

A Wife for Isaac

Genesis 24:1-67

- I. THE CHOOSING OF THE BRIDE (Genesis 24:1-22)
 - A. Abraham's Charge to His Servant (Genesis 24:1-4)
 - 1. Abraham was well stricken in age (Genesis 24:1).
 - a. The reason for this charge—Abraham's age.
 - b. The favour preceding the charge—"The LORD had blessed Abraham in all things."
 - 2. The eldest servant of his house (Genesis 24:1-2).
 - a. Likely Eliezer of Damascus (Genesis 15:2).
 - b. The steward of his house—his immediate job.
 - (1) To place his hand under the thigh of Abraham to confirm the agreement (see also Genesis 47:29).
 - (2) The placing of his hand under Abraham's thigh would symbolize the agreement made between these two men.
 - 3. The charge given to the servant (Genesis 24:3-4).
 - a. Isaac was not to have a Canaanite wife (Genesis 24:3).
 - (1) Note: Esau's marriage to a woman from the land would bring much grief to Isaac and Rebekah later.
 - (2) Note: The people of the land did not worship God and therefore would be a bad match for Isaac and his future generations.
 - (3) In like manner, the Christian should not be looking for a spouse outside of believers (2 Corinthians 6:14).
 - (a) Young people should be taught and encouraged to only seek a spouse from those who are saved and want to live for the Lord.
 - (b) Young people, while still at home and before seeking a spouse should write down some things (spiritual and practical) that they would desire in that future spouse. When they finally meet an individual that they are interested in they should look at that paper and see if that individual meet some or all those desired traits. If not, they should seriously consider the future of that relationship. Most importantly, all relationships should be entered into with prayer and guidance from God and parental guidance.

- b. Isaac's wife was to come from Abraham's kindred (Genesis 24:4).
 - (1) She was to not come from the people of the land. They would cause Isaac to follow other gods.
 - (2) Note: The future generations of Israel would learn the hard way that this was true. They would cause the Israelites to follow false gods.
 - (3) Note: In like manner, the Christian should not be unequally yoked with unbelievers (2 Corinthians 6:14).

- B. Clarification of the Servant's Mission (Genesis 24:5-6)
 - 1. The questioning of the mission (Genesis 24:5; cp. Proverbs 13:16-17).
 - a. What if the woman refuses to come back?
 - b. "Must I needs bring thy son back again unto the land from whence thou camest?"
 - 2. Abraham's rejection of sending Isaac back (Genesis 24:6).
 - a. Abraham had been given a land that his son was to inherit, this meant that his son could not go back to the land that his father was from (Hebrews 11:9).
 - b. In like manner, we are joint heirs (Romans 8:17; 1 Peter 1:3-5) with Christ in a land that we are awaiting to inherit, therefore, we cannot go back to the former life that we had (Galatians 5:1; Ephesians 5:3).

- C. Abraham's Confidence in the LORD (Genesis 24:7-9)
 - 1. Abraham's confidence was based on history (Genesis 24:7).
 - a. The Lord had taken Abraham from his father's house.
 - b. The Lord had taken Abraham from the land of his kindred.
 - c. The Lord had promised Abraham that his seed would possess this land.
 - d. Note: The Lord had given him his son (Isaac) in a miraculous way (See Genesis 22:1-2, 7).
 - e. Note: The Lord had saved him (Abraham) from taking his son's (Isaac) life (see Genesis 22:11-12).
 - 2. Abraham's confidence was strong in the LORD (Genesis 24:7-8).
 - a. That the Lord would send His angel before the servant.
 - b. That the angel would find the Isaac's wife.
 - c. Abraham's trust in God was strong because of his experience (Romans 5:1-5).
 - d. Abraham now had an opportunity to be a witness of God's faithfulness, care, and guidance (Psalm 71:14-24).
 - e. Note the wording that Abraham uses; "he shall" and "thou shalt," Abraham is showing complete confidence in the LORD here.
 - 3. Confirming of the agreement (Genesis 24:9; Genesis 24:2).
 - a. The servant placed his hand under the thigh of Abraham.
 - b. The servant swore unto Abraham concerning the matter.