

JESUS IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

Lesson 9: ISAAC – Part 3 – Search for a Bride

Aim: To show how the search for a bride for Isaac mirrors the Holy Spirit's search for a bride for Christ from amongst the Family of God.

Key Scriptures: **Genesis Chapter 24**

In our second lesson on Isaac, we discovered that God's testing of Abraham's faith required him to sacrifice his son Isaac whom he loved, on Mount Moriah. In the same way, God the Father did not spare His Son, Jesus, but offered Him up as a sacrifice on the very same mountain where Abraham offered Isaac almost 2,000 years before.

We saw other similarities between Christ and Isaac's respective sacrifices:

- Before Jesus died, a crown of thorns was placed on His head. The ram that was sacrificed in place of Isaac was caught in a thicket, possibly of thorns, by the horns on its head.
- Jesus was made to carry His cross, just as Isaac carried the wood for his sacrifice.
- Just as Jesus was obedient and willingly yielded to his Father in the intended sacrifice, so did Isaac (Phil.2:8).
- Jesus Christ was resurrected on the 3rd Day following His death on the cross, in the same way that Abraham received Isaac back from the dead after a 3-day journey to the same place (Heb.11:19).

Following the sacrifice of Isaac in **Genesis chapter 22**, Isaac's mother Sarah died in **chapter 23**. It was after the death of Sarah, and because of Abraham's advancing age, that he decided a search should be made for a wife for Isaac (**chapter 24**). Abraham commissioned his oldest servant with the task and the whole of the chapter is dedicated to his search for that bride for Isaac.

In this lesson we will be going back and forth between the Type and the Antitype. If you are able, begin by filling in the antitypes of the various individuals seen in Genesis chapter 24.

Genesis Chapter 24	Who they are a Type of:
Abraham	
Isaac	
Oldest Servant	
Rebekah	
Rebekah's Family	

Now Abraham gave his servant very specific instructions that are important to help us understand the antitype. Let's read them:

Observations:

Genesis 24:1 Now Abraham was old, well advanced in age; and the LORD had blessed Abraham in all things.

2 So Abraham said to the oldest servant of his house, who ruled over all that he had, "Please, put your hand under my thigh,

*3 "and I will make you swear by the LORD, the God of heaven and the God of the earth, that you will **not** take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, among whom I dwell;*

4 "but you shall go to my country and to my family, and take a wife for my son Isaac."

5 And the servant said to him, "Perhaps the woman will not be willing to follow me to this land. Must I take your son back to the land from which you came?"

6 But Abraham said to him, "Beware that you do not take my son back there.

7 “The LORD God of heaven, who took me from my father’s house and from the land of my family, and who spoke to me and swore to me, saying, ‘To your descendants I give this land,’ He will send His angel before you, and you shall take a wife for my son from there.

8 “And if the woman is not willing to follow you, then you will be released from this oath; only do not take my son back there.”

Q: Where was the oldest servant told to go to find a wife for Isaac?

A:

At the very beginning of the chapter Abraham, who is a type of God the Father, tasks his oldest servant with going to his country and his family to find a wife for Isaac, his son. In the same way, God the Father has sent the Holy Spirit to search for a bride for His Son, from amongst the family of God.

Q: When did the Holy Spirit’s task begin?

A:

Just as Abraham gave his servant very specific instructions or parameters, so God has given specific boundaries for the work of the Holy Spirit during this present dispensation. **Read John 16:12 -15** and itemize the work of the Holy Spirit:

- (i)
- (ii)
- (iii)
- (iv)
- (v)

Abraham and Isaac were dwelling in the land of Canaan (v.3), which God had told him was to be the inheritance for him and his descendants. However, God had originally called him out of a place called **Ur** in **Mesopotamia**

(present-day Iraq), and it was to this country that Abraham was sending his oldest servant to search for a bride. *(In the back of your Bibles you might find a map showing Abraham's journey from Ur to Canaan.)*

Q: What question does the servant raise in Genesis 24:5?

A:

Q: What was Abraham's response, which he then repeated in v.8?

A:

The oldest servant raises the question of the prospective bride not being willing to follow him from Abraham's country and family to marry Isaac. Abraham makes it very clear that his son is not to be taken back there.

Q: From a potential bride's perspective, what does that show?

A:

Q: What is the antitype of the command to not take the son back there point to? *(Hint: Heb.9:28)*

A:

From the very specific instructions Abraham gave, we can see that having found a future wife for Isaac, she was expected to make **a journey** with the oldest servant from the land of her birth, to where Isaac was, **for the purpose of marriage**.

Having sworn an oath to Abraham, the oldest servant then left with 10 camels that were filled with his master's goods, in order to show the prospective bride what would be hers **if** she was to make the journey to marry Isaac. The servant arrived outside the city of Nahor in Mesopotamia at evening time when the daughters of the city came out to draw water from the well, whereupon he prayed to God for success in his quest:

Observations:

***Genesis 24:10** Then the servant took ten of his master's camels and departed, for all his master's goods were in his hand. And he arose and went to Mesopotamia, to the city of Nahor.*

***11** And he made his camels kneel down outside the city by a well of water at evening time, the time when women go out to draw water.*

***12** Then he said, "O LORD God of my master Abraham, please give me success this day, and show kindness to my master Abraham.*

***13** "Behold, here I stand by the well of water, and the daughters of the men of the city are coming out to draw water.*

***14** "Now let it be that the young woman to whom I say, 'Please let down your pitcher that I may drink,' and she says, 'Drink, and I will also give your camels a drink' -let her be the one You have appointed for Your servant Isaac. And by this I will know that You have shown kindness to my master."*

***15** And it happened, before he had finished speaking, that behold, Rebekah, who was born to Bethuel, son of Milcah, the wife of Nahor, Abraham's brother, came out with her pitcher on her shoulder.*

16 Now the young woman was very beautiful to behold, a virgin; no man had known her. And she went down to the well, filled her pitcher, and came up.

17 And the servant ran to meet her and said, "Please let me drink a little water from your pitcher."

18 So she said, "Drink, my lord." Then she quickly let her pitcher down to her hand, and gave him a drink.

19 And when she had finished giving him a drink, she said, "I will draw water for your camels also, until they have finished drinking."

Q: What are we to make of the 10 camels with all the ‘master’s goods in his hand’?

A:

Q: What are the ‘all things’ that belong to the Son? Scriptures?

A:

Q: How does the servant ask God to identify a bride for Isaac?

A:

The oldest servant asked of the young woman, who was very beautiful to behold, to give him water to drink. What he did not know when he asked was that Rebekah was of Abraham’s family, exactly as Abraham had requested. In v.19 after she had given him a drink, Rebekah then said she would draw water

for the camels to drink also - exactly as the servant had requested of the Lord in his prayer.

Q: The servant met Rebekah by the well. Who else met their prospective brides by a well?

A:

It is interesting to note that they are also types of Christ who meet their brides by a well of water as they came to draw from it. We know that water is both a type of the Holy Spirit and a type of the Word of God. Those who will be a part of the Bride of Christ will be found drawing deeply from 'the well of water'. They will be searching the Word of God as the Holy Spirit reveals to them 'the things which God has prepared for those who love Him' (1Cor.2:10).

Genesis 24:22 So it was, when the camels had finished drinking, that the man took a golden nose ring weighing half a shekel, and two bracelets for her wrists weighing ten shekels of gold,

23 and said, "Whose daughter are you? Tell me, please, is there room in your father's house for us to lodge?"

24 So she said to him, "I am the daughter of Bethuel, Milcah's son, whom she bore to Nahor."

25 Moreover she said to him, "We have both straw and feed enough, and room to lodge."

Observations:

See the chart of Abraham's family tree at the end of the lesson

Rebekah ran to tell her family to expect the servant and the camels, and her brother Laban came out to meet him by the well. Laban welcomed the man, having seen and heard from Rebekah what he said and gave to her. Laban then made provision for him, his camels, and the men with him, to stay in the house.

As was the custom, the camels were unloaded and fed, and water was provided for the washing of the men's feet before setting down food for them to eat.

Genesis 24:33 *Food was set before him to eat, but he said, "I will not eat until I have told about my errand." And he said, "Speak on."*

Observations:

34 So he said, "I am Abraham's servant.

35 "The LORD has blessed my master greatly, and he has become great; and He has given him flocks and herds, silver and gold, male and female servants, and camels and donkeys.

36 "And Sarah my master's wife bore a son to my master when she was old; and to him he has given all that he has.

37 "Now my master made me swear, saying, 'You shall not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, in whose land I dwell;

38 'but you shall go to my father's house and to my family, and take a wife for my son.'

The servant then recounted how, when he came to the well, he prayed that God would reveal to him the one who was appointed to be the future wife of Isaac by asking her to let down her water pitcher that he might drink. He prayed that if she was to be the chosen one, she would then bring water for the camels to drink. Exactly as Rebekah had done!

Genesis 24:47 *"Then I asked her, and said, 'Whose daughter are you?' And she said, 'The daughter of Bethuel, Nahor's son, whom Milcah bore to him.' So I put the nose ring on her nose and the bracelets on her wrists.*

Observations:

48 "And I bowed my head and worshiped the LORD, and blessed the LORD God of my master Abraham, who had led me in the way of truth to take the daughter of my master's brother for his son.

49 "Now if you 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."

50 Then Laban and Bethuel answered and said, "The thing comes from the LORD; we cannot speak to you either bad or good."

51 "Here is Rebekah before you; take her and go, and let her be your master's son's wife, as the LORD has spoken."

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

53 Then the servant brought out jewelry of silver, jewelry of gold, and clothing, and gave them to Rebekah. He also gave precious things to her brother and to her mother.

Q: What was the response of Rebekah's father and brother to what they heard from Abraham's servant?

A:

Following the family's acceptance of Abraham's servant's request for Rebekah to become Isaac's wife, he then worshipped the Lord, because his mission would appear to be accomplished. After this, the servant brought out gifts of jewelry and clothing for Rebekah, along with other precious gifts for her family.

Q: What are we to make for ourselves of the servant bringing out jewelry of gold and clothing? Scriptures from the NT?

A:

The Holy Spirit is revealing to us the enormity of the inheritance that is on offer to us **if** we will be a part of the Bride. From those NT Scriptures we can see how the good works, act of faithful obedience, the righteous act of the saints, that were prepared beforehand for us to walk in them, will make our participation as part of the Bride a certainty, as we choose to walk by faith to the saving of our souls.

The next morning Abraham's servant was ready to leave and return with Rebekah.

Observations:

***Genesis 24:55** But her brother and her mother said, "Let the young woman stay with us a few days, at least ten; after that she may go."*

56 And he said to them, "Do not hinder me, since the LORD has prospered my way; send me away so that I may go to my master."

57 So they said, "We will call the young woman and ask her personally."

*58 Then they called Rebekah and said to her, "Will you go with this man?" And she said, "**I will go.**"*

59 So they sent away Rebekah their sister and her nurse, and Abraham's servant and his men.

60 And they blessed Rebekah and said to her: "Our sister, may you become The mother of thousands of ten thousands; And may your descendants possess The gates of those who hate them." [c.f. Gen.17:16 & 22:17]

61 Then Rebekah and her maids arose, and they rode on the camels and followed the man. So the servant took Rebekah and departed.

Q: What did Rebekah’s brother and mother try to do, and for how long?

A:

That number in Scripture points to a complete period of time, and as such it would seem that Rebekah’s family was not wanting her to leave and go on a journey with marriage to Isaac as the outcome. Rebekah is a type of the future Bride of Christ who **must** go on a journey **if** marriage to Christ is to be accomplished.

Q: What do you think Rebekah’s family trying to hinder her might point to?

A:

Fortunately, Rebekah, when asked if she would go on the journey, said those immortal words: **“I will go!”**

This was then followed by the pronouncement of the blessing upon her, something which is perfectly in line with God’s previously seen promises to Abraham.

As we continue to the end of the chapter, we see the first meeting of Isaac and Rebekah between her home and Isaac’s home before he took her into his mother’s tent, and they are married.

Observations:

Genesis 24:62 Now Isaac came from the way of Beer Lahai Roi, for he dwelt in the South.

63 And Isaac went out to meditate in the field in the evening; and he lifted his eyes and looked, and there, the camels were coming.

64 Then Rebekah lifted her eyes, and when she saw Isaac she dismounted from her camel;

65 for she had said to the servant, "Who is this man walking in the field to meet us?" The servant said, "It is my master." So she took a veil and covered herself.

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

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

Q: What did Rebekah do when she saw Isaac?

A:

Q: What might the veil point to?

A:

Revelation 19:7 *"Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready."*

8 And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints.

Genesis chapter 24 is a big chapter filled with a lot of details, and for the sake of time we have gone through it very briefly. Having come to an end, we now need to pull a few of those details out in order to confirm what they reveal about Jesus Christ and His Bride by reading some comparison statements:

As and So

As Abraham sent his oldest servant to search for a bride for his son Isaac, **so** God the Father has sent the Holy Spirit to search for a Bride for His Son, Jesus Christ.

As the oldest servant was told to go to Abraham's family to find a bride, **so** the Holy Spirit is searching for a Bride for Christ from the Family of God – Christians from this current dispensation.

Just as Isaac was not present when the search was made, **so** Christ is not present while the Spirit of God is currently searching for His Bride.

As the oldest servant showed Rebekah and her family all that would be hers if she made the journey to marry Isaac, **so** the Holy Spirit is revealing to us through the Word what will be ours if we go on the spiritual journey to meet Christ. [c.f. 1 Cor.2:9-10]

Just as Rebekah was found drawing deeply from the well of water, **so** those who desire to be a part of the Bride will draw deeply from the water of the Word of God.

Just as Rebekah clothed herself with a veil before meeting Isaac, **so** faithful Christians will be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, made up of righteous acts they will have done in preparation for meeting Christ.

Just as Rebekah met Isaac between her home and his, **so** all Christians will meet Christ between the heavens and the earth (1Thes.4:17). And only those who have made themselves ready to meet Christ at His Judgement Seat, will be taken alongside Him as His Wife.

Let's pray....

The Family of Abraham

