



## MESSAGE/SERIES:

**Series:** Biblical Beginnings

**Message:** “A *DIVINE UNION*”

**Text:** Genesis 24:1-67

**DATE:** November 22, 2020

## SCRIPTURE FOR THIS WEEK:

(These verses will help you understand themes within as you read our core text as scripture proves scripture)

**Genesis 24:1-67**, Genesis 15:2 (Eliezer most likely the servant), Genesis 47:29 (An intimate Oath), John 3:29-30 (Eliezer much like John the Baptist/Bridegroom's friend), **Deuteronomy 7:3-4:1**, 1 Kings 11:4 (God forbid His followers to intermarry with other races because they were not followers of their God), Genesis 35:8 (Rebekah's nurse Deborah), Genesis 22:17 (Covenant blessings were to come through this union), 2 Corinthians 11:2-3 (Rebekah is a symbol of the Bride of Christ which is the Church), **Proverbs 3:5-6** (Trust in the Lord and He will guide your path), 1 Thessalonians 5:1-9 (prepare for the Bridegroom's return)

## OPENING SCRIPTURE:

**Genesis 24:1-67** *“Now Abraham was old, well advanced in years. And the Lord had blessed Abraham in all things. <sup>2</sup> And Abraham said to his servant, the oldest of his household, who had charge of all that he had, “Put your hand under my thigh, <sup>3</sup> that I may make you swear by the Lord, the God of heaven and God of the earth, that you will not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, among whom I dwell, <sup>4</sup> but will go to my country and to my kindred, and take a wife for my son Isaac.” <sup>5</sup> The servant said to him, “Perhaps the woman may not be willing to follow me to this land. Must I then take your son back to the land from which you came?” <sup>6</sup> Abraham said to him, “See to it that you do not take my son back there. <sup>7</sup> The Lord, the God of heaven, who took me from my father's house and from the land of my kindred, and who spoke to me and swore to me, ‘To your offspring I will give this land,’ he will send his angel*

before you, and you shall take a wife for my son from there. <sup>8</sup> But if the woman is not willing to follow you, then you will be free from this oath of mine; only you must not take my son back there.” <sup>9</sup> So the servant put his hand under the thigh of Abraham his master and swore to him concerning this matter.

<sup>10</sup> Then the servant took ten of his master’s camels and departed, taking all sorts of choice gifts from his master; and he arose and went to Mesopotamia to the city of Nahor. <sup>11</sup> And he made the camels kneel down outside the city by the well of water at the time of evening, the time when women go out to draw water. <sup>12</sup> And he said, “O Lord, God of my master Abraham, please grant me success today and show steadfast love to my master Abraham. <sup>13</sup> Behold, I am standing by the spring of water, and the daughters of the men of the city are coming out to draw water. <sup>14</sup> Let the young woman to whom I shall say, ‘Please let down your jar that I may drink,’ and who shall say, ‘Drink, and I will water your camels’—let her be the one whom you have appointed for your servant Isaac. By this, I shall know that you have shown steadfast love to my master.”

<sup>15</sup> Before he had finished speaking, behold, Rebekah, who was born to Bethuel the son of Milcah, the wife of Nahor, Abraham’s brother, came out with her water jar on her shoulder. <sup>16</sup> The young woman was very attractive in appearance, a maiden whom no man had known. She went down to the spring and filled her jar and came up. <sup>17</sup> Then the servant ran to meet her and said, “Please give me a little water to drink from your jar.” <sup>18</sup> She said, “Drink, my lord.” And she quickly let down her jar upon her hand and gave him a drink. <sup>19</sup> When she had finished giving him a drink, she said, “I will draw water for your camels also until they have finished drinking.” <sup>20</sup> So she quickly emptied her jar into the trough and ran again to the well to draw water, and she drew for all his camels. <sup>21</sup> The man gazed at her in silence to learn whether the Lord had prospered on his journey or not.

<sup>22</sup> When the camels had finished drinking, the man took a gold ring weighing a half shekel, and two bracelets for her arms weighing ten gold shekels, <sup>23</sup> and said, “Please tell me whose daughter you are. Is there room in your father’s house for us to spend the night?” <sup>24</sup> She said to him, “I am the daughter of Bethuel the son of Milcah, whom she bore to Nahor.” <sup>25</sup> She added, “We have plenty of both straw and fodder, and room to spend the night.” <sup>26</sup> The man bowed his head and worshiped the Lord <sup>27</sup> and said, “Blessed be the Lord, the God of my master Abraham, who has not forsaken his steadfast love and his faithfulness toward my master. As for me, the Lord has led me in the way to the house of my master’s kinsmen.” <sup>28</sup> Then the young woman ran and told her mother’s household about these things.

<sup>29</sup> Rebekah had a brother whose name was Laban. Laban ran out toward the man, to the spring. <sup>30</sup> As soon as he saw the ring and the bracelets on his sister’s arms, and heard the words of Rebekah his sister, “Thus the man spoke to me,” he went to the man. And behold, he was standing by the camels at the spring. <sup>31</sup> He said, “Come in, O blessed of the Lord. Why do you stand outside? For I have prepared the house and a place for the camels.” <sup>32</sup> So the man came to the house and unharnessed the camels,

and gave straw and fodder to the camels, and there was water to wash his feet and the feet of the men who were with him. <sup>33</sup> Then food was set before him to eat. But he said, "I will not eat until I have said what I have to say." He said, "Speak on."

<sup>34</sup> So he said, "I am Abraham's servant. <sup>35</sup> The Lord has greatly blessed my master, and he has become great. He has given him flocks and herds, silver and gold, male servants and female servants, camels and donkeys. <sup>36</sup> And Sarah my master's wife bore a son to my master when she was old, and to him, he has given all that he has. <sup>37</sup> My master made me swear, saying, 'You shall not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, in whose land I dwell, <sup>38</sup> but you shall go to my father's house and to my clan and take a wife for my son.' <sup>39</sup> I said to my master, 'Perhaps the woman will not follow me.' <sup>40</sup> But he said to me, 'The Lord, before whom I have walked, will send his angel with you and prosper your way. You shall take a wife for my son from my clan and from my father's house. <sup>41</sup> Then you will be free from my oath, when you come to my clan. And if they will not give her to you, you will be free from my oath.'

<sup>42</sup> "I came today to the spring and said, 'O Lord, the God of my master Abraham, if now you are prospering the way that I go, <sup>43</sup> behold, I am standing by the spring of water. Let the virgin who comes out to draw water, to whom I shall say, "Please give me a little water from your jar to drink," <sup>44</sup> and who will say to me, "Drink, and I will draw for your camels also," let her be the woman whom the Lord has appointed for my master's son.'

<sup>45</sup> "Before I had finished speaking in my heart, behold, Rebekah came out with her water jar on her shoulder, and she went down to the spring and drew water. I said to her, 'Please let me drink.' <sup>46</sup> She quickly let down her jar from her shoulder and said, 'Drink, and I will give your camels drink also.' So I drank, and she gave the camels drink also. <sup>47</sup> Then I asked her, 'Whose daughter are you?' She said, 'The daughter of Bethuel, Nahor's son, whom Milcah bore to him.' So I put the ring on her nose and the bracelets on her arms. <sup>48</sup> Then I bowed my head and worshiped the Lord and blessed the Lord, the God of my master Abraham, who had led me by the right way to take the daughter of my master's kinsman for his son. <sup>49</sup> Now then, if you are going to show steadfast love and faithfulness to my master, tell me; and if not, tell me, that I may turn to the right hand or to the left."

<sup>50</sup> Then Laban and Bethuel answered and said, "The thing has come from the Lord; we cannot speak to you bad or good. <sup>51</sup> Behold, Rebekah is before you; take her and go, and let her be the wife of your master's son, as the Lord has spoken."

<sup>52</sup> When Abraham's servant heard their words, he bowed himself to the earth before the Lord. <sup>53</sup> And the servant brought out jewelry of silver and of gold, and garments, and gave them to Rebekah. He also gave to her brother and to her mother costly ornaments. <sup>54</sup> And he and the men who were with him ate and drank, and they spent the night there. When they arose in the morning, he said, "Send me away to my master." <sup>55</sup> Her brother and her mother said, "Let the young woman remain with us a while, at least ten days; after that she may go." <sup>56</sup> But he said to them, "Do not delay me, since the Lord has prospered my way. Send me away that I may go to my master." <sup>57</sup> They said,

*“Let us call the young woman and ask her.”<sup>58</sup> And they called Rebekah and said to her, “Will you go with this man?” She said, “I will go.”<sup>59</sup> So they sent away Rebekah their sister and her nurse, and Abraham’s servant and his men.<sup>60</sup> And they blessed Rebekah and said to her,*

*“Our sister, may you become  
thousands of ten thousands,  
and may your offspring possess  
the gate of those who hate him!”*

*<sup>61</sup> Then Rebekah and her young women arose and rode on the camels and followed the man. Thus the servant took Rebekah and went his way.*

*<sup>62</sup> Now Isaac had returned from Beer-lahai-roi and was dwelling in the Negeb.<sup>63</sup> And Isaac went out to meditate in the field toward evening. And he lifted up his eyes and saw, and behold, there were camels coming.<sup>64</sup> And Rebekah lifted up her eyes, and when she saw Isaac, she dismounted from the camel<sup>65</sup> and said to the servant, “Who is that man, walking in the field to meet us?” The servant said, “It is my master.” So she took her veil and covered herself.<sup>66</sup> And the servant told Isaac all the things that he had done.<sup>67</sup> Then Isaac brought her into the tent of Sarah his mother and took Rebekah, and she became his wife, and he loved her. So Isaac was comforted after his mother’s death.”*

***The Holy Bible: English Standard Version (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2016), Ge 24:1–67.***

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## BACKGROUND & OTHER STUDY HELPS:

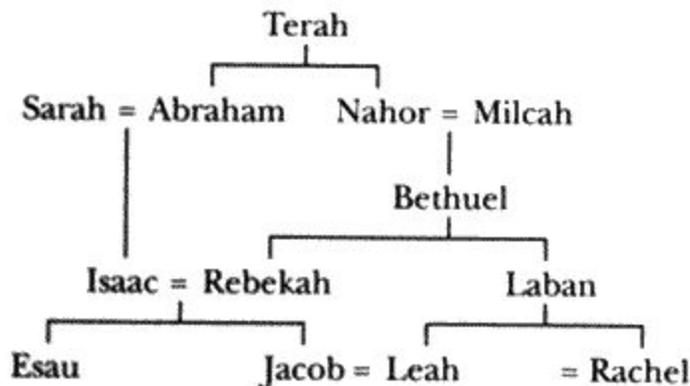
**[GENESIS 24]** “The marriage of Isaac is the first in Scripture of which we have particulars. A long chapter is devoted to it.”

D. L. Moody, *Notes from My Bible: From Genesis to Revelation* (Chicago; New York; Toronto: Fleming H. Revell, 1895), 22.

**CANAANITES]** “It is difficult to determine who the “Canaanites” of the OT were (see Ethnicity). Sometimes the word is a general designation of the pre-Israelite inhabitants of the land (e.g., Gen 50:11; Deut 11:30). Sometimes it refers to one of the seven nations that lived in pre-Israelite Canaan: Hittites, Gergashites, Amorites, Canaanites, Perizzites, Hivites, Jebusites (Deut 7:1; cf. 20:17). Canaanites were among the nations that Yahweh told Moses to drive out (Deut 33:2) or exterminate (Deut 20:17). The Canaanites and the Amorites often are mentioned side by side; the former resided near the coast, while the latter lived in the hill country (Deut 1:7).”

D. T. Tsumura, “Canaan, Canaanites,” ed. Bill T. Arnold and H. G. M. Williamson, *Dictionary of the Old Testament: Historical Books* (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2005), 124.

### [GENEALOGY OF REBEKAH]



**[BODILY OATH]** “In swearing, the servant put his hand under Abraham’s hip. This custom, which is only mentioned here and in Gen. 47:29, the so-called bodily oath, was no doubt connected with the significance of the hip as the part from which the posterity issued (Gen. 46:26), and the seat of vital power; but the early Jewish commentators supposed it to be specially connected with the rite of circumcision. The oath was by “*Jehovah*, God of heaven and earth,” as the God who rules in heaven and on earth, not

by *Elohim*; for it had respect not to an ordinary oath, but to a question of great importance in relation to the kingdom of God.”

Carl Friedrich Keil and Franz Delitzsch, *Commentary on the Old Testament*, vol. 1 (Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 1996), 164.

**[MARRYING IN THE SAME TRIBE]** “The practice of marrying within one’s own tribe or family is called endogamy. Endogamy could be the result of religious, social or ethnic concerns. In this text, it appears to be ethnic in that there are no suggestions that the family of Laban, Rebekah, and Rachel shares the religious beliefs of Abraham and his family. Likewise, social standing is usually an issue only when nobility and commoners are involved or certain classes of urban society are seen as necessarily distinct. Ethnic concerns usually center around clan traditions or family landholdings. At times they represent long-established hostilities between two groups. In this text, the endogamy seems motivated by the covenant that seeks to prevent Abraham and his family from simply being assimilated into the ethnic melting pot in Canaan.

Victor Harold Matthews, Mark W. Chavalas, and John H. Walton, *The IVP Bible Background Commentary: Old Testament*, electronic ed. (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2000), Ge 24:4.

- *(OBSERVATIONS) This Old Testament command from God to the Patriarches does not apply in its entirety to the New Testament believers as it deals with tribes, but rather the only teaching from this that translates is that of 2 Corinthians 6:14, 1 Corinthians 7:39) where all close relationships should be guarded and believers can be lead astray by the unbeliever (this would most definitely include marriage).*



[HOME OF REBEKAH WHEN ELIEZER IS WELCOMED IN]

## OUTLINE:

\*Outline Borrowed from Wiersbe, W. W. (1991). *Be Obedient*. Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.

### I. (v1-9) WILL OF THE FATHER

The Will of the Father will be accomplished as we see throughout scripture. His heart is on His Son's bride, those in which he died. Abraham is a kind or type of God in this story as God sent His son Jesus to die for our sins and God sent the Spirit to gather the bride.

- A. (v1-4) Abraham seeks the service of his oldest and most trusted servant Eliezer
  - 1. Abraham asks **Eliezer** to take an Oath

- a) *The Oath was a promise to seek a wife for Isaac (the chosen son)*
  - b) *The Oath was a promise to not take a wife for Isaac out of the Canaanites (Representative of the gentiles and unbelief)*
  - c) *The Oath was to take a wife for Isaac from among Abraham's kin people (Abraham's extended family)*
2. The Oath represented a **very intimate and divine moment** (see background notes)
- a) *The Oath involved the two men squatting down and Eliezer grabbing Abraham at his innermost thigh (Intimate/special between the two men as friends)*
  - b) *The groin area was significant to this Oath as it was seen as the part of the body where the seed came from therefore **the power and authority of a man***
  - c) *The Groin area was also a direct reference to Circumcision and therefore to God Himself (in essence by making the Oath to Abraham, **Eliezer was also making the Oath to God***
- B. (v5) **Eliezer expresses His concerns** and his ability to fulfill the promise (he took the moment very serious)
- C. (v6-7) **Abraham expresses his faith** that God would supply a bride for Isaac from his people.
- D. (v6-7) Abraham makes it clear that **the angel of the Lord was with him and would lead him** in his journey to bring back a wife for Isaac
- E. (v8) Abraham gave Eliezer peace of mind that if the woman was not willing then he was free from the oath as **she was responsible to respond to the offer**
- F. (v9) The Oath is made as Abraham had asked (the oath was between Abraham, Eliezar, and God)

## II. (v10-51) WITNESS OF THE SERVANT

Eliezer is a type or kind of the Holy Spirit who witnesses Jesus to our very hearts. HE is faithful and has submitted to the Father and the Son. He is seeking the bride to bring her home to Jesus even now.

- A. (v10) Eliezer prepared to go where Abraham had told him to go and to the place where his people would be found
- B. (v11) Eliezer made sure he was at the perfect place to find God's woman (the time of the day women would come to the well)
- C. (v12-14) Eliezer prayer a very specific prayer as he knows God's will and has arrived at the right place to see God's answer
  - 1. The prayer was that God would grant him success in the task (marriage should be bathed in prayer)
  - 2. The prayer was that the woman would respond to his request for a drink say "Drink, and I will water your camels'—"
  - 3. Eliezer would view this answer that he made in the quietness of his heart to be God's answer that this was the woman
    - a) *We can pray a pointed prayer and seek specific responses when we are seeking God's will and we have done all we can do to receive the answer*
- D. (v15) God responded to the prayer and Rebekah appeared at the well although Eliezer does not know who she is just yet
- E. (v16) Rebekah was very attractive, a virgin, and was in the path of Eliezer who had positioned himself well to see her
- F. (v17) Eliezer is faithful to do his part and asks Rebekah for a drink of water
  - 1. Eliezer is representative of the Holy Spirit who comes seeking the bride for Christ but He knows who God has chosen for His Son
    - a) *The Holy Spirit always speaks to the heart of the Bride to be (conviction)*
- G. (v18-20) Rebekah answers Eliezer as he had asked the Lord to have to respond revealing that she is the one God had chosen for Isaac
- H. (v21-23) There was only one question left and that was she from Abraham's family tree
  - 1. Eliezer didn't stop before he was sure she met all of the requirements of his oath to Abraham
  - 2. And gives Rebekah a ring and 2 bracelets from the household of Abraham

a) *When you become part of the family of God the blessing of heaven is poured out on you as illustrated here through the faithful witness Eliezer*

- I. (v24-25) Rebekah confirms that she is from Abraham's family and shows Eliezer kindness (allows the men and animal to stay with her family)
- J. (v26-27) Eliezer worshipped the God of Abraham because he had answered Eliezer's prayer and had been kind to Abraham
  - 1. Eliezer had realized God's providential guidance in the covenant God had made with Abraham
  - 2. Psalm 37:23
- K. (v28) Rebekah runs back to her mother's household and tells everyone there is excitement for what the Lord had done
- L. (v29-30) Laban, Rebekah's brother enters the picture
  - 1. (v29) Laban runs to the spring to meet Eliezer
  - 2. (v30) Laban sees the ring and bracelets from Abraham
  - 3. (v30) Rebekah had told Laban everything that had happened
- M. (v31-33a) Laban invites Eliezer into his home, feeds him, and offers water to wash his feet and his men's feet
- N. (v33b) Eliezer says in response, "**I will not eat until I have said what I have to say.**" He said, "Speak on."
  - 1. The business of the master was first for Eliezer before all personal comfort or leisure
  - 2. We must keep the business of the master the first of importance in our lives (no rest until the work is done)
- O. (v34-41) Eliezer tells all the Abraham had spoken to him and that God would guide his steps in finding Rebekah
- P. (v42-48) Eliezer resights the encounter of that day and his desire for Rebekah to be the one for Isaac
- Q. (v49) Eliezer asks Laban and Bethuel (Rebekah's Father) if he would show Abraham love and give Rebekah to Isaac as his bride or would he have to leave without her

- R. (v50-51) Laban and Rebekah's father Bethuel respond that this was God's choice and they would give her to Isaac
  - 1. They recognized from Eliezer's faithful recitation of the events that God in His providence had chosen Rebekah for Isaac

### **III. (v52-60) WILLINGNESS OF THE BRIDE**

Rebekah is a kind or type of the Bride of Christ, the church. Although God sends the Spirit to get Jesus' bride we are responsible to respond to the call to belong to Jesus as His own. We must believe Jesus is who the Spirit says He is and confess, submit, and repent. When Rebekah goes with Eliezer she leaves her old life behind and becomes Isaac's wife. Have you responded to and are you now following Jesus as we wait for our first face to face meeting?

- A. (v52) When Eliezer received the word that Rebekah would be given to Isaac He worshipped the Lord again
- B. (v53-54) Eliezer gave Rebekah more jewelry from Abraham and Isaac
  - 1. Eliezer gave ornaments and jewelry to Laban and to Rebekah's mother
- C. (v55) Laban and her mother had a change of heart to keep her for 10 more days
- D. (v56) Eliezer respectfully asks to leave with Rebekah immediately so he can return to his master
- E. (v57-58) Rebekah is given the decision to leave right away or stay and Rebekah decides to go
  - 1. Rebekah responded to the immediate call to go be with Isaac her bridegroom
- F. (v59-60) So they sent Rebekah away with the blessings of the family as
  - 1. Eliezer had been faithful to represent His master well
  - 2. Eliezer had given Rebekah a clear picture of God's plan and she accepted that plan for herself

### **IV. (v61-67) WELCOME OF THE BRIDEGROOM**

Isaac is a type or kind of Jesus. Isaac was the chosen line in which Jesus would come through, but Jesus is the chosen seed, the second Adam that corrected all

that Adam and Eve messed up. He is the perfect one and He is coming for all those who will believe in His name... Are you ready for His return? Are you watching to see if you see Him?

- A. (v61) Rebekah and her nurse follow Eliezer back to His masters
- B. (v62-63) We find Isaac meditating in a field
  - 1. Isaac was obviously praying
    - a) *He was most likely praying for God to answer his and his father's prayers for a wife (may every man of God be praying for His wife to be and then daily for his wife)*
- C. (v64) Rebekah spots Isaac in the distance
  - 1. She was watching for him
  - 2. She was excited to meet him face to face as she only knew of him by the faithful witness of Eliezer
    - a) *The Holy Spirit's faithful witness of Jesus is preparing us for our first face to face meeting*
- D. (v65) Rebekah asks Eliezer who the man who is walking in the field to meet them
  - 1. Rebekah took and covered her face with a veil (as a bride would do on the day of her wedding)
- E. (v66) Eliezer reports to Isaac all that he had done
- F. (v67) Isaac accepts her as God's choice/bride for him
  - 1. Isaac takes her into his mother Sarah's tent (she had passed)
  - 2. Isaac's move places her as the mother of

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**Application:**

= The Heavenly Father's will is for the Holy Spirit to gather the bride for His return have you heard the witness of the Spirit and His word?

= Have we been faithful witnesses like Eliezer putting the father's desires before our own pleasure and comfort?

= We are also like Rebekah... have you answered the call of the Spirit to belong to Jesus as His bride?

= Are you looking for the Bridegroom as He is getting ready to come out and meet us in the air?

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*"...Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, <sup>4</sup> even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love <sup>5</sup> he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, <sup>6</sup> to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved."*

*The Holy Bible: English Standard Version (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2016), Eph 1:3-6.*

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-----Message from Pastor Michael-----

Church,

This is a beautiful story that points us to Jesus and the love of the Father. Isaac was spared as the sacrifice, but Jesus died for your sins. Isaac was promised a bride and the Father sent Eliezer to go get her... have you felt the Holy Spirit call your name? This love story ends with Isaac loving her for the rest of his life. If you belong to Jesus He loves you for all eternity. What a beautiful story!

Will we be faithful. Will we separate from the world and to Jesus? Today is the day and right now He is calling to Rebekah (His bride)...

Love in Christ,

Pastor Michael

