

A Bride for the Son

Have you been to a wedding lately? Wedding ceremonies can be as different as the couples that are getting married, but most have some common elements. Usually the groom stands down front alongside his most trusted friend. The bride usually enters from the back and is escorted toward the groom by her father, who then gives her hand to the groom. After they are legally joined together the bride and groom leave to establish a new home.

Many of those traditional elements depict the relationship between Jesus Christ and His bride, the church. The Bible even says marriage symbolizes the bond between Christ and His church.

In last week's lesson you learned about the birth of the promised son, Isaac. In this lesson you will learn about the bride who was sought out for Isaac. Just as Isaac represented Jesus Christ, his bride represents the church. This chapter is a beautiful love story, but it also presents a wonderful picture of our salvation.

Gen. 23:1-2 How old was Sarah when she died?

Abraham bought a piece of land in Hebron in which to bury Sarah.

Gen. 24:1 What does this verse tell you about Abraham?

He called his most trusted servant and bound him to a solemn oath. Abraham entrusted the future of his family to this servant.

Gen. 24:3 What did he make his servant swear not to do?

Gen. 24:4 What did he tell the servant to do?

Gen. 24:5-6 What did Abraham warn the servant about?

Gen. 24:7 What did he say God would do?

Gen. 24:10-11 Where did the servant go?

Gen. 24:12 "And he said, O LORD _____ of my _____ Abraham, I pray thee, send me good speed this day, and show _____ unto my master _____."

Gen. 24:13-14 What did he ask God?

Gen. 24:15 Who came out to the well?

Gen. 24:16 How does this verse describe Rebekah?

Gen. 24:17-18 The servant asked for water. What did Rebekah do?

Gen. 24:19-20 What else did she do?

The servant was amazed and gave Rebekah gifts of golden jewelry. He asked about her family and learned that she was Abraham's great-niece. She invited him to come to her father's house.

Gen. 24:26 What did the servant do?

Gen. 24:27 What did he praise God for doing?

The servant went to the house of Rebekah's father. A meal was set before him, but he wouldn't eat until he told them all about his mission. He told how God had answered his very specific prayer. He asked if they would let Rebekah go with him to marry Isaac.

Gen. 24:50 What did her brother and father say?

Gen. 24:51 What did they say about Rebekah?

Rebekah's family asked her to wait ten days before leaving, but she agreed to go at once.

Gen. 24:60 What did they say to Rebekah?

Rebekah left with the servant for the land of Canaan.

Gen. 24:63 What was Isaac doing when he saw the camels?

Rebekah went to meet Isaac, the servant told how God had blessed his journey, and the happy couple was soon married.

Concluding Thoughts: This chapter presents a beautiful picture of salvation. In this picture Abraham represents God the Father, who was seeking a bride for His beloved Son. Isaac represents Jesus Christ, the promised Son, heir of all things, and bridegroom of the church. Abraham placed the responsibility for finding his son's bride into the capable hands of his trusted servant. The servant represents the Holy Spirit, who obediently went out and sought the bride for the Son. The Holy Spirit lovingly draws the bride to the Son and brings her to the wedding. Rebekah represents the church, the beloved and beautiful bride of Christ. Did you notice that she responded immediately when she was called? Her family tried to delay her departure (just as the devil tries to delay us from following Jesus) but she left right away.

Did you notice where Abraham sent the servant to find his son's bride? The bride was called out of a foreign country and brought to the land of promise, just as we (the church) have been called out of the world and will go to dwell with the Son forever. Ancient bridegrooms prepared a dwelling place for their bride, just as the Lord Jesus Christ said "*I go to prepare a place for you.*"

If you are truly saved then you are part of the bride of Christ. You have been sought, called, brought, and forever united to God's Son. The beautiful illustrations of this story apply to you. You are the object of the Son's love and grace and will live with Him forever. If you are not truly saved then **none** of these things apply to you. Read the verses printed on the back of this book, turn away from your sins, and turn to Jesus today. You'll be glad you did.

Project: Pick up a *Sunday School Member Quarterly* for the new quarter and begin the **Daily Bible Reading Guide** on Monday.