

# THE ORIGINS OF IT ALL!: A STUDY OF GENESIS

## XXVI.) THE CHOICE

### GENESIS 24

**Q: What is the most important decision you ever made and why?**

#### I.) A NECESSARY **COMMISSION** (24:1-9)

##### A.) The **Void**

- Sarah, the family matriarch, has died. Isaac, the child through whom God said He will fulfill His promises, is 40 years old (Gen. 25:20) and Abraham 140.
- God's plan could not be furthered, nor His promises brought to life unless and until Isaac himself married and had a family.

**Q: How important was it WHO Isaac married? Why or why not?**

- *BTW: notice how, even at 40 years of age, Isaac accepts and respects his father's wisdom and direction for how and what kind of woman he should marry!*

##### B.) The **Answer**

- God's Promise would be fulfilled through a godly line of descendants through Isaac who – for many generations – would be a blessing to all other nations.
- Therefore, it was essential that not only Isaac but his wife would be a godly woman who would be a shining example to others and help to powerfully instill faith in Almighty God to her children and grandchildren.
- She must, therefore, be a pure (virgin) and godly woman from the same people group and not one attached to the pagan practices and traditions of the new land.

##### C.) The **Messenger**

- Abraham entrusted this most important task to his oldest and most faithful and trustworthy servant.
- In addition, he made sure his servant would properly fulfill this cosmically important task by binding him in a solemn oath – taken in the name of “*the LORD, God of heaven and God of earth.*”
- Clearly, Abraham's view of God, His watchfulness and activity was expansive and including sovereignty over both the spiritual and physical worlds!

#### II.) A PRAYERFUL **SEARCH** (24:10-27)

- Recognizing the utter importance and urgency of this mission, the servant immediately sets out.

### A.) **Equipping** (vv. 10-14)

- First, however, he had to be sure to be properly equipped for the enormous task ahead at which he could not fail.

### Q: How did could one possibly equip for such a daunting and uncertain task?

- First, he made sure he had a large quantity of his master's valuable goods (camels) to use as empowering gifts to acquire this most precious prize and bless those willing to give it up.
- Second, he made sure he had enough help (attendants) to provide the labor and protection necessary to successfully complete the journey to and from.
- Third, he set a straight and unwavering plan of travel that would take him directly to find this bride among God's chosen people and not become side-tracked with another that may be encountered elsewhere and prove too tempting.
- Fourth, and most importantly, he knelt down in prayer and committed the entire venture and decision to Almighty God to answer in an unmistakable fashion. *Notice that in regards to such an important decision, the servant does not offer a general or generic, but rather a very specific and confident prayer.*
- For a woman to go into the well to serve a stranger before her own needs was an inconvenient sacrifice, but one that was common if not expected. However, to do so and go back sufficiently to provide for the stranger's attendants was a much greater and more unusual service. To expect a woman to go even further and make enough trips to draw enough water for a thirsty caravan of camels would be a very unreasonable request. For a woman to voluntarily offer to do all of this would be a truly unique and extraordinary act of service and blessing!

### B.) **Finding** (vv. 15-25)

- Before the faithful servant has finished his prayers to God, the test arrives. Here he will find if and how God responds and it is suitable to their needs.
- What he finds is that, before he can be misled by anyone less than what is required, God sends the one woman of extraordinary character that He needs for His plan.

### Q: What do we learn here about Rebekah's character?

- She is the first woman to arrive at the well that day. Even in an unpleasant and weary task, she is a woman who is quick and eager to fulfill her duties with energy and a positive attitude.
- She has first and foremost an other-centered and extremely generous servant's heart.

### C.) **Praising** (vv. 26-27)

- Now note the servant's response. Immediately, he gives credit and homage to Almighty God for His goodness and faithful provision in answer to humble prayer.
- In doing so, he affirms the Lord's guidance and sovereign Hand in this matter.

### III.) **MAKING ARRANGEMENTS (24:28-60)**

#### A.) **Meeting (vv. 28-33)**

- Notice, first, the generous hospitality of Abraham's distant family.
- Second, notice how uncharacteristically eager both parties are to get straight to the point of the matter. Normally, such questions and requests would be held until after the guests have settled in and had a meal together with their hosts.

#### B.) **Testimony (vv. 34-49)**

- The servant's appeal is not on behalf of family ties, power or money. Rather, he rests his appeal upon his testimony of how God has made known His Hand and Will in this tremendous matter.
- Having seen God's goodness and faithfulness in bringing them together, he cannot help but to tell the good news of God to others!

#### C.) **Decision (vv. 50-51)**

- Now, it is decision time! How will or should Bethuel, Laban and even Rebekah respond to this enormous decision that is based on faith in the uncertain, will separate them and profoundly change their lives forever?
- With great wisdom, faith, and reverence, Bethuel and Laban both immediately recognize and confess that since God has already clearly shown His Will, their choice is simply one of acceptance and obedience. It is NOT a matter for personal feelings, thoughts, or fears, but obedience and faith!

### IV.) **CONSUMMATION (vv. 52-67)**

- Again, the servant's immediate response is prayer and thanksgiving to God!
- He then adorns the bride of his prince with garments and jewelry befitting such a bride.
- The family, however, understandably, objects to the servant's surprising request to leave with Rebekah first thing the next morning.

#### **Q: Why would the servant insist on Rebekah leaving with him so quickly?**

- The most likely answer is that the Lord's leading in the matter has already been made clearly and the importance of not just the selection but the ultimate betrothal is too great to risk any possible obstacles that waiting may present.
- When God makes His will known, we should never hesitate to follow it directly and fully
- Rebekah herself, being the godly woman she is, immediately recognizes this truth and agrees to go immediately even though she knows not what truly awaits her.
- Her family then commits her to God and His will with a blessing!

#### **Q: What is most significant about the meeting and consummation of this marriage?**

- Upon first approaching Isaac, Rebekah covers herself with a “veil” - a garment that covers both her face and body. Their attraction and decision to enter this marriage covenant is to be based not on the physical, but God's expressed will and provision.
- Though neither had met the other before their marriage, they quickly grew to love and be a great comfort to one another!

## **IMPORTANT FORESHADOWING:**

### **The Search For A Bride Points To: Christ's Pursuit of The Church**

- A necessary pursuit and union for the completion of The Promise and the eternal reconciliation between God and His Chosen People.

### **The Role of The Servant Points To: The Holy Spirit**

- Searching for “ a people of His name” (Acts 15:14”)
- Identifying, protecting and preparing the Prince's Bride (2 Corinthians 11:2; John 14:34; 16:13-14)
- Sent by his Lord to direct the chosen's path (Psalm 37:23; Proverbs 3:6)
- Witnesses to others the goodness of the Lord, their need of Him, and the joys and blessings only He can provide (John 15:26-27)

### **Isaac Serves As A 'Type' Of: Christ**

- Was miraculously born as a promise given long before he was even conceived (Luke 1:35, 70)
- Appropriately named by God before his birth (Matthew 1:21)
- Waits patiently for his bride while preparing her special place (John 14:3)
- Trusts his Father to choose and bring him His bride
- Proved himself an obedient sacrifice to the Lord God Almighty, even unto death (Phil. 2:8)
- Was delivered from death in order to be the head of a great nation that would be a blessing to all people (Ephesians 1:19-23)

### **Rebekah Serves As A 'Type' Of: The Church**

- Finds that the more generous and selfless she is in serving God, the more she is blessed in return (even where and in the ways least expected). Ephesians 3:20
- She is a chaste (pure) bride (2 Corinthians 11:2)
- Her marriage was pre-arranged long before she knew about it (Ephesians 1:3-4)
- She was necessary to the completion of God's Plan and Blessing (Ephesians 1:23)
- When betrothed to the Lord, her 'filthy rages' are replaced with royal garments and jewels (Isaiah 64:6; Revelation 19:8)
- She would share the glory of the chosen son (John 17:22-23)
- She willfully and joyfully left all for her Groom before ever seeing him and being in his physical presence (1 Peter 1:8)
- Her Bride's servant guided her through the wilderness journey to meet him ( 1 Peter 1:3-9)
- The special son of the Promise, loved her from the beginning and from then on (Ephesians 5:26-27; 1 Thessalonians 4:17; Revelation 19:7)