

There's More to the Story

(A bride for Isaac)

(Genesis 24)

The Father sends one to find a bride for his son (vs 1-7) In Genesis 24, Abraham sends his servant out with the purpose of finding a bride for his son Isaac. As shown in Genesis 22, Abraham foreshadows God the Father and Isaac is a foreshadowing of Jesus. What this story is foreshadowing is the God the Father sending the Holy Spirit to the bride (the elect) Christ to bring them to Him. God the Father sends the Spirit (John 14:26).

- John 14:26 But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you.
- John 15:26 "When the [a]Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, *that is* the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify about Me,

Eliezer of Damascus The servant that was sent was Eliezer (Genesis 15:2) whose name in Hebrew means God is help, God has helped, God of help. The Holy Spirit is called a Helper (paraclete) in John 14:16.

- John 14:16 I will ask the Father, and He will give you another [a]Helper, that He may be with you forever.

The bride must come from Abraham's lineage (vs 3-4) The bride of Christ are Abraham's descendants through faith (Romans 9:6-8) (Galatians 3:16-29).

- Romans 9:6-8 But *it is* not as though the word of God has failed. For they are not all Israel who are *descended* from Israel; ⁷ nor are they all children because they are Abraham's [a]descendants, but: "[b]through Isaac your [c]descendants will be named." ⁸ That is, it is not the children of the flesh who are children of God, but the children of the promise are regarded as [d]descendants.
- Galatians 3:16-29 Now the promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed. He does not say, "And to seeds," as *referring* to many, but *rather* to one, "And to your seed," that is, Christ. ¹⁷ What I am saying is this: the Law, which came four hundred and thirty years later, does not invalidate a covenant previously ratified by God, so as to nullify the promise. ¹⁸ For if the inheritance is [a]based on law, it is no longer [b]based on a promise; but God has granted it to Abraham by means of a promise. ¹⁹ Why the Law then? It was added [c]because of transgressions, having been ordained through angels by the [d]agency of a mediator, until the seed would come to whom the promise had been made. ²⁰ Now a mediator is not [e]for one *party only*; whereas God is *only* one. ²¹ Is the Law then contrary to the promises of God? May it never be! For if a law had been given which was able to impart life, then righteousness [f]would indeed have been [g]based on law. ²² But the Scripture has shut up [h]everyone under sin, so that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe. ²³ But before faith came, we were kept in custody under the law, being shut up to the faith which was later to be revealed. ²⁴ Therefore the Law has become our tutor *to lead us* to Christ, so that we may be justified by faith. ²⁵ But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a [i]tutor. ²⁶ For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. ²⁷ For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. ²⁸ There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is [j]neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. ²⁹ And if you [k]belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's [l]descendants, heirs according to promise.

The bride is met at a well (vs 13-20) This is similar to the story in John 4 with the Samaritan woman at the well. He tells her that whoever drinks the water He gives will never thirst again. Jesus also stated in John 7:37-39 that those who believes in Him will have rivers of living water flowing out from their innermost being in reference to the Spirit.

- **John 7:37-39** Now on the last day, the great *day* of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, “[a] If anyone is thirsty, [b] let him come to Me and drink. ³⁸ He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, ‘From [c] his innermost being will flow rivers of living water.’” ³⁹ But this He spoke of the Spirit, whom those who believed in Him were to receive; for the Spirit was not yet *given*, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

The bride is appointed before the bride is brought to the Isaac (vs 14) This speaks to election and God the Father electing and appointing the bride for His Son before the foundation of the world.

- **Acts 13:48** When the Gentiles heard this, they *began* rejoicing and glorifying the word of [a] the Lord; and as many as had been appointed to eternal life believed.
- **John 6:37-40** All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will certainly not cast out. ³⁸ For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me. ³⁹ This is the will of Him who sent Me, that of all that He has given Me I lose nothing, but raise it up on the last day. ⁴⁰ For this is the will of My Father, that everyone who beholds the Son and believes in Him will have eternal life, and I Myself will raise him up on the last day.”
- **Ephesians 1:3-11** Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly *places* in Christ, ⁴ just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before [a] Him. In love ⁵ [b] He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the [c] kind intention of His will, ⁶ to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. ⁷ In [d] Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace ⁸ which He [e] lavished on [f] us. In all wisdom and insight ⁹ He [a] made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His [b] kind intention which He purposed in Him ¹⁰ with a view to an administration [c] suitable to the fullness of the times, *that is*, the summing up of all things in Christ, things [d] in the heavens and things on the earth. In Him ¹¹ [k] also we [l] have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will,
- **Romans 8:29-30** For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined *to become* conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren; ³⁰ and these whom He predestined, He also called; and these whom He called, He also justified; and these whom He justified, He also glorified.

The mission in bringing the bride was appointed and was a success (vs 40) All those that the Father has chosen and appointed as the bride for His Son will come to Him.

- **John 6:37-40**—see above
- **Romans 8:29-30**—see above
- **Acts 13:48**—see above

Speaking about the Father and Son Eliezer begins speaking about Abraham and Isaac and the words that were spoken to him. The Holy Spirit points us to the Son through the Word which exegetes and explains the Father.

- **John 14:26** But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you.
- **John 15:26** “When the [a] Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, *that is* the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify about Me,
- **John 16:13-15** But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come. ¹⁴ He will glorify Me, for He will take of Mine and will disclose *it* to you. ¹⁵ All things that the Father has are Mine; therefore I said that He takes of Mine and will disclose *it* to you.

A price is paid to the bride and the bride's family (vs 53) As was custom, a bride- price was paid by the groom or groom's family to the family of the bride at the marriage arrangement. After this price was paid they were betrothed. After being betrothed, all that remained was the wedding itself, living together, and the consummation of the marriage. Jesus paid the ultimate price for His bride as He willingly laid down His life for His price. The price He paid was the most priceless that could be paid: Himself and His blood.

Human responsibility (vs 58) Rebekah was given a choice to come and go to Isaac. All humans are responsible for what they do with the gospel (**John 8:24**). However, the bride of Christ by the regenerating power of the God the Holy Spirit will hear the gospel message and come to Christ.

- **John 10:27-30** My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; ²⁸ and I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand. ²⁹ [a] My Father, who has given *them* to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch *them* out of the Father's hand. ³⁰ I and the Father are [b] one."

The Bride meets the Groom for the first time The last time Isaac was mentioned was in **Genesis 24** while on the mountain in Moriah. As Isaac is a shadow of Christ, his not coming down is representation of the death, burial, resurrection, and ascension of Christ. She has never seen Isaac but leaves everything behind for him. Rebekah chose to come to Isaac and be his bride although she had never seen Him. We have come to Christ per the sovereign marriage arraignment of God. We have left everything behind to journey through this life for someone we have never seen. Although we have never seen Him yet, we love Him (**1 Peter 1:8**). The servant journeys with the soon to be bride until she meets the groom. The Holy Spirit indwells and guides the bride of Christ on our journey until we see the Groom. Jesus is currently reigning in Heaven and the next time He will be seen is when He comes to gather His bride!

- **Ephesians 5:22-33** Wives, *be subject* to your own husbands, as to the Lord. ²³ For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church, He Himself *being* the Savior of the body. ²⁴ But as the church is subject to Christ, so also the wives *ought to be* to their husbands in everything. ²⁵ Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her, ²⁶ so that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, ²⁷ that He might present to Himself the church [a] in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she would be holy and blameless. ²⁸ So husbands ought also to love their own wives as their own bodies. He who loves his own wife loves himself; ²⁹ for no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ also *does* the church, ³⁰ because we are members of His body. ³¹ For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and shall be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh. ³² This mystery is great; but I am speaking with reference to Christ and the church. ³³ Nevertheless, each individual among you also is to love his own wife even as himself, and the wife must *see to it* that she [b] respects her husband.
- **Revelation 19:7-9** Let us rejoice and be glad and give the glory to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come and His [a] bride has made herself ready." ⁸ It was given to her to clothe herself in fine linen, bright *and* clean; for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the [b] saints. ⁹ Then he *said to me, "Write, 'Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.'" And he *said to me, "These are true words of God."

God the Father has chosen a bride for His Son and appointed them before the foundation of the world. The Holy Spirit is sent by the Father to those chosen to be the bride of His Son to bring them to the Son. The Holy Spirit regenerates, indwells, seals, and leads the bride through the wilderness journey and will guide us on this journey until one day our eyes behold our Bridegroom for the first time. On that wedding day we will not only see our Bridegroom for the first time, but we will see Him as He is!

There's more to the Story!!!

