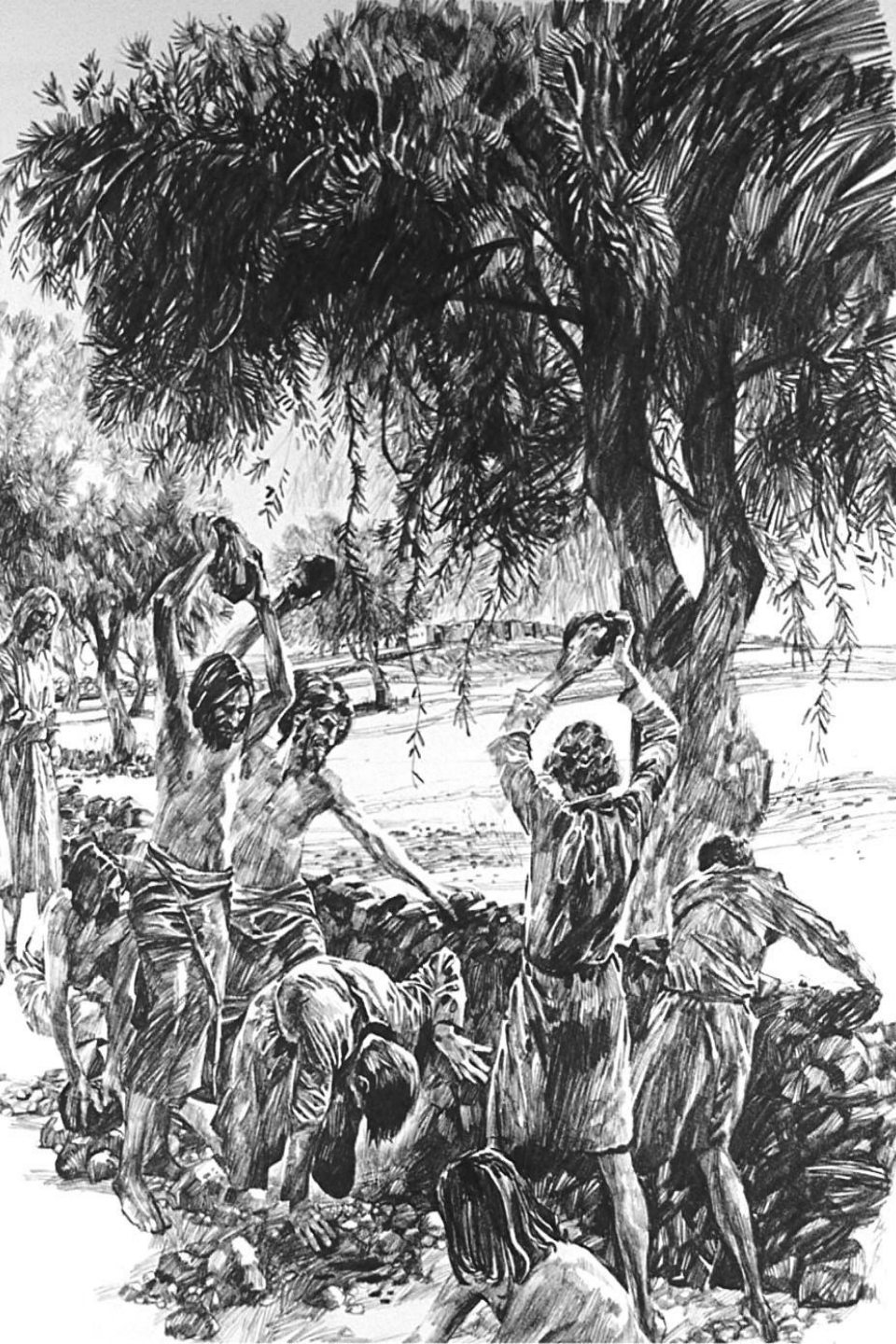
- All elements of the Num 5 law are in John 8
- Woman brought before God and priest (Yeshua)
- Brought to the Temple
- Writing, in “holy” dust, because the very ground He stood on He made holy
- Probably wrote YHWH (Yehoveh)
- Yeshua was fulfilling the original Torah law on adultery

# PHARISEES AND RABBIS BARELY KNEW THE REAL TORAH

- Had long ago given up Torah for Tradition
- Modern Church calls teaching of doctrines, “Bible teaching”
- Num 5:29 “... *the priest shall apply all the law to her...*”
- Since the law of Leviticus (for the proven adultery) did not apply, Jesus applied the Numbers 5 law of *suspected* adultery



# DEATH BY STONING



- He who is without sin cast the first stone
- NAS Deuteronomy 17:7  
*"The hand of the witnesses shall be first against him to put him to death, and afterward the hand of all the people..."*
- Witnesses had to cast the first stone
- No one stepped forward
- Therefore Jesus declared she could not be condemned

# LAW OF ADULTERY ASSUMES ONE PARTNER WAS FAITHFUL

- ***“IF the man is clear of sin, THEN the woman shall suffer her guilt”***
- Hosea 4:14 ***“... I won't punish your daughters..... Because the men are themselves going off whoring.....”***
- Marriage is God's way of demonstrating His relationship with Man
- The same effects of adultery on a marriage, occur with unfaithfulness to God
- If both parties in a marriage are unfaithful, adultery loses its meaning
- Unfaithfulness destroys the marriage dynamic