

=FAVORITE BIBLE CHAPTERS=

Lesson 10

Genesis 24

INTRODUCTION: Continuing our series of lessons on the great chapters in the Bible, we come to one of the most beautiful of all. In this chapter Abraham sends a servant to choose a bride for his son, Isaac. Abraham did not want a bride for Isaac to be chosen from the Canaanites. Hence, he called the eldest servant of his house to go back to his own country and there choose a bride for Isaac. The story unfolds beautifully in this chapter.

I. THE TYPOLOGY OF THE STORY.

1. Abraham here is a type of God the Father. Notice Genesis 24:2.
2. The servant is a type of the Holy Spirit. He does not speak of himself but seeks the bride for the bridegroom.
3. The bride (Rebekah) is a type of all Christians. We Christians are the called-out bride of the Lord Jesus Christ.
4. The far country is a type of the world. Notice this in Genesis 24:4.
5. The son (Isaac) is a type of the Lord Jesus Christ. Hence, Abraham (God the Father) sends the servant (Holy Spirit) to a far country (the world) to seek a bride (Christians) for his son (Jesus). Here is a beautiful type of the Lord Jesus Christ and His own people who are called His bride.

II. THE MIRACLE.

1. God sent an angel before the servant. See Genesis 24:7.
2. A miracle was asked for and received. Read Genesis 24:14. The servant, not knowing how to choose the bride or which young lady would be the bride, made a covenant with God. He asked the Lord to let it come to pass that the young lady to whom the servant said, "Let down thy pitcher, I pray thee, that I may drink," would respond by saying, "Drink, and I will give thy camels drink also." By this, the servant would know she was to be the one. So the servant went to the far country. When he came to a certain place, he saw Rebekah. He asked her for a drink of water, and she asked if she could give his camels drink also. Hence, he knew this was the right one. This may seem a little thing to a person who does not know much about the East. Camels drink water by the gallon, and all the water that this young lady could give the camels she had to carry on her head from a stream or a well. It was a long, taxing exercise. Nevertheless, the miracle took place, and the servant found the right young lady!

III THE GIFTS. This is interesting. When the servant came to Rebekah and found her, he gave her a golden earring and two bracelets. Notice in Genesis 24:22 the perfect order here: the earring for the ear and the bracelets for the hands. Bear in mind, this story typifies the carrying of the Gospel by the Holy Spirit to the world. The earring represents the fact that a person must hear the Word of God. See Romans 10:17. The bracelets for the hands represent the fact that the Gospel is received. First we hear (earrings); then we take (bracelets for the hands).

The servant did not go into the far country to pass out earrings and bracelets; he went to get the bride. He could have become so enchanted with the passing out of earrings and bracelets that he would forget the real purpose for his going. His purpose was to get the bride! This is the purpose for the Holy Spirit. Primarily, the Holy Spirit is not to give gifts but to get the bride. The giving of the gift is only an asset with which to get the bride. There are so many people who get the gifts of the Spirit as an end and not as a means. Yes, the Spirit does give us gifts, as listed in I Corinthians 12. However, these gifts are means to an end and are not needed, necessary, nor even Scriptural if they do not aid us in soul winning. Soul

winning is the big thing. The big job of the church is soul winning. Hence, the gifts are aids to soul winning. One who is not soul winning does not have the Scriptural gifts.

Rebekah decided to go with the servant—a picture of an unsaved person deciding to receive Christ as he is wooed by the Holy Spirit.

IV. THE GIFTS FOR HER FAMILY. Notice Genesis 24:53. Here is an interesting thing. As soon as Rebekah had accepted the servant's proposal to go back to Isaac, her family started receiving blessings also. When a person becomes a Christian, all the folks around him get blessed. It is better for every one within his sphere of influence.

V. THE PRESSING FOR DECISION. Read Genesis 24:56. Notice the Holy Spirit is interested in salvation now. The servant said, "Hinder me not, seeing the LORD hath prospered my way; send me away that I may go to my master." The servant was saying, "Let us go now." Tomorrow is not the time; today is the time. The Holy Spirit wants us to do His will now. He wants us to be saved now. He wants us to do now what He has led us to do and called us to do.

So Rebekah and the servant leave to go to Isaac—a picture of salvation and our journey toward Heaven.

VI. THE JOURNEY. Notice something very interesting in Genesis 24:58, 59. She had decided to marry Isaac. (This is conversion.) She is going to meet Isaac, but she has someone to lead her, even the servant. Here is a picture of the Christian after he has received Christ. He is not left alone; but he is led by the Holy Spirit as he journeys toward Heaven. No doubt the servant said to Rebekah, "Now stay close to me. Follow me. Do not go your own way. Go my way." The Holy Spirit says the same thing to the believer.

Perhaps some days they were on mountaintops, and other days they were in low valleys. Perhaps some days the sun was shining, and other days the clouds were hanging low, but it was her job to follow the servant. He alone knew the way. Tragedy would be hers if she did not follow him. The same is true of the Christian. Some days we will be on mountaintops; some days, in valleys. Some days the sun will be shining, and some days the clouds will be hanging low. We must, however, follow the Holy Spirit and His leadership. Notice Genesis 24:61.

VII. THE MEETING. Read Genesis 24:65. The servant took Rebekah to Isaac. When she saw Isaac, she left the servant and ran to Isaac. Here is a beautiful picture of the Holy Spirit taking us to the Lord Jesus at the Rapture when we meet Him in the air.

VIII. THE MARRIAGE. Read Genesis 24:67. Here is a picture of Heaven when we are with Jesus forever.

CONCLUSION: There is no story in the Bible that more beautifully pictures the plan of salvation than does this one. (Teacher, show the plan of salvation very carefully to every pupil. Lead those to Christ who need to be saved.)