



“A Bride for Isaac” (Genesis 24) 2014

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Intro: The last few verses of chapter 22 are interesting. They come right after the clear picture of Jesus Christ and the cross, typified in Abraham offering Isaac on Mt. Sinai, and the promise that now, after the “resurrection” of Isaac, Abraham’s descendants through Isaac would be “as numerous as the stars in the sky.” So when we look at vv.20-24 in light of this promise, it is another test for Abraham. Nahor had twelve sons, Abraham had only two, and it was only through Isaac that his offspring would be reckoned.

So, as we see Abraham’s brother’s family multiplying, Abraham must once again have faith in God’s Word, believing that, despite Isaac being his one and only son, his “offspring” would be many.

Now, the first thing Isaac would need for ANY offspring is A BRIDE.

GENESIS 24

vv.1-4 Gen.46: 26 All the souls that came with Jacob into Egypt, **which came out of his loins**, besides Jacob's sons' wives, all the souls were threescore and six...

- Children were said to issue from the “loins” (or thigh) of their father. So this has been called “swearing by posterity,” because the mission of the servant is to insure the posterity for Abraham through the bride of his son Isaac.

vv.5-9 A question of the willingness of the bride.

vv.11-14 This would be an absolutely clear sign – he has ten camels to be watered!!

- Considering that a camel may drink up to 20 gallons, watering ten camels meant at least an hour of work. This reveals a submissive, humble spirit, and one of a servant..

v.15 She appeared in the midst of his prayer!

v.16 Virgins are hard to find these days! But this is still God’s intention.

vv.17-19 This servant’s heart must have been racing at this point!!

v.22 What goes around comes around. You see, in this day, nose rings were very popular!

vv.28-31 Laban is just like his future nephew (Jacob). He is a deceiver. He wants the goods the servant has!!

v.36 Isaac is heir to all that his Father owns.

v.53 When an agreement of marriage had been made, it was customary for the bridegroom (or his representative) to give the family of the bride gifts as a dowry to demonstrate his financial ability to provide for the bride.

v.55 This is very interesting. Laban, who we know from the yet to come story of Jacob, is a scheming deceiver. He is trying to get more out of this servant, while at the same time delaying the union of Rebekah and Isaac.

vv.56-60 The bride's willingness to marry, despite the fact that she has never seen her bridegroom. This is a commitment by faith, based on the truth presented by the servant, backed up by the gifts he has offered on the bridegroom's behalf by the bridegroom's father.

v.61 The bride follows in the footsteps of Abraham...

vv.62-67 This is the first time we have seen Isaac since Mt. Moriah. After the cross, Jesus has returned to heaven to await the receiving of His bride...

SOME PRACTICAL LESSONS FOR MARRIAGE

- Parents, pray for your child's future spouse.
- Keep yourself pure for the mate God has for you.
- Don't choose a mate from Canaan.
 - Do you believe in and serve the same God?
- Look for someone with godly character.
 - A humble, submissive spirit; a servant.
- Willing to leave father and mother.
- Realize that no human mate is perfect!

THE BIGGER PICTURE IN THIS TRUE LIFE STORY

- Isaac is a type of Christ.
- The servant is a type of the Holy Spirit.
 - It is probably Eliezer, but it is interesting that his name is not mentioned in the entire story here.
 - *Eliezer*, means "God of help" or "helper."

- John 16: 13 But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. 14 He will bring glory to me by taking from what is mine and making it known to you.
- Rebekah is a humble servant.
 - Eph.4:2 Be completely humble and gentle...
 - Gal.5:13...serve one another humbly in love.
- The virginity of the bride
 - II Cor.11: 2 I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy. I promised you to one husband, to Christ, so that I might present you as a pure virgin to him. 3 But I am afraid that just as Eve was deceived by the serpent's cunning, your minds may somehow be led astray from your sincere and pure devotion to Christ.
- Rebekah agrees to marry Isaac before she ever sees him.
 - John 20:29...blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.
 - I Peter 1:8 Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy...
- The gifts
 - II Cor.1: 21 Now it is God who makes both us and you stand firm in Christ. He anointed us, 22 set his seal of ownership on us, and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come.
 - II Cor.5: 5 Now it is God who has made us for this very purpose and has given us the Spirit as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come.
 - Eph.1: 13 And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, 14 who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession--to the praise of his glory.
- The journey to meet the bridegroom
 - This was a 450 mile journey before Rebekah would meet her bridegroom. This journey represents our journey of faith before actually meeting our Bridegroom.
 - Lots of opportunity to get to know the bridegroom through the servant (the Holy Spirit); Rebekah must have asked a lot of questions along this 450 mile journey!
- Abraham (the father) is rich, and Isaac is his heir.
 - Rebekah would become heir as Isaac's bride.
 - Rom.4: 13 It was not through law that Abraham and his offspring received the promise that he would be **heir of the world**, but through the righteousness that comes by faith.

- Heb.1: 2 but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, ***whom he appointed heir of all things***, and through whom he made the universe.
- I Cor.3:21...all things are yours...
- Rom.8:17 Now if we are children, then we are heirs – heirs of God, and co-heirs with Christ...
- The honeymoon began immediately!
 - Rev.19:6-9
- Isaac, unlike other patriarchs, had only one wife. He is devoted to one bride and one bride only!
- Rebekah was not a perfect bride.
 - Rebekah would be the mastermind behind Jacob’s future deception of Isaac; Laban (her brother) would change Jacob’s wages ten times; Laban’s daughter Rachael (who married Jacob), steals her father’s household gods.
 - Despite an “imperfect” bride, Isaac (a type of Jesus Christ) loves her enough to marry her!
 - Romans 5:8 But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.