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A BRIDE FOR ISAAC

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Our subject is found in Genesis 24--A Bride for Isaac. As we study this chapter, we need to see what the Lord is teaching us.

There are many types in the Old Testament. Abel's lamb that was slain, was a type of Jesus Christ. Noah's ark was a type of Jesus Christ. The passover lamb was a type of Jesus Christ. The feast of unleavened bread was a type of the church, as it feasts upon the things of the Lord, being unleavened. The manna was a type of Jesus Christ, which we are to eat every day. *"They are they which testify of me."* John 5:39.

Read chapter 24--we want to see the similarities that are here concerning the Lord Jesus Christ and his church, and Abraham taking a bride for Isaac, and God taking a bride for our Lord Jesus Christ. You might be surprised just how many similarities there are.

We have four characters in this chapter. We have Abraham, his servant Eliezer (Genesis 15:2), Rebekah, and the angel that goes before.

First of all, we see the servant, Eliezer. The Lord's church is his servant. *"But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God,"* Romans 6:22. What is his church, if it isn't a servant of God--working with God. Matthew 28, *"Lo, I am with you."* God is doing the work. He is the one who is leading us, he is the one who is picking out his people. We are a servant of God, doing what he told us to do.

Abraham had a son. His son's name was Isaac--the son of promise. God promised Abraham a son. That son was born of Sarah; they named him Isaac. Isaac came at an appointed time.

Jesus Christ also was the promised son of God. *"Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel,"* Isaiah 7:14. Jesus Christ was the promised son of God. *"But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, To redeem them that were under the law,"* Galatians 4:4-5. As Isaac was a promised son, even so Jesus Christ was a promised son.

Abraham sent his servant to take a bride for Isaac. *"And Abraham said unto his eldest servant of his house, that ruled over all*

that he had," Genesis 24:2. It was the servant which was commissioned to seek a bride. In comparison to the church, God has sent his church to go into the world and to seek a bride for Jesus Christ. Along the way, she is to preach the gospel to every creature. That is our commission, to go out and preach the gospel, seeking the bride. The bride will be manifested.

The bride of Isaac was appointed by the Lord. *"And let it come to pass, that the damsel to whom I shall say, Let down thy pitcher, I pray thee, that I may drink; and she shall say, Drink, and I will give thy camels drink also: let the same be she that thou hast appointed for thy servant Isaac,"* Genesis 24:14. Rebekah was chosen and appointed for Isaac. *"And she said to me, Both drink thou, and I will also draw for thy camels: let the same be the woman whom the Lord hath appointed out for my master's son,"* Genesis 24:44.

Rebekah was not man's doings, she was one that the Lord had appointed. This is important, as we study the bride of Jesus Christ. The bride of Jesus Christ, I believe is the New Testament Baptist Church. That is where the bride is going to come from. The members of the Lord's New Testament church have been appointed by the Lord. She is the elect of the elect. There are many people in the family, there are many people in the kingdom. The Lord's New Testament church is different. *"But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him,"* 1 Corinthians 12:18.

For by one Spirit are we all baptized in water to become a member of his kind of church. The Lord has appointed the members of his kind of church. That church is to be his body.

Look in Song of Solomon 6:3, (having to do with his bride), *"I am my beloved's, and my beloved is mine."* The entire Song of Solomon has to do with the bridegroom and the bride. *"There are threescore queens, and fourscore concubines, and virgins without number. My dove, my undefiled is but one; she is the only one of her mother, she is the choice one of her that bare her,"* (verses 8-9). People today do not understand what the Lord's New Testament church is all about. It is different from the family and the kingdom, she (the church) is the choice one.

The bride of Abraham was to be taken from Abraham's people. *"And I will make thee swear by the Lord, the God of heaven, and the God of the earth, that thou shalt not take a wife unto my son of the daughters of the Canaanites, among whom I dwell: But thou shalt go unto my country, and to my kindred, and take a wife unto my son Isaac,"* Genesis 24:3-4. *"And my master made me swear, saying, Thou shalt not take a wife to my son of the daughters of the Canaanites, in whose land I dwell: But thou shalt go unto my father's house, and to my kindred, and take a wife unto my son,"* Genesis 24:37-38. That is exactly what God told the servant to do. That is exactly what the servant did. That is what the Bible is teaching us.

Please note that Isaac did not marry the whole family. He married Rebekah. There were other members of that family. Jesus Christ's bride is to be taken out from among God's children. Go into all the world and preach the gospel. There are multitudes of people in the family of God, in the kingdom of God--they will be guests at the wedding. Those that the Holy Spirit leads, will be baptized in water and they become members of the Lord's New Testament church. They will be like Rebekah, "I will go with this man."

The angel is a type of the Holy Spirit. An angel was to be with the servant and guide him to the bride. The angel was to go before the servant, which is a figure of the church, and guide him to the bride. *"The Lord God of heaven, which took me from my father's house, and from the land of my kindred, and which spake unto me, and that sware unto me, saying, Unto thy seed will I give this land: he shall send his angel before thee."* (Now the servant did not see the angel. But the servant knew the angel was there. Did he not? The church does not see the Holy Spirit but we know that he is with us. And we know that He goes before us. We know He prepares a people for our Lord.) *"And thou shalt take a wife unto my son from thence,"* Genesis 24:7.

"And he said, Blessed be the Lord God of my master Abraham, who hath not left destitute my master of his mercy and his truth: I being in the way, the Lord led me" (Wonder who that angel was?) *"the Lord led me to the house of my master's brethren,"* Genesis 24:27. If it were not for the Holy Spirit working with us, that goes before us, we

would not have any success at all. The Holy Spirit is in complete control. We are just a servant seeking, and we have someone to go before us.

"And he said unto me, The Lord, before whom I walk, will send his angel with thee, and prosper thy way; and thou shalt take a wife for my son of my kindred, and of my father's house," Genesis 24:40. Who was it that prospered the way of the servant? It was that angel sent before him. Who is it that prospers us? It is that angel, the Holy Spirit of God, that prospers our ways.

"And I bowed down my head, and worshipped the Lord, and blessed the Lord God of my master Abraham, which had led me in the right way to take my master's brother's daughter unto his son," Genesis 24:48.

This church is completely dependent upon the Holy Spirit of God to lead us in the right way as we do the work of the Lord and seek members of the Lord's New Testament church, which I believe, will be the bride of the Lord Jesus Christ. The Lord is with the church. *"Lo, I am with you."* You tarry at Jerusalem until you be endued with power. You do not have any power whatsoever to know who God's people are until I am with you. He is the one that quickens and makes alive.

"And the hand of the Lord was with them," Acts 11:21, and they were added unto the church. It is the Holy Spirit that leads people to be baptized in water that they may become a member of a local, visible, body of baptized believers. I Corinthians 12:13.

When Abraham sent Eliezer to seek a bride, Eliezer saw Isaac. He was with Isaac before he left to seek a bride. Rebekah did not see Isaac. *"And the servant said unto him, Peradventure the woman will not be willing to follow me unto this land: must I needs bring thy son again unto the land from whence thou camest? And Abraham said unto him, Beware thou that thou bring not my son thither again,"* Genesis 24:5-6.

The first members of the Lord's New Testament church saw the Lord Jesus Christ. Did they not? *"And we are witnesses of all things which he did both in the land of the Jews, and in Jerusalem: whom they slew and hanged on a tree,"* Acts 10:39. The apostles were with the Lord Jesus Christ.

Eliezer went on a journey, to seek out a bride for Isaac. The bride did not see Isaac and had to live by faith and believe the message of the servant. *"Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable,"* I Peter 1:8. Have you seen Jesus Christ? The first church saw Jesus Christ and we take their word for it. Isn't that what witnesses are for? *"We are witnesses of these things."* What do we believe? We are to believe the message of the servant. We are to believe the message of the Lord Jesus Christ working with his servant.

The bride had to believe the message of the servant. She did not see Isaac. *"And there was set meat before him to eat: but he said, I will not eat, until I have told mine errand. And he said, Speak on. And he said, I am Abraham's servant,"* Genesis 24:33-34.

The message that we have ought to be more important than our necessary food. Before that servant would take any food, he said I am going to tell you the message that my master, Abraham, told me to tell you. That teaches me something. The Lord's New Testament church, my friend, is greater than your necessary food. We just take the church for granted.

"And they said, We will call the damsel, and inquire at her mouth. And they called Rebekah, and said unto her, Wilt thou go with this man?" (This is a great big question here for Rebekah. She had to believe the servants message, leave everything she had and go with this man to finally see Isaac, to whom she would be married.) *"Wilt thou go with this man? And she said, I will go,"* Genesis 24:57-58.

I believe the bride of Jesus Christ has to believe the message of the Lord's New Testament church. We have a message in this church. The people who come into this assembly need to believe the message that we have. Abraham's servant had only one message. He had no right to change it. Abraham gave Eliezer a message. When he got to the bride, he gave her the same message that Abraham gave to him. This church has no right to change the message. The angel that went before Abraham's servant was the one that bear witness to that message; even so it is today. We have no right to change the message that God has given to us. The message will work. Teach them to observe all things I have commanded you. When we do that, the message will work. The Holy Spirit will make it work. The word of God will not return void.

Another thing about this bride of Isaac. She was a virgin. *"And the damsel was very fair to look upon, a virgin, neither had any man known her,"* Genesis 24:16. The Apostle Paul referred to the virgin in II Corinthians 11:2. *"For I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ."*

The Lord's New Testament church is not to be a part of the world, not to take part in the world. She is to keep herself a virgin, unspotted from this world, to be clean and pure for him. The family is one thing, the kingdom is one thing, but the Lord's New Testament church needs to be a chaste virgin unto him. When he marries, he is going to marry a chaste virgin. The church is a very serious matter.

Notice how the bride was to be made known to Eliezer. Eliezer has to have some evidence that the bride was the one that God selected. *"And the servant said unto him, Peradventure the woman will not be willing to follow me unto this land,"* Genesis 24:5. *"And if the woman will not be willing to follow thee, then thou shalt be clear from this my oath: only bring not my son thither again,"* Genesis 24:8.

The son has to stay where he is, you just take the message. If people are not willing to follow the message, you are clear from this thine oath. *"From that time many of his disciples went back, and walked no more with him. Then said Jesus unto the twelve, Will ye also go away? Then Simon Peter*

answered him, Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life," John 6:66-68.

We are not responsible for people who will not accept the message of God's word. Our business is to present the message that God gave to us. It is the Holy Spirit that leads and guides them into the truth. *"My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me,"* John 10:27.

They called Rebekah and inquired at her mouth. She knew what the servant was doing. She heard about Isaac, heard about the one that she was to be married to. *"And they called Rebekah, and said unto her, Wilt thou go with this man?"* [Notice] *And she said, I will go,"* Genesis 24:58. That was a great thing for Rebekah to do. She had to believe what the servant had to say. She had to forsake all and follow him.

How is the bride of Jesus Christ manifested? John says, *"My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me."* Some people when they hear about the things of the Lord, say, I don't believe that. However, when the members of the Lord's New Testament church hear the truth, through the Holy Spirit, they say, I will go. *"They went out from us, but they were not of us,"* I John 2:19. If the people of the church are going to be the bride of Christ, they must accept the message, and they are going to have to pick up their cross and follow the Lord Jesus Christ.

Eliezer had to swear to Abraham. *"And I will make thee swear by the Lord, the God of heaven, and the God of the earth, that thou shalt not take a wife unto my son of the daughters of the Canaanites, among whom I dwell,"* Genesis 24:3. *"And if the woman will not be willing to follow thee, then thou shalt be clear from this my oath: only bring not my son thither again. And the servant put his hand under the thigh of Abraham his master, and swore to him concerning that matter,"* Genesis 24:8-9. *"And my master made me swear, saying, Thou shalt not take a wife to my son of the daughters of the Canaanites, in whose land I dwell,"* Genesis 24:37. Made him swear, that was a serious thing.

You can be in the family of God and die in that condition and you go to be with the Lord. You can be in the kingdom of God and die in that condition, you go to be with the Lord. But when you enter into the waters of baptism, it is an oath unto the Lord, that I am dead to sin, I am alive unto God. I am going to follow the Lord Jesus Christ. I am going to follow the leadership of the Lord's servant, which is his church, I am going to be a part of it. I am going to live by faith and wait for the time when I am going to be married to my Lord Jesus Christ. Let me illustrate:

"And Jephthah vowed a vow unto the Lord, and said, If thou shalt without fail deliver the children of Ammon into mine hands, Then it shall be, that whatsoever cometh forth of the doors of my house to meet me, when I return in peace from the children of Ammon, shall surely be the Lord's and I will offer it up for a burnt offering. And Jephthah came to Mizpeh unto his house, and, behold, his daughter came out to meet him with timbrels and with dances: and she was his only child:

beside her he had neither son nor daughter. And it came to pass, when he saw her, that he rent his clothes, and said, Alas, my daughter! thou hast brought me very low, and thou art one of them that trouble me: for I have opened my mouth unto the Lord, and I cannot go back," Judges 11:30-31,34-35. He sacrificed his own daughter.

I do not think we understand how serious it is to be a member of the Lord's New Testament church. In baptism we are saying, we are dead to sin, we are alive unto God, we are going to follow the leadership of the Holy Spirit, and we are going to follow him and be obedient unto him. Isn't that what we are saying? We are swearing unto the Lord in a sense, this is what I am going to do. Baptism has fallen to the ground. Many people, when they are baptized, know nothing about what is taking place. In baptism, you are saying: I am dead unto sin, alive unto God, I am going to follow the teachings of the Lord and am going to live the rest of my life waiting for him.

Eliezer, representing the church, was dedicated unto his master. "And he said, O Lord God of my master Abraham," Genesis 24:12. Abraham was his master. "Ye call me Master and Lord: and ye say well; for so I am," John 13:13. Jesus is our master. We need to be dedicated unto our master. The message of Eliezer meant more to him than food because he would not eat until he had told the message.

Today the message does not mean much to us. The message that we have in this church to lost people concerning salvation and baptism ought to mean more to us than anything else. Church members ought to be obedient to their master the Lord Jesus Christ and follow his instructions exactly. Eliezer followed the instructions of his master exactly. He did not deviate at all.

Eliezer was an obedient servant. "And I bowed down my head, and worshipped the Lord, and blessed the Lord God of my master Abraham, which had led me in the right way," Genesis 24:48. To be led of the Holy Spirit of God is to be led in the right way. Wherever he leads, we ought to go. God has called us unto obedience. We need to be obedient unto our master. "Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice," I Samuel 15:22.

Rebekah was submissive to the servant. The servant came, Rebekah met him, he began to ask questions. She provided for his camels. She and her brother Laban provided a place for this servant, and the men that were with him, to stay. She worked with him in feeding the camels.

God's people are to take care of the needs of his people. When the Lord saves people, the way that they are manifested is they will want to do what God tells them to do. They will want to be a blessing to the servants of God. They will want to do some things for the Lord. Just recently, in our church, some have said, I want to get involved in the things of the Lord. That is a good evidence that the Lord is dealing with them. We need to work with the Lord's New Testament

church to seek others also, that we might take them with us.

In verses 33-41 the servant immediately told his mission to Rebekah. "I will not eat, until I have told mine errand. And he said, Speak on," verse 33. The very same message that Abraham gave unto his servant, is the very same message that the servant gave to Rebekah. That is absolutely necessary.

The teachers in the church have the privilege and opportunity to teach the wonderful works of God. Do you know what our message ought to be? Just tell them the same message that we received. "How that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures: And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures," I Corinthians 15:3-4.

"And the Lord hath blessed my master greatly; and he is become great: and he hath given him flocks, and herds, and silver, and gold, and menservants, and maidservants, and camels, and asses. [We ought to tell people how great our God is, should we not?] And Sarah my master's wife bare a son to my master when she was old: and unto him hath he given all that he hath. And my master made me swear..." Genesis 24:35-37. He begin to tell Rebekah the message that God gave to him.

That is all the message this church has. The same message that the Lord gave to the Apostles is the same message that we have today. We do not need to add to it or take away from it. We need to tell people who are in the church, we are not working by ourselves. We have an angel that goes before us. We have the Holy Spirit that says I will never leave you nor forsake you. I will be with you. We need to tell church members that their baptism is a vow to God that they are going to serve the Lord and be wholly dedicated unto their master the Lord Jesus Christ. If they are not willing to go, if people join the church and do not want to follow the Lord Jesus Christ, they need to be disciplined. We are not responsible for people who are not willing to follow.

"And if the woman will not be willing to follow thee, then thou shalt be clear from this my oath," Genesis 24:8. This church is not responsible to force people to serve the Lord. The Holy Spirit will cause people to want to serve the Lord.

Rebekah was living with her family. She was a virgin. The servant comes and gives her a message. Rebekah says, I will go. Do you know what she was doing? She was leaving her whole family. She had to leave her father; she had to leave her brother; she had to leave her whole family and she went with the servant to meet Isaac.

"And her brother and her mother said, Let the damsel abide with us a few days, at the least ten; after that she shall go. [That is exactly what the devil wants us to do. Not serve the Lord like we ought to.] And he said unto them, Hinder me not, seeing the Lord hath prospered my way; send me away that I may go to my master. And they said, We will call the damsel, and inquire at her mouth," Genesis 24:55-57. And see if she

will go back with me.

Do you know where the church is headed? To meet the Lord Jesus Christ. Does anybody want to go as we preach the message and lift up the Lord Jesus Christ. God has a son. He is going to be married. The Lord's New Testament church is the bride of Christ. Do you want to be a part of it? Are you willing to follow the Lord in baptism? Are you willing to swear to God in baptism that I am going to live my life for Jesus Christ? I am going to look for my bridegroom, the Lord Jesus Christ. I will go with this man.

"He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me," Matthew 10:37-38. We still love our father and mother and all our kinspeople. But friend, if you are going to be with the Lord, you are going to have to forsake father, mother, and your own life also. So pick up your cross and follow him.

I'm not talking about being in the family. The family was left. They still had fellowship together and everything else. The bride was separated from her family. She was separated, willingly, was she not? That does not mean she did not love her family. The message of the servant did not change. The same message that Abraham gave to his servant, the servant stood by, all the way through. The message of the Lord's church does not change. "Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you," Matthew 28:20. God has not changed.

He did not say teach them to be a part of the world. Teach them to forsake the assembling of yourselves together--He did not say that. He said, Teach them to observe all things I have commanded you. We have no right to teach anything else.

Rebekah had been traveling a long way on camel. The humps of a camel have a built-in supply of food. A camel can go across a desert because they have wells of water in them. No wonder she travelled on a camel. That is exactly how we are traveling. We have the bread of life to eat upon while we are traveling. We have wells of water to draw water out of while we are traveling.

Isaac was in the field, and behold camels were coming. "And Rebekah lifted up her eyes, and when she saw Isaac," Genesis 24:64. Do you know, one of these days, we are going to see the Lord Jesus Christ? The one that we have been traveling so long and so far to meet. We are going to see him. "And now abideth faith, hope, charity, [love] these three: but the greatest of these is charity [love]," I Corinthians 13:13.

How was Rebekah traveling? By faith. What was her hope? To be married unto Isaac. Did she love him? Yes, she loved him. The Lord's church one day will see Jesus Christ. No, we haven't seen him yet except by faith. Eliezer saw, and he told us about it, and we know that it is true. We have a hope and one day we shall be like him. We love him, whom having not seen ye love. One day we are

going to love him and see him face to face.

Notice what Rebekah did as soon as she saw Isaac. *"For she had said unto the servant, What man is this that walketh in the field to meet us? And the servant had said, It is my master: therefore she took a veil, and covered herself;"* Genesis 24:65. She was submissive. She was voluntarily taking her God-given place to be submissive unto her husband. She took a veil and covered herself. She was not going to rule over Isaac. She was very satisfied to surrender to Isaac's authority. Women of this church need to be submissive unto their husbands. They need to wear a veil (an artificial covering) to display this. That is the teaching of the Bible. No one forced her to do it. She did it because of her submissiveness to Isaac.

"And the servant told Isaac all things that he had done. And Isaac brought her into his mother Sarah's tent, and took Rebekah, and she became his wife; and he loved her: and Isaac was comforted after his mother's death," Genesis 24:66-67.

Every member of this church now and all the time she has been in existence, every last one of us will stand before God one day and give an account of the things that we have done. Did we do it God's way? Did we walk in the right way? Did we follow the leadership of the Holy Spirit? Isn't that what the judgment seat of Christ is all about? We must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; therefore we labour that we might be well pleasing in his sight. Have we fulfilled the commission? Are we going as the master told us to go? Are we seeking a bride for Isaac? Are we going out and preaching the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ? Do we understand as we go, this is the Lord's business? It requires haste. When we go out there, as the Holy Spirit goes before us, and as we preach the gospel, the Holy Spirit will manifest who is the true bride of Jesus Christ. They will follow. Because of the power of the Holy Spirit, they will say, I will go with this man. The Lord places them in the church, as it pleases him.

"They are they which testify of me." I believe this portion teaches that Jesus Christ is taking himself a bride. We are that servant. We are doing the seeking. That is all we can do is seek. But we have one that goes before us that will make manifest the one that God has appointed. The ones that God has appointed will be willing to forsake all, and follow him. They will be willing to follow the Lord in baptism and vow a vow unto God that I am willing to go with this man, which is a type of the Lord's New Testament church, until the time, all of us together, will meet the Lord Jesus Christ in the air and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

Don't ever think you are going to be in the bride of Christ unless you are willing to follow the message that God gave unto his servant in the beginning. God has not changed the message that was given to his church in the book of Acts--they continued in the apostles doctrine. We have no right to change the message. We are simply a

servant unto our master. We have a message from God. We declare that message and the Holy Spirit bearing witness with that message and the one that God has chosen, God has elected, God has appointed, will manifest themselves in what they say and what they do. By their fruits ye shall know them.

The Lord's New Testament church is in the greatest business in the world. And that is to seek a bride for our Lord Jesus Christ. She is the choice one. She is the one that will keep herself unspotted from the world. God's people ought to be fruitful. They ought to be witnessing. They ought to be having children. What a glorious thing it is to be working with the Lord.

We are laborers together with the Lord. Our labour is not in vain in the Lord because the Holy Spirit goes before us. The word that we preach will accomplish exactly what he sent it forth to do. We need to be faithful. When he says go, we need to go. When he says seek, we need to seek. When he says preach, we need to preach. When people respond to that, we need to tell them the message that God has given us. We need to encourage those people to go with us.

One of these days we are going to meet the Lord Jesus Christ, who is to be our groom. *"For the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready,"* Revelation 19:7.

You do not make yourself ready by getting entangled with the world. That is not the way God does it. You make yourself ready by forsaking all, and being wholly, dedicated, consecrated unto Jesus Christ who is our Lord. Separate yourself, keep yourself unspotted from the world. Do not get entangled with the things of the world. If ye be a friend of this world, ye are an enemy of God. God will not marry his enemies. We need to rise above the world. We need to have that message on our lips and tell people about Jesus Christ.