

Genesis - Lesson 24

Genesis Chapter 24

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Memory verses for this week: *Hab 2:3 For the vision is yet for an appointed time, but at the end it shall speak, and not lie: though it tarry, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry.*

Introduction: We continue our study on the book of Genesis this week as we cover the first half of chapter 4 which deals with the servant being sent out by Abraham to seek out a bride for Isaac.

I. The Servant Commissioned

Gen 24:1 *And Abraham was old, and well stricken in age: and the LORD had blessed Abraham in all things.*

Gen 24:2 *And Abraham said unto his eldest servant of his house, that ruled over all that he had, Put, I pray thee, thy hand under my thigh:*

Gen 24:3 *And I will make thee swear by the LORD, the God of heaven, and the God of the earth, that thou shalt not take a wife unto my son of the daughters of the Canaanites, among whom I dwell:*

Gen 24:4 *But thou shalt go unto my country, and to my kindred, and take a wife unto my son Isaac.*

Verse 1 says that Abraham was old and had a desire for Isaac to have a wife from his home country. Abraham was 140 years old at this time.

Gen 25:19 *And these are the generations of Isaac, Abraham's son: Abraham begat Isaac:*

Gen 25:20 *And Isaac was forty years old when he took Rebekah to wife, the daughter of Bethuel the Syrian of Padanaram, the sister to Laban the Syrian.*

While not named, the eldest servant may have been Eliezer. He makes the servant take an oath to find his son a wife from his own kindred. Taking an oath at this time in Israel was a serious matter. We have the oath Joseph gave to Israel in Genesis Ch.47.

Gen 47:29 *And the time drew nigh that Israel must die: and he called his son Joseph, and said unto him, If now I have found grace in thy sight, put, I pray thee, thy hand under my thigh, and deal kindly and truly with me; bury me not, I pray thee, in Egypt:*

Gen 47:30 *But I will lie with my fathers, and thou shalt carry me out of Egypt, and bury me in their buryingplace. And he said, I will do as thou hast said.*

Abraham knew the importance of marrying the right person. Marriage is a sacred

institution that should not be entered without the guidance of God.

2Co 6:14 Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?

II. Typology of Abraham and Servant

Chapter 24 is one of the longer chapters in the Bible and it reveals one of the most beautiful stories of romance and love ever written. To get the most out of this chapter, we need to understand the typology in it and some of the previous chapters.

1. Isaac the long promised son is a type of Christ.
2. His being placed on the altar (Gen. 22), typified the death of Christ.
3. His being released and taken off the altar, typified the resurrection of Christ.
4. The death of Sarah (Gen. 23) typified the national death and blindness of Israel.
5. The setting aside of Israel was after the resurrection of Christ and His return to the Father.
6. In chapter 24, we see Isaac the son and heir, abiding with the father in Canaan which is a type of the heavenlies.
7. Abraham typifies the heavenly Father.

Mat 22:2 The kingdom of heaven is like unto a certain king, which made a marriage for his son,

Mat 22:3 And sent forth his servants to call them that were bidden to the wedding: and they would not come.

Joh 6:44 No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.

8. The servant typifies the Holy Spirit in seeking a bride, and enriching that bride by the wealth of the Father.

Joh 16:13 Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.

Gal 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,

1Co 12:7 But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal.

1Co 12:8 For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit;

1Co 12:9 To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit;

1Co 12:10 To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the

interpretation of tongues:

1Co 12:11 But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will.

9. Rebekah typifies the bride of Christ.

Eph 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;

Eph 5:26 That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word,

Eph 5:27 That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.

Eph 5:28 So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself.

Eph 5:29 For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church:

Eph 5:30 For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones.

Eph 5:31 For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh.

Eph 5:32 This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church.

10. Isaac stands for the bridegroom (Christ) coming to receive His Bride.

1Th 4:14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.

1Th 4:15 For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep.

1Th 4:16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

Adam Clarke said this about Abraham's country.

My country - Mesopotamia, called here Abraham's country, because it was the place where the family of Haran, his brother, had settled; and where himself had remained a considerable time with his father Terah. In this family, as well as in that of Nahor, the true religion had been in some sort preserved, though afterwards considerably corrupted.

III. Abraham's Dependence Upon God

Gen 24:5 And the servant said unto him, Peradventure the woman will not be willing to follow me unto this land: must I needs bring thy son again unto the land from whence thou camest?

Gen 24:6 And Abraham said unto him, Beware thou that thou bring not my son thither again.

Gen 24:7 The LORD God of heaven, which took me from my father's house, and from the land of my kindred, and which spake unto me, and that sware unto me, saying,

Unto thy seed will I give this land; he shall send his angel before thee, and thou shalt take a wife unto my son from thence.

Gen 24:8 And if the woman will not be willing to follow thee, then thou shalt be clear from this my oath: only bring not my son thither again.

The servant has a question for Abraham in verse 5. What if the woman will not come? Shall I take Isaac to her?

Abraham's answer is quick and to the point. Isaac is not to go back to the homeland Abraham had confidence in the Lord, and was sure God would bring success to his mission.

Joh 6:37 All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.

Joh 6:38 For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me.

Matthew Henry said this about Abraham's confidence that God would provide the wife for Isaac.

The confidence he put in a good God, who, he doubts not, will give his servant success in this undertaking, Gen 24:7. He remembers that God had wonderfully brought him out of the land of his nativity, by the effectual call of his grace; and therefore doubts not but he will succeed him in his care not to bring his son thither again. He remembers also the promise God had made and confirmed to him that he would give Canaan to his seed, and thence infers that God would own him in his endeavours to match his son, not among those devoted nations, but to one that was fit to be the mother of such a seed. "Fear not therefore; he shall send his angel before thee to make thy way prosperous."

IV. The Servant's Obedience

Gen 24:9 And the servant put his hand under the thigh of Abraham his master, and sware to him concerning that matter.

Gen 24:10 And the servant took ten camels of the camels of his master, and departed; for all the goods of his master were in his hand: and he arose, and went to Mesopotamia, unto the city of Nahor.

Gen 24:11 And he made his camels to kneel down without the city by a well of water at the time of the evening, even the time that women go out to draw water.

The servant does as requested, and prepares for the journey. In verse 9, he takes the oath from Abraham. After taking the oath, he takes the wealth of Abraham by taking 10 camels and all of the goods that were sent. We too have received the wealth of the heavenly Father, and we are to use it in seeking a bride for His Son.

Mat 28:18 And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.

Mat 28:19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

Mat 28:20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

In verse 11, the servant goes to a well. So many wonderful things in the Bible took

place by a well. The Lord Jesus is our living water as he explained to the woman at the well in John Chapter 4.

V. The Servant Prays For God's Help

Gen 24:12 And he said, O LORD God of my master Abraham, I pray thee, send me good speed this day, and shew kindness unto my master Abraham.

Gen 24:13 Behold, I stand here by the well of water; and the daughters of the men of the city come out to draw water:

Gen 24:14 And let it come to pass, that the damsel to whom I shall say, Let down thy pitcher, I pray thee, that I may drink; and she shall say, Drink, and I will give thy camels drink also: let the same be she that thou hast appointed for thy servant Isaac; and thereby shall I know that thou hast shewed kindness unto my master.

The servant asks in the name of another. Verse 12 shows that he prayed for the sake of Abraham that he might find the woman of God's Will for Isaac. He then stood by the well while the women of the city came out to draw water. This was a chore that all had to do as water is essential to the physical man to survive. The living water that Jesus gives is even more important to the spiritual man. The servant then asks God to make the choice.

VI. The Servant's Prayer Answered

Gen 24:15 And it came to pass, before he had done speaking, that, behold, Rebekah came out, who was born to Bethuel, son of Milcah, the wife of Nahor, Abraham's brother, with her pitcher upon her shoulder.

Gen 24:16 And the damsel was very fair to look upon, a virgin, neither had any man known her: and she went down to the well, and filled her pitcher, and came up.

Gen 24:17 And the servant ran to meet her, and said, Let me, I pray thee, drink a little water of thy pitcher.

Rebekah, the daughter of Bethuel appears to draw water. When we are in the very center of God's will, God answers quickly. God sometimes is already working to answer our prayers before we pray. We are told that the Holy Spirit actual intervenes and makes our prayers more pure and perfect before God. We know God already knows our needs before we even pray.

Rom 8:25 But if we hope for that we see not, then do we with patience wait for it.

Rom 8:26 Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.

Rom 8:27 And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God.

Verse 16 says Rebekah was a pure and beautiful young lady. The servant comes and asks a drink from her water pitcher.

Gen 24:18 And she said, Drink, my lord: and she hasted, and let down her pitcher upon her hand, and gave him drink.

Gen 24:19 And when she had done giving him drink, she said, I will draw water for thy camels also, until they have done drinking.

Gen 24:20 And she hasted, and emptied her pitcher into the trough, and ran again unto the well to draw water, and drew for all his camels.

Gen 24:21 And the man wondering at her held his peace, to wit whether the LORD had made his journey prosperous or not.

The servant does his part. There are some things that we must do in regard to the answering of our prayers. On one occasion, the Lord furnished the oil, but the woman had to furnish the vessels to put it in. God expects us to do our part and be obedient. Rebekah does the unusual and goes the extra mile and draws water to give to the man's camels. The wonder of seeing God work is demonstrated as the servant ponders whether this might be the one that God had brought to him to become the wife of Isaac.

VII. Riches Offered to Rebekah

Gen 24:22 And it came to pass, as the camels had done drinking, that the man took a golden earring of half a shekel weight, and two bracelets for her hands of ten shekels weight of gold;

Gen 24:23 And said, Whose daughter art thou? tell me, I pray thee: is there room in thy father's house for us to lodge in?

Gen 24:24 And she said unto him, I am the daughter of Bethuel the son of Milcah, which she bare unto Nahor.

Gen 24:25 She said moreover unto him, We have both straw and provender enough, and room to lodge in.

Gen 24:26 And the man bowed down his head, and worshipped the LORD.

Gen 24:27 And he said, Blessed be the LORD God of my master Abraham, who hath not left destitute my master of his mercy and his truth: I being in the way, the LORD led me to the house of my master's brethren.

The servant takes out a large golden earring and two bracelets of gold. Gold is a symbol of deity given. He then asks the girl to identify herself. And he asks if there might be lodging available for them to lodge. She identifies herself as the daughter of Bethuel the son of Milcah, and says that they have plenty of food and room for them all.

The Hospitality offered has to encourage the servant that this might be the one God had chosen for Isaac. He bows his head and worships and

VIII. The Servant's Reception

Gen 24:28 And the damsel ran, and told them of her mother's house these things.

Gen 24:29 And Rebekah had a brother, and his name was Laban: and Laban ran out unto the man, unto the well.

Gen 24:30 And it came to pass, when he saw the earring and bracelets upon his

sister's hands, and when he heard the words of Rebekah his sister, saying, Thus spake the man unto me; that he came unto the man; and, behold, he stood by the camels at the well.

Gen 24:31 And he said, Come in, thou blessed of the LORD; wherefore standest thou without? for I have prepared the house, and room for the camels.

The marriage bond between husband and wife is an emblem or type of the marriage bond between Christ and His Church. Some marriages and stories in the Bible illustrate this in a special way. They are: (1) the first marriage in the Garden of Eden, (2) the wooing of Rebekah and her marriage to Isaac. In the N.T. this typology is clearly shown in Matthew 22, 25 and in Revelation.

Rebekah brings good news to the servant. Verse 28 says she "ran and told." We as Christians should be just as excited as Rebekah about telling others of the gospel. Unfortunately, some run from God, but praise the Lord, some run for God.

Laban's attitude is one of acceptance initially. Laban is a man we shall meet again in Genesis 29.

Gen 29:4 And Jacob said unto them, My brethren, whence be ye? And they said, Of Haran are we.

Gen 29:5 And he said unto them, Know ye Laban the son of Nahor? And they said, We know him.

Gen 29:6 And he said unto them, Is he well? And they said, He is well: and, behold, Rachel his daughter cometh with the sheep

Verse 30 shows Laban's attitude toward the gifts. It was perhaps a preview of his covetous nature that stands out later on. However, he does recognize that the servant was blessed of the Lord (Jehovah).

Gen 24:32 And the man came into the house: and he ungirded his camels, and gave straw and provender for the camels, and water to wash his feet, and the men's feet that were with him.

Gen 24:33 And there was set meat before him to eat: but he said, I will not eat, until I have told mine errand. And he said, Speak on.

Laban immediately offers hospitality to Abraham's servant. Provision is made for the camels and water for cleansing and refreshing. Provision was also made for the nourishment of the body.

IX. The Servant's Message

Notice that the servant puts first things first.

Gen 24:34 And he said, I am Abraham's servant.

Gen 24:35 And the LORD hath blessed my master greatly; and he is become great: and he hath given him flocks, and herds, and silver, and gold, and menservants, and maidservants, and camels, and asses.

Gen 24:36 And Sarah my master's wife bare a son to my master when she was old: and unto him hath he given all that he hath.

The servant praises the father and the son. As a type of the Holy Spirit, he does not

praise himself, but the one that sent him.

Joh 16:13 Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.

Joh 16:14 He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you.

All true blessings come from the Lord and Abraham was very rich. The servant explains that all this great wealth had been given to his son.

Heb 1:1 *God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets,*

Heb 1:2 Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds;

(Remember all the types we studied in our last lesson.)

Gen 24:37 And my master made me swear, saying, Thou shalt not take a wife to my son of the daughters of the Canaanites, in whose land I dwell:

Gen 24:38 But thou shalt go unto my father's house, and to my kindred, and take a wife unto my son.

Gen 24:39 And I said unto my master, Peradventure the woman will not follow me.

Gen 24:40 And he said unto me, The LORD, before whom I walk, will send his angel with thee, and prosper thy way; and thou shalt take a wife for my son of my kindred, and of my father's house:

Gen 24:41 Then shalt thou be clear from this my oath, when thou comest to my kindred; and if they give not thee one, thou shalt be clear from my oath.

Gen 24:42 And I came this day unto the well, and said, O LORD God of my master Abraham, if now thou do prosper my way which I go:

Gen 24:43 Behold, I stand by the well of water; and it shall come to pass, that when the virgin cometh forth to draw water, and I say to her, Give me, I pray thee, a little water of thy pitcher to drink;

Gen 24:44 And she say to me, Both drink thou, and I will also draw for thy camels: let the same be the woman whom the LORD hath appointed out for my master's son.

Gen 24:45 And before I had done speaking in mine heart, behold, Rebekah came forth with her pitcher on her shoulder; and she went down unto the well, and drew water: and I said unto her, Let me drink, I pray thee.

Gen 24:46 And she made haste, and let down her pitcher from her shoulder, and said, Drink, and I will give thy camels drink also: so I drank, and she made the camels drink also.

Gen 24:47 And I asked her, and said, Whose daughter art thou? And she said, The daughter of Bethuel, Nahor's son, whom Milcah bare unto him: and I put the earring upon her face, and the bracelets upon her hands.

Gen 24:48 And I bowed down my head, and worshipped the LORD, and blessed the LORD God of my master Abraham, which had led me in the right way to take my master's brother's daughter unto his son.

Gen 24:49 And now if ye will deal kindly and truly with my master, tell me: and if

not, tell me; that I may turn to the right hand, or to the left.

The servant explains his commission and gives his testimony. This section is mostly a re-telling of that which we studied in our last lesson. There are a few details that are not covered in the earlier section.

X. The Servant Obtains Consent

Gen 24:50 Then Laban and Bethuel answered and said, The thing proceedeth from the LORD: we cannot speak unto thee bad or good.

Gen 24:51 Behold, Rebekah is before thee, take her, and go, and let her be thy master's son's wife, as the LORD hath spoken.

Gen 24:52 And it came to pass, that, when Abraham's servant heard their words, he worshipped the LORD, bowing himself to the earth.

Gen 24:53 And the servant brought forth jewels of silver, and jewels of gold, and raiment, and gave them to Rebekah: he gave also to her brother and to her mother precious things.

Gen 24:54 And they did eat and drink, he and the men that were with him, and tarried all night; and they rose up in the morning, and he said, Send me away unto my master.

Gen 24:55 And her brother and her mother said, Let the damsel abide with us a few days, at the least ten; after that she shall go.

Gen 24:56 And he said unto them, Hinder me not, seeing the LORD hath prospered my way; send me away that I may go to my master.

The servant convinces the father and brother to allow Rebekah to return with him. He convinced them that it was the Lord working. In the story, we find that the father is not mentioned as prominently as we might expect. The fact that the brother and mother are mentioned quiet prominently might indicate that the father was aged or ill. However, it could be that he gave them a higher place than usual.

After hearing what the servant had to say, they consent for Rebekah to be the bride of Isaac. This is good news and the thankful servant worships. The precious gifts are set aside for the bride in verse 53 as well as a dowry for the family.

The servant is eager to complete the task, but the brother and mother request for Rebekah to abide with them for at least 10 days. Verse 56 shows the servant's determination to go back quickly with Rebekah to his master.

Gen 24:57 And they said, We will call the damsel, and enquire at her mouth.

Gen 24:58 And they called Rebekah, and said unto her, Wilt thou go with this man? And she said, I will go.

The family says they will call the damsel and see what she says. The servant convinces the Bride to go back immediately. She readily consents to go. The gifts from Isaac, plus the servant's vivid description had already convinced her that this was right.

XI. The Servant Brings the Bride and Groom Together

Gen 24:59 And they sent away Rebekah their sister, and her nurse, and Abraham's servant, and his men.

Gen 24:60 And they blessed Rebekah, and said unto her, Thou art our sister, be thou the mother of thousands of millions, and let thy seed possess the gate of those which hate them.

Gen 24:61 And Rebekah arose, and her damsels, and they rode upon the camels, and followed the man: and the servant took Rebekah, and went his way.

The journey is planned and she is sent away. Not only did Rebekah go, but her nurse and damsels were sent also. She received a blessing from her family in verse 60.

The long journey began across the desert sands. What did they talk about on the journey? It seems natural that they would have talked about Isaac. On our journey today, we should be talking about Christ our Saviour.

XII. The Meeting And The Marriage

Gen 24:62 And Isaac came from the way of the well Lahairoi; for he dwelt in the south country.

Gen 24:63 And Isaac went out to meditate in the field at the eventide: and he lifted up his eyes, and saw, and, behold, the camels were coming.

Gen 24:64 And Rebekah lifted up her eyes, and when she saw Isaac, she lighted off the camel.

Gen 24:65 For she had said unto the servant, What man is this that walketh in the field to meet us? And the servant had said, It is my master: therefore she took a vail, and covered herself.

Gen 24:66 And the servant told Isaac all things that he had done.

Gen 24:67 And Isaac brought her into his mother Sarah's tent, and took Rebekah, and she became his wife; and he loved her: and Isaac was comforted after his mother's death.

Isaac came from the way of the well. In verse 62, "Lahai-roi" means "The living and seeing one." In verse 63, Isaac shows to be meditating. No doubt as he meditated and prayed, his mind would think upon his coming bride.

Isaac was out in the field saw them coming. Rebekah saw Isaac and lighted off the camel to come and meet him. How can we describe this moving experience? We love Christ, but have never seen Him.

1Pe 1:8 Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory:

One day we shall look up and see Christ like Rebekah did to Isaac. Getting off the camel and putting on the veil, reveal her modesty, humility and submission.

We have the record of the marriage in verse 67. She becomes Isaac's wife. This is the first mention of love in the Bible, and how much this typifies the love Christ has for his bride, the New Testament Church.

STUDY QUESTIONS

1. How did Rebekah respond to the servant's greeting?

She is excited and runs to her house to tell her family about the servant's arrival and request.

2. What was the name of Rebekah's brother?

Laban

3. In what manner did Rebekah's brother receive the servant?

He accepts the gifts in a positive way, but may have shown his covetousness.

4. What was the most important thing in the mind of the servant?

To do the will of the master and quickly bring the bride home to Isaac. First things first as he praises the father and the son.

5. Who does the servant represent in this transaction?

Holy Spirit

6. How does this make him a type of the Holy Spirit?

He doesn't speak of himself, but speaks in regards to the son like the Holy Spirit does of Christ.

7. Who was Rebekah's father?

Bethuel

8. Who did Rebekah take with her when she left?

Her nurse and her damsels.

9. Where was Isaac when he saw the servant returning with his bride?

In the field meditating.

10. How did Rebekah respond when she saw Isaac in the field?

She ran to him in humility and put on her veil.

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Prov 4:18 But the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day.

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Practice Random Acts of Kindness. Each act spreads, and many will be blessed.