

Genesis 24:52-61

Our last two lessons have been about the search for a bride for Isaac.

But that is not all that Genesis 24 is about.

Not only is it a beautiful love story, but in type, it pictures another search, and another love story.

Yes, this chapter pictures the calling out of a bride for Christ in this Age of Grace.

So, after a short review, we will follow the servant's little caravan as it wends its way back to Canaan and back to Isaac.

Time will not allow us to complete this journey today, but nevertheless, I

think we will still have much to learn
as we travel the dusty roads of Canaan.

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Let's go back then to the time when God
began to move upon the heart of
Abraham.

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

Truly **"the LORD had blessed Abraham in all
things."**

He had prospered him materially, but most
importantly, He had prospered him
spiritually.

Yes, Abraham was the heir of the Abrahamic
Covenant.

And among other things, that Covenant
promised Abraham descendants without
number.

But as yet, his son, through whom this covenant must be channelled, was unmarried and childless.

Clearly something must be done.

A suitable bride must be found for his son, but now, with his increasing age, Abraham realized that this responsibility must be entrusted to another.

V 2-4 **"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:**
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:
4: But thou shalt go unto my country,

and to my kindred, and take a wife unto my son Isaac."

Thus Abraham's most trusted servant was launched upon this important and rather difficult mission.

He was to find a bride for Isaac, a bride who would be suitable, not only to share the blessings, but the responsibilities of the Abrahamic Covenant.

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In Genesis 22, Abraham is presented to us as a type of God the Father.

Also in Genesis we have been made aware that Isaac is a type of Christ.

Now in chapter 24, the eldest servant, in his quest for a bride, beautifully portrays the third person of the Trinity.

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Abraham's servant had travelled over 500 miles to reach Mesopotamia, the place of his master's kindred.

As far as location was concerned, that was the end of his master's instructions, but he still hadn't found a wife for Isaac.

So, to fulfill his oath, Abraham's servant must rely completely upon God's directions.

V 11-12 **"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.**

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."

Well, God answered his prayer, and that very evening, he found himself standing at Rebekah's door!

And just as God had answered his prayer without delay, this faithful servant was determined to transact his master's business without delay.

V 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.**

Well, he did speak on and on, but he was not making idle talk.

First he explained Abraham's plan in detail, and his own involvement in it.

And then, as the man continued to speak, it became apparent that it was God, not

Abraham, Who had directed him to their door.

And not only that, but God had chosen their daughter to be Isaac's wife!

V 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."**

They had heard his testimony concerning Isaac, and concerning God's definite leading in the matter.

It was now incumbent upon them to make a decision.

They could not turn it over in their minds while they ate supper.

And nothing else would be added to make the decision easier.

Had they inquired, they would have been told that there was no possibility that the prospective bridegroom would be available for further scrutiny.

No, they must rely completely upon his testimony, and on that basis, decided immediately.

A delay would be considered a refusal.

V 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."**

Their decision would determine his decision. If they refused, or even procrastinated, he probably would have declined their invitation for supper and gone on his way.

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And that is the way it is in this Age of
Grace.

The inducements to accept Jesus as our
Saviour are quite different from God's
manifestations to Israel.

They had been given many encouragements to
receive His Son as their king.

First of all, Jesus had come in person to
live among them.

And during His public ministry, God had
testified to His authenticity with many
signs and wonders.

In fact, the Apostle John plainly says "---
**the Word was made flesh, and dwelt
among us, (and we beheld his glory, the
glory as of the only begotten of the
Father,) full of grace and truth."**

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But during the calling out of a bride for Christ, our *Isaac* is conspicuously absent.

No, He will not appear bodily during this Age of Grace.

But God has not left us without a witness.

In this present dispensation, the Holy Spirit indwells Christ's church, and is seriously engaged in presenting the Son of God to a lost world.

But the bride of Christ must be wooed and won on the basis of the written Word of God and the testimony of the Holy Spirit in our hearts.

There will be no angelic host.

There will be no voice from heaven.

There will be no signs and wonders to convince the unsaved that Jesus is the Saviour.

No, they must make their decision based upon the testimony of the Holy Spirit as it is found in the inspired Word, and in the testimony of the redeemed.

"--- tell me: and if not, tell me; that I may turn to the right hand, or to the left."

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Well, happily, in the case of Rebekah's family, and indeed in the case of Rebekah herself, they were most willing to accept God's will in the matter.

V 50-51 **"Then Laban and Bethuel answered and said, The thing proceedeth from the LORD: we cannot speak unto thee bad or good.**

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."

I'm sure that faithful servant breathed a sigh of relief when he heard those words.

The first phase of his mission was now complete.

In a real sense, and at that very moment, Rebekah had become Isaac's espoused bride.

So with a smile on his face, that happy man opened up his master's treasures!

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V 52-53 **"And it came to pass, that, when Abraham's servant heard their words, he worshipped the LORD, bowing himself to the earth.**

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."**

Only a few short hours ago, Rebecca had been drawing water for the family, and now she was to be the wife of a rich and important man.

And even now, Rebekah and her family were sharing in his riches.

Not only were these gifts a proof of the servant's testimony, but they were an earnest, you might say a down payment on the blessings that were awaiting her in her husband's home.

Yes, it was the beginning of a new life. Even in this far off country, a lifetime relationship had already begun.

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And the moment the sinner says yes to Christ, he enters into a new relationship with his Saviour, and begins a journey that will end in glory.

Yes, even in the far country, the Christian immediately receives the gift of the Holy Spirit to dwell in him as the earnest of good things to come.

Ephesians 1:12-14 **"That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ.**

13: In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise,

14: Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the

purchased possession, unto the praise
of his glory."

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V 56-57 "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.

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.

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.

57: And they said, We will call the
damsel, and inquire at her mouth."

The family had already agreed to send Rebekah away, but when the time came to put action to words, her brother and mother wanted to delay the parting for a week or so.

And in a way, that reaction was understandable.

They knew that the consequences of their decision would be quite momentous.

This parting would be final.

Once Rebekah mounted that camel, they would probably never see her again.

But Abraham's servant was insistent.

"Hinder me not, seeing the LORD hath prospered my way."

If there was ever a man that meant business, it was Abraham's servant.

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And also, in the case of the Gospel, there is an urgency in the message.

Once a person has clearly understood God's message of salvation, he shouldn't delay coming to Christ.

Like that insistent servant, the Holy Spirit knows the danger of putting off this most important decision for a more convenient time.

2 Corinthians 6:2 says "**(---I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.)**

So Rebekah was called in and asked the all important question: "**Wilt thou go with this man? And she said, I will go.**"

In her enthusiasm, she had said "**I will draw water.**" Now, without hesitation, she says "**I will go.**"

Like the servant himself, this girl seemed to be a person of decisive action.

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The circumstances surrounding her decision were not unlike those of her great uncle's.

God had commanded Abraham to "**Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee.**"

Unfortunately, family ties had delayed his obedience for some time.

Now Rebekah was being asked to leave her country and her family and go to a strange land.

And she was being asked to place herself in
subjection to a man, although chosen of
God, who was someone she knew very
little about.

It was a tremendous step of faith, but
unlike Abraham, there was no delay this
time.

Hardly had the question been asked, when
Rebekah responded, "**I will go.**"

Yes, without a moment's hesitation, she
abandoned her life of drawing water and
perhaps tending Laban's sheep, and
said, "**I will go.**"

But actually it was not as quick a decision
as it might seem.

Having listened to the servant's testimony
the previous day, she had already given
her heart to Isaac even before the
question had been asked.

So, "**forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before,**" she said yes to Isaac and yes to Canaan.

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In this Age of Grace, this same question has been asked thousands of times.

Over and over faithful ministers of God have lifted up the Son of God to lost mankind, and asked the question, "**Wilt thou go with this man?**"

Those that obey the leading of the Holy Spirit leave their old lives behind and say "**I will go.**"

But some are held back by the influences of friends and relatives, and the beggarly things of their old life.

Unfortunately, in spite of God's offer of salvation and a new life in Christ,

some cling to their old life and never
say "**I will go.**"

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But Rebekah had accepted this momentous
change in her life without hesitation.
To us, this might seem like a rather
impetuous decision, but actually it was
not.

Right from the beginning, this man held a
strange fascination for her.

Although I'm sure Rebekah was thrilled with
the gifts, it was *the man*, not the
gifts, that had held her interest.

As soon as the servant told them about
Isaac's affairs, she found her heart
strangely warmed and drawn to Isaac.

Oh, it was definitely free will, for without
hesitation she said, "**I will go.**"

But also, in His sovereign will, God had
drawn her heart to her Isaac.

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Well, after Rebekah said "**I will go,**" things
moved very quickly.

Obviously Abraham's servant was a man of
action—courteous, yes, but diligent in
his responsibilities.

V 59-61 "**And they sent away Rebekah their
sister, and her nurse, and Abraham's
servant, and his men.**

**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.**

**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."**

This was the beginning of a new life for
Rebekah.

A few weeks ago when she was performing her
usual household duties, she had no idea
that she would soon be setting out on
this wonderful adventure.

She had no idea she would soon be leaving
her household duties to become the
mistress of a large and wealthy
household, with servants of her own to
do these menial chores.

No, in her wildest dreams she would have
never guessed what her future would
bring.

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But for some time now, her future had been
carefully planned on her behalf.

Yes, without her knowledge, Abraham had been setting the wheels in motion that would determine the rest of her life.

As she had gone about her daily chores, perhaps dreaming about and no doubt praying about her future husband, the plans of Abraham, and more importantly the councils of God, were turning in her favour.

Under God's prompting, Abraham had put his eldest servant under a strict oath to seek out a bride for Isaac.

Yes, Rebekah had already been chosen by God, and would soon be chosen by Abraham's servant to be the heir, along with her husband, of all of Abraham's wealth, both physically and spiritually.

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And so it is with the bride of Christ.

The calling forth of the bride was established in the councils of God in eternity past.

Ephesians 1:4-12 **"According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:**

5: Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will,

6: To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved.

7: In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;

8: Wherein he hath abounded toward us in all wisdom and prudence;

9: Having made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself:

10: That in the dispensation of the fullness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in him:

11: In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will:

12: That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ."

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Freewill? Absolutely.

When the question came, Rebekah said with all her heart, **"I will go."**

But many weeks before she was even aware of the question, Abraham had said, **"He shall send his angel before thee, and thou shalt take a wife unto my son from thence."** And Rebekah was to be that wife!

Do you believe that marriages are made in heaven?

Well, this one certainly was, and so was Christ's.

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So Rebekah was off to Canaan with the full blessing of her family.

V 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."

It was a very generous blessing, but its real power rested in a much more important blessing.

In fact, had she not been willing to be Isaac's wife, her blessing would have been worthless.

But now it would be completely fulfilled, as it found its basis in Isaac's blessing.

Yes, the Abrahamic Covenant, which is founded upon God's promises, was Rebekah's blessing too.

Genesis 22:15-18 **"And the angel of the LORD called unto Abraham out of heaven the second time,**

16: And said, By myself have I sworn, saith the LORD, for because thou hast done this thing, and hast not withheld

thy son, thine only son:

17: That in blessing I will bless thee,
and in multiplying I will multiply thy
seed as the stars of the heaven, and as
the sand which is upon the sea shore;
and thy seed shall possess the gate of
his enemies;

18: And in thy seed shall all the
nations of the earth be blessed;
because thou hast obeyed my voice."

Yes, there was only strength in Rebekah's
blessing as it merged into Abraham's
blessing, and as she became Isaac's
wife.

And did you notice the actual basis on which
Abraham's blessing was solidified?

God said it was **"because thou hast done this
thing, and hast not withheld thy son,
thine only son."**

Of course Abraham was justified by faith,
but on Mount Mariah his faith was
confirmed by his *works*.

That's what James told us, didn't he?

James 2:21 **"Was not Abraham our father
justified by works, when he had offered
Isaac his son upon the altar?"**

Oh yes, sinners can only become part of the
bride of Christ by faith, and by faith
alone.

But our faith only saves us because God has
justified us by His works.

Yes, God was only able to give the Church of
Jesus Christ eternal life because He
**"spared not his own Son, but delivered
him up for us all."**

Oh, we are saved by faith alone.

But for God, and for God's Son, our
salvation required works.

Christ had to become "**sin for us**" because
God's Law and God's righteousness
required full payment.

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So, without hesitation, Rebekah climbed onto
her camel to begin the long journey to
Canaan.

V 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."**

Actually no details are given about that
journey, but I suspect it was not
completely uneventful.

After all, although they were soon in the
Promised Land, it was still peopled by
the Canaanites, a most wicked nation.
And like everything else in this chapter,
there is a hidden meaning here.

This trip is a picture of the Church's journey through this present evil world.

And the very trials of the journey only increase our longing to see *our Isaac*.

1 Peter 1:8-9 **"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:
9: Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls."**

However, Rebekah was not left to her own devices. She was well cared for and protected by Abraham's servant.

He was both her guard and her guide, for he knew the way.

No, Rebekah was never left to stumble along as best she could.

Every provision had been made to bring her safely to her new home.

And I am sure that along the way, as they took their meals or rested in the evening, the topic of conversation was always Isaac.

Rebekah had 100 questions to ask, and that faithful servant never tired of telling her about his master's son.

Was he handsome? How old was he? What was his occupation? Is he a cheery or serious individual?

Was he kind and thoughtful? What was he doing when you last saw him?

Actually, it was quite astonishing how little she really knew about Isaac when she had said yes.

But her questions were not prompted by any second thoughts about her marriage.

No, they only expressed her great desire to know him better.

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And, actually, it is astonishing how little most of us knew about Christ when we gave our hearts to Him.

We are saved by faith, but then our life is, or should be, one long learning experience under the teaching ministry of the Holy Spirit.

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I am sure these times of learning were a delight to Abraham's servant as he told this eager young woman all about the man she was going to meet at the end of the journey.

He would tell her all about the father's love for his son.

And also how Isaac had been willing to lay down his life on Mount Moriah simply because it was his father's will.

He would tell her about his riches, that Isaac was the heir of the Abrahamic Covenant.

And probably he told her that this very country that they were traveling through would some day belong to her family!

So every day, as Rebecca learned more about the man she would soon marry, her longing to meet Isaac grew greater and greater.

At first, he was just a name, but gradually, as he began to form in her mind and heart, she loved him more and more.

She loved him, not for the gifts that had
been bestowed upon her, or for the
inheritance that was to be hers.

No, her initial fascination with the man had
grown into a deep love.

And as the journey wore on, *she* was
changing.

Her past life began to recede into a faint
and rather unreal memory, while this
new life dominated her thoughts day and
night.

Day after day, mile after mile, her life was
becoming filled with Isaac, and the
more she knew about him, the more she
looked for his appearing.

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Well, we're going to leave Rebekah right
there on the dusty road in Canaan.

And, actually, that is exactly where we are
at this present time.

Under the supervision of the Holy Spirit,
who is our teacher, guide, and
protector, we are making the journey to
our heavenly Canaan, and to the
glorious time when we will meet *our*
Isaac.

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So, take courage brothers and sisters.

Though the way be long and hard, there is no
doubt at all that----

*♪♪ It will be worth it all when we see Jesus,
Life's trials will seem so small when we see
Christ;*

*One glimpse of His dear face all sorrow will
erase,*

So bravely run the race till we see Christ.