

The Book of Genesis

Chapter Twenty Four

Finding a Wife for Isaac

Lesson Verse: Gen 2:18

I. Lesson Introduction

- A. This chapter describes how Abraham went about finding a good wife for his son
- B. A powerful presentation of Biblical Typology
 - 1. Abraham – God the father
 - 2. Isaac – The Son
 - 3. Eliezar (Gen 15:2; 24:2) – The Holy Spirit
 - 4. Rebekah – The sinner
- C. This is how God went about saving sinners so that they (in type, and by their own choice) could be the wife of His own Son

II. Lesson

- A. Abraham's Concern
 - 1. His son Isaac was in need of a wife
 - a. God knows our needs
 - b. And is at work on our behalf
 - 2. Abraham was responsible to get him a godly wife – a father's wisdom and help
 - 3. If Abraham left it to chance, all that God wanted to do in Abraham's life, and throughout his seed's lives, could be lost! Abraham needed to be proactive!
- B. Eliezer's Commission
 - 1. Eliezer means, "_____"
 - 2. Abraham told him to "Find my son Isaac a wife – this is going to be hard"
 - 3. Abraham put conditions on the right kind of a wife
 - a. She can't be of Canaan
 - b. You have to travel back to my home country
 - c. And she has to WANT to be the wife of my son – no forced marriages
- C. Eliezer's Concern (24:3-5)
 - 1. What about her free-will?
 - 2. Should I come back and get Isaac – His physical presence might better persuade the woman
 - 3. This is New Testament truth:
 - a. Jesus is not necessary to be here – not in His physical Body now
 - b. The servant Eliezer just draws the bride
- D. Abraham's Confidence in the Lord (24:6-9)
 - 1. There is no need to take Isaac along
 - 2. We must live only by obedient faith in God's promises
 - 3. God will go before you – already working everything out
 - 4. If the woman (even though chosen by God) will not come with you, it will be on HER head!
- E. The _____ mile Trip
 - 1. Ten camels – lots of stuff going with them
 - 2. Headed back into Mesopotamia
- F. The Prayer (24:12-14)
 - 1. Prays to the God of Abraham
 - 2. Puts out a fleece (kind of test) to find the will of God
- G. The Answer

1. Before Eliezer even finished praying
2. Rebekeh came forward
 - a. She was a hard worker
 - b. She was beautiful
 - c. She was a virgin – dressed like one, acted like one, and really WAS one



3. Eliezer puts Rebekah to the test (24:17) waits to make sure she fits his prayer completely

H. The Gifts

1. From Abraham
2. This was her allurements – God draws us to Himself with great gifts
 - a. Forgiveness
 - b. Beauty for our ashes
 - c. Peace – inner, and upper
 - d. Treasures in heaven
 - e. Gifts of the Spirit
 - f. Better home than hell
3. The purchase and use of ornaments
 - a. For the adorning of a woman by her husband, or father
 - b. Not for putting on yourself – too much attention to self

I. The Worship (24:26,27)

J. Laban

1. Knew of the Lord already – yet still an idolater
2. Shows great kindness to such a stranger
3. Fulfills the role of a brother (Pr 17:17)

K. Eliezer's Proposal (24:32-49)

1. By proxy for Abraham and Isaac
2. I am only a servant
3. My master has a son
4. God's hand is on our lives
5. I put forth a prayer to test the Lord's will
6. Rebekah fulfilled that test
7. Now it is up to you – yes or no (24:49)

L. Bethuel and Laban's Shock (24:50-56)

1. Obviously of God
2. Go ahead, and take Rebekah – no argument here
3. Let's first have a great feast
4. Want it to last at least 10 days

M. Rebekah's Choice (24:57) – I will go!

N. The Blessing Upon Rebekah – not a pagan or heathen, but Biblical blessing

O. The Wedding (24:61)

1. Isaac had waited patiently – even though 40 years old
2. Rebekah kept herself for her husband
3. She covered herself even in the presence of her suitor – don't get too familiar until marriage!
4. Eliezer tells a very long story – poor Isaac and Rebekah have to wait for the story to be over – but this was necessary so that God would be honoured
5. The Consummation

- a. Both were approved by their parents
- b. Both were virgins
- c. Both were ready for marriage
- d. There had already been a celebration
- e. Now the marriage was consummated in its proper place – not hiding, but hidden

III. Conclusion