

FINAL STUDY NOTES - GENESIS CHAPTERS 23 & 24

7/1-2/2024

CLASSROOM LOCATION AND ZOOM – SIGN IN INFORMATION:

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PLEASE NOTE WE WILL CONTINUE TO NEED A PASSCODE TO JOIN THE ONLINE (ZOOM) STUDY!

MONDAY 7 PM Bible Study - Time: 07:00 PM DAYLIGHT SAVING Time (US and Canada)
THE MONDAY NIGHT STUDY WILL BE MEETING ON ZOOM ONLY UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE!

MEETING ID# - 87858644763 Passcode: 087484

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TUESDAY 7 AM Bible Study - Time: 07:00 AM DAYLIGHT SAVING Time (US and Canada).

- Beginning Tuesday, June 4, 2024, TUES MORNING MTG PLACE:
- 1201 KEY WEST, CORONA DEL MAR (shown as 1201 KW, Corona del Mar, CA 92625) on Global Positioning System (GPS) in automobiles. For driving directions from your starting point, Suggest using *WAZE* (waze.com/live-map) or *MapQuest* (mapquest.com),
- AS WELL AS CONTINUING IN ZOOM!

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OPENING PRAYER

Genesis Chapter 23 – Sarah’s Death and Burial; Genesis Chapter 24 – A Bride for Isaac!

- **This is an important marriage, through which all of the seed promised through Isaac will come.** For this reason, Christian young people, and their parents, would do well to study carefully the principles guiding the preparations for this marriage as they contemplate their own!

Gen 23:1 Sarah lived one hundred and twenty-seven years; these were the years of the life of Sarah.

- **If Sarah was 127 years old when she died, it means that Isaac was thirty-seven years old** at this time, and is believed to have occurred soon the story of the sacrifice of Isaac in chapter 22. This means that Isaac was likely around 30 years old at the time of his potential sacrifice. It is possible that he could have been 33 years old, which if so, would be another type of Jesus Christ. Isaac was thirty-seven his mother, Sarah, died.

Gen 23:2 So Sarah died in Kirjath Arba (that is, Hebron) in the land of Canaan, and Abraham came to mourn for Sarah and to weep for her.

- **It would appear that Abraham was probably not there when Sarah died**, because it said, "He came to mourn for her." Quite possibly he was out tending the flocks further south in the Negev, but came back up to Hebron when he heard of the death of Sarah to mourn and to weep for her.

Gen 23:3 Then Abraham stood up from before his dead, and spoke to the sons of Heth, saying,

Gen 23:4 " among you. Give me property for a burial place among you, that I may bury my dead out of my sight."

Gen 23:5 And the sons of Heth answered Abraham, saying to him,

Gen 23:6 "Hear us, my lord: You are a mighty prince among us; bury your dead in the choicest of our burial places. None of us will withhold from you his burial place, that you may bury your dead."

- **You are a mighty prince.** Literally, "You are as a prince of God among us." Abraham was highly respected by the people of the land. Of course, at the time that this confederacy of kings had invaded the land, sacking the cities, taking many hostages, Abraham led the group that freed the hostages and defeated these kings. So he was as a mighty prince, a prince of God among them. They highly respected this man Abraham.
- **Now, we get into a little cultural view as Abraham goes through the exchange** of the purchase of the property. You see a lot of interesting culture as they bow down and as they talk about the property, the price of the property and so forth. There are certain niceties that were to be followed, though the words that were declared were not necessarily genuine. We are given a little insight into this interesting culture as Abraham buys the burial place for his wife Sarah, the cave there at Machpelah.
- **Bury your dead in the choicest of our burial places. None of us will withhold from you his burial place, that you may bury your dead.** So they offered him any of the many tombs that were there where they were burying their dead. But Abraham did not want to bury his dead in their tombs but wanted a tomb of his own whereby he might make a declaration that he plans to stay in this land. We're rooted; we're grounded here. He doesn't even consider taking her back to Babylon for burial.

Gen 23:7 Then Abraham stood up and bowed himself to the people of the land, the sons of Heth.

Gen 23:8 And he spoke with them, saying, "If it is your wish that I bury my dead out of my sight, hear me, and meet with Ephron the son of Zohar for me,

- **He is asking the sons of Heth to be mediators** between Ephron in the dealing with him.

Gen 23:9 that he may give me the cave of Machpelah which he has, which is at the end of his field. Let him give it to me at the full price, as property for a burial place among you."

Gen 23:10 Now Ephron dwelt among the sons of Heth; and Ephron the Hittite answered Abraham in the presence of the sons of Heth, all who entered at the gate of his city, saying,

Gen 23:11 "No, my lord, hear me: I give you the field and the cave that is in it; I give it to you in the presence of the sons of my people. I give it to you. Bury your dead!"

- **No, my lord, hear me: I give you the field.** Oh no, you can't buy it. I'll give it to you." Culturally that was the correct thing for him to do.

Gen 23:12 Then Abraham bowed himself down before the people of the land;

Gen 23:13 and he spoke to Ephron in the hearing of the people of the land, saying, "If you will give it, please hear me. I will give you money for the field; take it from me and I will bury my dead there."

Gen 23:14 And Ephron answered Abraham, saying to him,

Gen 23:15 "My lord, listen to me; the land is worth four hundred shekels of silver. What is that between you and me? So bury your dead."

- **Probably this was a highly inflated price, and he was expecting Abraham** to respond with a much lower figure, because they always ask for twice what they want. Even to the present day you go over there to buy something and never pay the first price they ask. He was probably not expecting Abraham to accept the offered price, but was waiting for Abraham to give the counteroffer.

Gen 23:16 And Abraham listened to Ephron; and for Ephron which he had named in the hearing of the sons of Heth, four hundred shekels of silver, currency of the merchants.

Gen 23:17 So the field of Ephron which was in Machpelah, which was before Mamre, the field and the cave which was in it, and all the trees that were in the field, which were within all the surrounding borders, were deeded

Gen 23:18 to Abraham as a possession in the presence of the sons of Heth, before all who went in at the gate of his city.

- So, the field, the trees, and all the surrounding borders were all deeded over to Abraham.
- Notice that Abraham is making a lasting statement of his continuing to stay in the land that God had promised to him!
- ***As I look at my life, what things are making a lasting statement that I truly am His and He is mine?***

Gen 23:19 And after this, Abraham buried Sarah his wife in the cave of the field of Machpelah, before Mamre (that is, Hebron) in the land of Canaan.

- Now to the present day you go in Hebron to the place of the cave of Machpelah. You are not allowed, of course, to go down into the cave, but you can go to the shrine that is built above it. You can see to the present day there in Hebron this cave of Machpelah.
- **There is a supposed contradiction in scripture, because in the New Testament when Stephen** in the book of Acts makes mention of Abraham purchasing a cave. (***Act 7:16***) *And they were carried back to Shechem and laid in the tomb that Abraham bought for a sum of money from the sons of Hamor, the father of Shechem.* So there is a supposed contradiction in scripture here. But we don't know the whole story. We do know that later on Jacob did purchase a cave in Shechem. And that when Jacob was dying in Egypt, he had Joseph, his son, swear, take a vow, that you'll not bury me in Egypt but you'll carry me back and bury me in Shechem there in the cave that he had purchased earlier from Hamar.
- **There are those who are always looking for something to point out in the scripture, saying,** "You can't trust the Bible. There's a mistake there." But we don't have all the information. Of course, as the scripture says, (***Joh 21:25***) *And there are also many other things that Jesus did, which if they were written one by one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that would be written. Amen.*

Gen 23:20 So the field and the cave that is in it were deeded to Abraham by the sons of Heth as property for a burial place.

- Now Sarah is set aside, as Israel was set aside after the crucifixion of Jesus.

Isaac and Rebekah

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

- **About three years later, Isaac was forty when he married Rebekah.** There are about three years between chapter 23 and 24.
- **There are two things worthy of notice in chapter 24. One is the leading of the Lord in all the details of the lives of those involved.** It is a remarkable statement that is made, time and time again, of how God led. If God could lead in the lives of these people, He can lead in your life and my life!
- **The second thing to notice in this chapter is the straightforward manner in which Rebekah** made her decision to go with the servant and become the bride of Isaac. This is a tremendous thing which we will notice as we go through.

Gen 24:2 So Abraham said to the oldest servant of his house, who ruled over all that he had, "Please, put your hand under my thigh,

- **This oldest servant is not named in chapter 24.** It probably is Eliezer, who was named for us in chapter 15, when God promised that He would be to Abraham his exceeding great reward. I believe it is a deliberate omission by the Holy Spirit to inspire the text.
- **So Eliezer, the name in Hebrew means, "God my help,"** Eliezer is a type of the Holy Spirit as he goes to get a bride for his master's son, to woo and to win that bride, to bring her back, that the master's son might be married to this bride.
- **As a type of the Holy Spirit, his name is significant.** Jesus calls the Holy Spirit, the Comforter, which in Greek is *paracletes*, meaning literally, "one who comes alongside to help." So the name is the helper, as Eliezer is "God my helper." The name of the Holy Spirit in the New Testament, the *paracletes*, is the one who comes alongside to help.
- ***Please put your hand under my thigh ... and ... swear.*** A solemn pledge mentioning the Lord's name and formalized by an accepted customary gesture indicated just how serious an undertaking this was in Abraham's eyes. At his age, Abraham was concerned to perpetuate his people and God's promise through the next generation; so he covenanted with his servant to return to Mesopotamia and bring back a wife for Isaac.

Gen 24:3 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;

- **Abraham had a very broad concept, (no limited view) of God,** not only of the heaven, but also of the earth.

Gen 24:4 but you shall go to my country and to my family, and take a wife for my son Isaac."

Gen 24:5 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?"

- **Now the servant realized that what Abraham was asking of him was no easy task.** He has to go back to Mesopotamia, about five hundred miles away. There he has to coax a young girl to get on a camel and ride five hundred miles across the desert area to meet and to marry a man that she has never seen before. She'll never see her parents or her home again. The servant could see the difficulty of talking a pretty young girl into such an adventure. And the servant said, "What if she is *not willing*? Shall I then take Isaac back to the land?" "No, definitely not, Isaac is not to leave this land!" It is interesting; Isaac never did leave the land of promise. Neither did Jesus!

Gen 24:6 But Abraham said to him, "Beware that you do not take my son back there."

- **Abraham realized that if Isaac went there, it is quite possible that in marrying her that she would then object to the long journey and maybe Isaac would remain back in Mesopotamia and the purposes of God would then be thwarted.** So Abraham is very firm in that "you are not to take him back there."

Gen 24:7 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!

- **Abraham is very firm about this!** He is confident that God is going to take care of this also. "The angel will go before you and you are to take a wife for my son from there."
- ***During times of the LORD's testing my obedience, how willing am I to consider as Abraham did, that "God will take care of this apparent difficulty?"***

Gen 24:8 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."

- **Abraham says, "Don't ever take my son back there, but if the woman won't come, then you are released from this oath. What does that mean? Simply that Abraham would have told you, "God has another way of working this out. I don't know what it will be, but I am very sure that God does not want my son to marry a godless pagan girl!"**
- ***When I hear clearly from the LORD of something that should not be done, how often do I try to find my own way around the prohibition?***

Gen 24:9 So the servant put his hand under the thigh of Abraham his master, and swore to him concerning this matter.

Gen 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.

- **Nahor was the brother of Abraham.** It does not mean that that was the name of the city. It could be that it was just the city of Nahor, where Abraham's brother lived.

Gen 24:11 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.

Bathed in Prayer! (vs. 12-14)

Gen 24:12 Then he said, "O LORD God of my master Abraham, please give me success this day, and show kindness to my master Abraham."

- Notice Eliezer's closeness to the LORD! His commitment to prayer, including specific requests!
- **How similar is my commitment to prayer to that which is described here?**

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

- That was the time where they usually went out to draw water in the evening. He is there as the ten camels are kneeling by the well and he sees the girls coming out from the city to draw the water, and so he prays, "O LORD, please give me success as these girls come to draw water."

Gen 24:14 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."

- So he sets up a condition, a stipulation here, sort of a fleece of sorts. "Lord, when I ask the young girl for water, if she says, 'Yes, take a drink and I'll also draw for your camels,' let that be the one that You have appointed."
- The scripture speaks in the New Testament concerning the church of Jesus Christ, that we have been chosen in Christ before the foundations of the world. God had already appointed, and the servant realized that the bride that was to be found for Isaac was already appointed by God. The angel of the Lord will direct you; He'll lead you to the one. God had already appointed Rebekah to be the bride, even as God has already chosen the bride for Christ, chosen before the foundations of the world that you should bring forth glory and praise unto God as the bride of His Son, Jesus Christ!

Gen 24:15 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.

- While he was still praying, before he had even finished the prayer Rebekah had arrived at the well with her pitcher on her shoulder and had gone down to draw water from the well!

Gen 24:16 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.

- She was very beautiful! The scripture rarely says that, but it is interesting, prophetically concerning the bride, in (Psa 45:11) *So the King will greatly desire your beauty; Because He is your Lord, worship Him.* The Lord looks upon you and He sees you, His bride, as being very beautiful!
- And she went down to the well and filled her pitcher, and came up; by which it appears the well lay below the surface, having a descent unto it, and an ascent from it. Rebekah was very diligent and speedy in doing her work.

Gen 24:17 And the servant ran to meet her and said, "Please let me drink a little water from your pitcher."

Gen 24:18 So she said, "Drink, my lord." Then she quickly let her pitcher down to her hand, and gave him a drink.

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

- The important thing to note is that Rebekah is a very polite and courteous girl also. She is beautiful, not dumb, and very polite.

Gen 24:20 Then she quickly emptied her pitcher into the trough, ran back to the well to draw water, and drew for all his camels.

Gen 24:21 And the man, wondering at her, remained silent so as to know whether the LORD had made his journey prosperous or not.

- **Wondering at her, remained silent.** The servant just stands there in amazement. He is wondering whether this is it, whether God is leading or not—he believes He is.
- **The servant knew some of the qualities the bride must have.** She must be from Abraham's people. She must be a godly, virtuous maiden and hopefully, fair to look upon. Additionally, she should be strong, healthy, able to make a long trip on a camel. She should be able to assume chare of a large household of servants, to bear and raise children. She should be industrious, harboring no delusions of a life of ease and idleness, just because Isaac had great wealth. Finally, she should be gracious, considerate, of a sensitive and compassionate spirit.

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

- I don't know who would want to wear a nose ring that weighed a half of a shekel.

Gen 24:23 *and said, "Whose daughter are you? Tell me, please, is there room in your father's house for us to lodge?"*

- **Whose daughter are you?** The big question now, because the bride had to be from Abraham's family. "Go to my land and to my family and get a bride." "Whose family are you?" He had set up this condition, and here this beautiful gal, she waters the camels, and whose family are you?" Can you imagine what was going on in his emotions and all when she answered him?

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

- **Nahor the brother of Abraham!** It's Nahor's granddaughter! Wow!
- **We remember Isaac wasn't born until Abraham was a hundred years old, which means** that Isaac and Rebekah were closer in age, because Isaac was a son, who had come late in life. She was a second cousin to Isaac.

Gen 24:25 *Moreover she said to him, "We have both straw and feed enough, and room to lodge."*

- So here she is declaring who she is, and at home we have enough straw and food and a place for you to lodge. We've got enough room for you to stay!

Gen 24:26 *Then the man bowed down his head and worshiped (also vs. 48,52!) **the LORD.***

- **This is too much! He just had to worship God! He had just prayed that God would make his journey prosperous.** He didn't know when Abraham gave him such a difficult task, whether or not it could be completed! Now, he is beginning to see hope that maybe this is going to work out anyhow, and excited, he just bows down and he worships God at this point! The servant sees the hand of God in this. It is wonderful to have God leading and guiding, is it not?
- **In this chapter is such an outstanding example of frequently worshipping and praising the LORD**, step by step, through the servant's whole mission!
- **Is my worship pattern anything like this?**

Gen 24:27 *And he said, "Blessed be the LORD God of my master Abraham, who has not forsaken His mercy and His truth toward my master. As for me, being on the way, the LORD led me to the house of my master's brethren."*

- **My master Abraham.** And at that her ears must have perked up. "Abraham, I've heard of him. That's my grandfather's brother." "Blessed be the LORD God of my master Abraham!" Oh God, thank You!
- **Notice, "being on the way, the LORD led me."** One of the important steps of being led of the LORD is to get moving! It's hard to guide a stationery object. If you are just sitting around, it's hard to get the leading of the Lord. God leads us as we're moving! We have to step out in faith, and as we step out in faith, then the Lord is able to lead us!
- **But if you're just sitting around saying, "Well, I'm just waiting on God to lead me.** I just want God to show me what to do and all and I'm just sitting here waiting for the Lord," you will probably sit the rest of your life. You'll probably never get any direction. Stand up! Start walking and then the Lord will lead you!
- **This is a great statement here: "Being on the way, the LORD led me...."** The Lord leads those who are on the way—that is, those who are on or in *His* way, who are wanting to be led, who will be led of Him, and who will do what He wants done. God can lead a willing heart anytime.

Gen 24:28 *So the young woman ran and told her mother's household these things.*

Gen 24:29 Now Rebekah had a brother whose name was Laban, and Laban ran out to the man by the well.

- We'll find Laban in the story further when Jacob goes to escape from the anger of his brother Esau. He is the one that Jacob dealt with, the brother of Rebekah. Right here, we should be warned to keep our eyes on Uncle Laban. He will bear watching at this point and from here on. He was greatly impressed by material things. Notice what happens:

Gen 24:30 So it came to pass, when he saw the nose ring, and the bracelets on his sister's wrists, and when he heard the words of his sister Rebekah, saying, "Thus the man spoke to me," that he went to the man. And there he stood by the camels at the well.

Gen 24:31 And he said, "Come in, O blessed of the LORD! Why do you stand outside? For I have prepared the house, and a place for the camels."

Gen 24:32 Then the man came to the house. And he unloaded the camels, and provided straw and feed for the camels, and water to wash his feet and the feet of the men who were with him.

- That is, Laban provided the straw and the feed and the water to wash the feet, which was customary. After a long journey across the deserts, the most relaxing thing you can do is wash your feet!

Gen 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."

- Everyone was excited at this moment. This guy is here on an important errand! They realized that the name Abraham was already been mentioned, so they were willing to forgo dinner for a while to hear his story.

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

- Notice that his name is not given. Likewise, the Lord Jesus said that when the Holy Spirit comes, He will not speak of Himself, but He will take the things of Mine and show them unto you. The Holy Spirit has no name. He does not come to speak of Himself; He has come to speak of Another, of Christ. Similarly, this servant is not named but is simply called a servant of Abraham.

Gen 24:35 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.

Gen 24:36 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.

- We see again, the picture of Eliezer as the Holy Spirit, wooing now the bride for the son, as he testifies of the glory of his master's kingdom, all that his master possesses. He has a son (Isaac) and he has given his son everything that he has. We begin to hear the witness of the Holy Spirit of the glories of God's kingdom: the beauty, the glory, the riches, the wealth of the kingdom of God, and God has a Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things.
- The Spirit is here to woo you to Jesus Christ, to be the bride of Christ that you might be joint heirs with Him of all of the wealth and the glories of the eternal kingdom of God. The picture is beginning to come together. It's getting exciting as he tells of the glory of his master and of the riches and the wonders of his master's kingdom and of the master's son whom he has appointed heir of all things! Rebekah is listening intently, because she probably figures, at this point, there is something very interesting going on here.

Gen 24:37 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;

Gen 24:38 but you shall go to my father's house and to my family, and take a wife for my son.'

Gen 24:39 And I said to my master, 'Perhaps the woman will not follow me.'

Gen 24:40 But he said to me, 'The LORD, before whom I walk, will send His angel with you and prosper your way; and you shall take a wife for my son from my family and from my father's house.

Gen 24:41 You will be clear from this oath when you arrive among my family; for if they will not give her to you, then you will be released from my oath.'

- He rehearses this experience with Abraham and his commission to get the bride.

Gen 24:42 "And this day I came to the well and said, 'O LORD God of my master Abraham, if You will now prosper the way in which I go,

Gen 24:43 behold, I stand by the well of water; and it shall come to pass that when the virgin comes out to draw water, and I say to her, "Please give me a little water from your pitcher to drink,"

Gen 24:44 and she says to me, "Drink, and I will draw for your camels also,"—let her be the woman whom the LORD has appointed for my master's son.'

Gen 24:45 "But before I had finished speaking in my heart, there was Rebekah, coming out with her pitcher on her shoulder; and she went down to the well and drew water. And I said to her, 'Please let me drink.'

- This is interesting to me, the prayer was from the heart! We think we always have to articulate the prayers, not so. God can hear the prayer of your heart. He was praying in his heart these things. He wasn't saying it out loud God. He was just saying this in his heart!

Gen 24:46 And she made haste and let her pitcher down from her shoulder, and said, 'Drink, and I will give your camels a drink also.' So I drank, and she gave the camels a drink also.

Gen 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.

Gen 24:48 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.

Gen 24:49 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."

- This is it! He gets right down to business! "Will you let her go and be his bride? Tell me now, because if not, then I've got to go somewhere else! Let me know."

Gen 24:50 Then Laban and Bethuel answered and said, "The thing comes from the LORD; we cannot speak to you either bad or good.

- How can we say anything against that? Obviously God is in it. We cannot object to it. (*Gen 31:24*) But God had come to Laban the Syrian in a dream by night, and said to him, "Be careful that you speak to Jacob neither good nor bad."

Gen 24:51 Here is Rebekah before you; take her and go, and let her be your master's son's wife, as the LORD has spoken."

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

- We find that Abraham's faith in God has certainly influenced his household. Here is his servant following the example of Abraham worshipping God on these different occasions.

Gen 24:53 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.

- Then the servant, upon getting the promise of the bride, goes out and starts bringing in all of these golden and silver jewels, and beautiful raiment for the bride.
- Even so, as we have been committed to Jesus Christ to be the bride of Christ, responding to that wooing of the Holy Spirit, once we have responded and consented, we then begin to receive the marvelous gifts from the Holy Spirit. Those gifts of God and the gift of the Spirit, Himself, which becomes the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession. So the gifts of the Spirit, just sort of a foretaste of that glory and power and that love that is ours eternally as the bride of Christ in the kingdom of God.

Gen 24:54 And he and the men who were with him ate and drank and stayed all night. Then they arose in the morning, and he said, "Send me away to my master."

Gen 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."

- They want to delay her going. They're a type of the world that is always seeking to cause you to delay your commitment to Jesus Christ.
- Everybody wants to be saved someday. "When I die I want to die the death of the righteous. I don't want to die as a pagan, as a heathen, as a sinner. I want to die the death of the righteous, but later. I want to live a little first." Oh, what a misstatement. You're dead in your trespasses and sins. What you are really saying is, "I want to stay dead a little longer."

- **You don't really know what living is until you live in Christ.** Paul said, (*Php 1:21*) *For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain.* (*Col 3:4*) *When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.* (*1Jn 5:12*) *He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.* But Laban and her mother say, wait, not yet--delay!

Gen 24:56 *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."*

- **At first, this might seem to indicate an unfeeling attitude on the part of the servant.** However, once the Lord's will is clearly revealed, as it had been here, any delay is dangerous, providing opportunity for second thoughts and even Satanic diversions. May we note this well!
- ***How prone am I to delaying the fulfillment of God's will, in the face of hindrances or opposition by the world and it's wickedness?***

Gen 24:57 *So they said, "We will call the young woman and ask her personally."*

Gen 24:58 *Then they called Rebekah and said to her, "Will you go with this man?" And she said, "I will go!"*

- **Will you go with this man?** The Spirit asks you the big question! Will you commit your life to Jesus Christ? Will you begin the journey towards Him? That journey, which will one day lead us into His very presence in the glory of His kingdom. Will you consent? Will you go? It always comes to down to the personal application.
- **They asked her personally, "Will you go?"** And she responded, "*I will go!*"

Gen 24:59 *So 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 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."*

- **So they sent her off with a blessing.** "May you just have thousands of ten thousands of kids," you know. "Your descendants, may they just multiply on the face of the earth."

Gen 24:61 *Then Rebekah and her maids arose, and they rode on the camels and followed the man. So the servant took Rebekah and departed.*

- **Then Rebekah and her maids arose.** Her maids that were given her by her parents to wait upon her, as was usual in those times and countries. **and they rode on the camels,** that Abraham's servant had brought with him; **and followed the man;** who rode before and directed the way; the sense is only, that she went along with him. **So the servant took Rebekah and departed, taking her under his care,** and to be the wife of his master's son, at the hands of her friends, and then set forward on his journey.

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

Gen 24:63 *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.*

- **He was a man of deep spirit.** He wasn't a very prominent person, but he was one of the meditative types, and in the evening went out into the field to meditate.

Gen 24:64 *Then Rebekah lifted her eyes, and when she saw Isaac she dismounted (and bowed down) from her camel;*

Gen 24:65 *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.*

- **Now Isaac can count.** He counts the ten camels so he figures it is Eliezer, but there are more people than Eliezer left with. He left with the servants, and now he sees Rebekah, her maid, the nurse, and all, and he no doubt realizes that he was successful. Now, I would have been so curious to know what she looked like and what she was like and everything else I wouldn't have walked through the field. To me I would have been running at fast as I could! Who is this man walking through the field to meet us? Come on, Isaac. Show a little emotion or something!
- **It is my master!** You know, too often, I get impatient with Jesus. I wish He would run to meet us, that He would come quickly. He seems to just be walking and I get impatient for Him to come. I want to meet my Lord; to get on with the kingdom, but He walks. But we are to have patience, (*Jas 5:7a*) Therefore be patient, brethren, See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, waiting patiently. So it seems that the Lord is walking to meet us when I wish He were running.

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

- **He rehearses now to Isaac the story of meeting Rebekah, the leading and faithfulness of God!**
Gen 24:67 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.
- Rebekah had died three years earlier, which would indicate that he had been mourning his mother's death for three years. He was probably very close to his mother. It was not until Rebekah came that he was comforted of his mother's death.

SUMMARY

- **Abraham makes a lasting statement of his continuing to stay in the land, which God had promised to him! (Gen 23:17, 18a)** *So the field of Ephron which was in Machpelah, which was before Mamre, the field and the cave which was in it, and all the trees that were in the field, which were within all the surrounding borders, were deeded [18a] to Abraham as a possession.*
- **Notice the important type of the Holy Spirit that Abraham's "unnamed" servant represents: (Gen 24:2)** *So Abraham said to the oldest servant of his house, who ruled over all that he had, "Please, put your hand under my thigh,*
- **Abraham chooses a bride for Isaac! (Gen 24:3-4)** *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."*
- **The servant constantly leans on, praying to the LORD for guidance and direction, following up with praise and worship! (Gen 24:12,48,52)** *Then he said, "O LORD God of my master Abraham, please give me success this day, and show kindness to my master Abraham. [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.*
- **This is so important! We would do well to study carefully the principles** guiding the preparations for this marriage as we contemplate our own, and that of our children and grandchildren!
- **The closeness or nearness to God by both Abraham and his servant are such an outstanding example** for us!

CLOSING SONG

NEARER MY GOD TO THEE! – (1841) Sarah Adams – Londonderry Choir (4:50/4:53)

1 Nearer, my God, to Thee, Nearer to Thee; E'en though it be a cross That raiseth me, Still all my song shall be Nearer, my God, to Thee, Nearer, my God, to Thee, Nearer to Thee.

2 Though, like a wanderer, The sun gone down, Darkness comes over me, My rest a stone; Yet in my dreams I'd be Nearer, my God, to Thee, Nearer, my God, to Thee, Nearer to Thee.

3 There let me see the sight, An open heaven; All that Thou sendest me, In mercy given; Angels to beckon me

Nearer, my God, to Thee, Nearer, my God, to Thee, Nearer to Thee.

4 Or if, on joyful wing Cleaving the sky, Sun, moon, and stars forgot, Upward I fly, Nearer, my God, to Thee, Nearer, my God, to Thee, Nearer to Thee.

CLOSING PRAYER

NEXT WEEK: Read and study Genesis Chapters 25 & 26!