

Look at Paul's lesson about Abraham's two wives and two sons...

Gal 4:22 For it is written, that Abraham had two sons, Ishmael by a bondmaid Hagar, and Isaac by a freewoman Sarah.

Gal 4:23 Ishmael who was of the bondwoman was born after the flesh; but Isaac of the freewoman was by the promise to Abraham.

Gal 4:24 Which things are an allegory: for these are two covenants;

The Law Covenant or Hagar Covenant was a covenant of works. The Grace covenant or Sarah Covenant of was a covenant of faith.

Only the Sarah Covenant could bring forth the blessing Seed of Abraham, as in...

Gen 22:18 ...in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; because thou hast obeyed my voice.

Our lesson today begins with the Death of Sarah, Abraham's wife,

(Gen 23:1-2) And Sarah 127 years old and in Hebron, in the land of Canaan: and Abraham came to mourn for Sarah.

(Gen 23:3) And Abraham stood up from before his dead, and spoke unto the sons of Heth

The sons of Heth were Hittites, in the Line of Ham

Noah – Ham - Canaan – Heth - which means terror

Related to Abraham only through Noah - 10 generations ago

Later, the Hittites were among the seven nations that Israel was to utterly destroy

Deu 7:2 ...thou shalt smite them, and utterly destroy them; make no covenant with them, nor show them mercy:

Abraham said...

(Gen 23:4) I am a stranger and a sojourner with you: give (appoint) me a possession of a burial place with you, that I may bury my dead out of my sight.

Give H5414 – give, appoint, ascribe, assign

Abraham, wanted to buy a burying place because he had no possession in the land. Stephen tells us

Act 7:5 not so much as to set his foot on:

Abraham was not looking for a gift

(Gen 23:5-6) And the children of Heth said in the choice of our sepulchers bury thy dead;

He had already chosen the cave at Machpelah and went to Hebron to discuss buying this land from Ephron the Hittite in the presence of all the people.

Ephron wanted to give Abraham the field at no cost.

Abraham replied...

(Gen 23:13) I will give thee money for the field; and I will bury my dead there.

Abraham had relied on the Lord for everything, who had told him...

Gen 12:2 And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee,

Abraham had also refused the spoil from King of Sodom after the defeat of the Kings of the Plain...

Gen 14:23 .. I will not take from a thread even to a shoelatchet, and I will not take any thing that is thine, lest thou shouldest say, I have made Abram rich:

Later, David also refused Arunah's gift of wood, oxen and his threshing floor on Mt Moriah, which became the site of the Temple... saying...

2Sa 24:24 Nay; but I will buy it of thee at a price: neither will I offer burnt offerings unto the LORD my God of that which doth cost me nothing.

Ephron named his price and Abraham paid Ephron in the presence of all the people.

(Gen 23:20) And the field, and the cave that is therein, were made sure unto Abraham for a possession of a burial place by the sons of Heth.

Looking back about 25 years...when Isaac was about 12 years old, Hagar and Ishmael were sent away...

Gen 21:12 ... Let it not be grievous in thy sight because of the lad, and because of thy bondwoman; in all that Sarah hath said unto thee, hearken unto her voice; for in Isaac shall thy seed be called.

But, wasn't Isaac himself the seed? Why must Abraham's seed then be called?

Called - H7121

are bidden, guest, invite

This hints that there are more in the “Isaac class” than simply Isaac himself.

...more individuals comprising the **one** seed, based on their relationship with Isaac, and be “counted for the seed”. As in Rom 9:8

We now come to the Call of Rebecca in Gen 24

ABRAHAM was 140 years old. Sarah had been dead three years and Isaac was forty years old.

Cast of Characters:

Abraham pictures Jehovah.

Eliezer – the Holy Spirit

Camels – complete word of God

Rebecca – these who become the completed bride of Christ

Isaac – The resurrected Lord

(Gen 24:2) ...Abraham said unto Eliezer, Put thy hand under my thigh:

Eliezer was the steward of Abraham's house and was making a solemn vow to Abraham

As his steward, Eliezer full authority and trust to do anything on Abraham's behalf

Eliezer – H461 – God & Help – God's helper or God's servant – Holy Spirit

(Gen 24:3) and swear by the LORD, that thou shalt not take a wife unto my son of the daughters of the Canaanites, among whom I dwell:

Canaanites – idolators, and picture worldly, willful sinners.

R1386 while God DOES call sinners to repentance, he does NOT call sinners to become joint-heirs with Christ, his Son and heir.

(Gen 24:4) But thou shalt go unto my country, and to my kindred, and take a wife unto my son Isaac.

To Haran – the site of Abrahams brother, Nahor and his family. Picturing ones already having a relationship with God.

(Gen 24:5) Eliezer said, 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?

What if she won't be convinced without tangible, physical proof?

(Gen 24:6) Abraham said, Beware thou that thou bring not my son thither again.

If she needs more than the word of God and the Holy spirit, she isn't suitable as the bride of Christ.

Heb_11:6 But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

Plus, Jesus said...

Joh 14:19 Yet a little while, and the world seeth me no more;

Jesus will never become a man again for anyone, for any purpose.

The bride of Christ are of those who

Jas_4:8 Draw nigh to God, and [then] God will draw nigh to you.

And God will draw them, by means of the Holy Spirit, to the knowledge of his son.

Joh 6:44 No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him:

Abraham replied...

(Gen 24:7) The LORD God of heaven, swore unto me, saying, Unto thy seed will I give this land; he shall send his angel before thee, and thou shalt take a wife unto my son from thence.

Abraham had faith that God would fulfill his promise to Abraham

(Gen 24:9) And Eliezer swore to him concerning that matter.

(Gen 24:10) And Eliezer took ten camels of his master, and departed; for all the goods of his master were in his hand: and he arose, and went to Mesopotamia, unto the city of Nahor.

The City of Nahor was the actually the City of Haran, Abraham's oldest brother who had died much earlier. Abraham's father, Terah, along with Abraham's older brother, Nahor, lived in Haran, until Terah died. Abraham then left for the land of Canaan to receive God's covenant.

The Ten camels represented the complete word of God, along with all resources necessary to accomplish the mission.

(Gen 24:11) And Eliezer made his camels to kneel down without the city by a well of water at evening, when women go out to draw water.

Women – virgins

Water – truth

draw water - do the work to get the truth.

Eliezer prays...

(Gen 24:12) ...O LORD God of my master Abraham, I pray thee, send me good speed this day, and show kindness unto my master Abraham.

(Gen 24:13) Behold, I stand here by the well of water; and the daughters of the men of the city come out to draw water:

(Gen 24:14) 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; and thereby shall I know that thou hast showed kindness unto my master.

(Gen 24:15) And before he had done speaking, behold, Rebekah, (the Granddaughter of Nahor, Abraham's brother) came out with her pitcher upon her shoulder.

(Gen 24:16) She was a very beautiful virgin, and she went down to the well, and filled her pitcher, and came up.

So... Immediately, here comes Rebecca, in Abrahams' family.

...already carrying water - truth, doing the work to get its benefit

Eliezer saw her demeanor and zeal... and posed his question.

(Gen 24:17) Eliezer ran to meet her, and said, Let me, I pray thee, drink a little water of thy pitcher.

(Gen 24:18) She replied, Drink, my lord: and she hastened, and let down her pitcher upon her hand, and gave him drink.

(Gen 24:19) And when she had done giving him drink, she added, I will draw water for thy camels also, until they have done drinking.

(Gen 24:20) And she hastened, and emptied her pitcher into the trough, and ran again unto the well to draw water, and drew for all his camels.

Note she hasted, for Eliezer and the camels. Showing the spirit service, helpfulness, and generosity to provide blessings to others, even to strangers as Eliezer.

And keep in mind that ten thirsty camels drink lots of water!

(Gen 24:21) And Eliezer was wondering [amazed] at her, held his peace, to know whether the LORD had made his journey prosperous or not.

She was drawing nigh to Eliezer and the camels – really to God's Holy Word and Influence

(Gen 24:22) Eliezer took a golden earring and two golden bracelets for her hands

Rebecca was interested and attentive to Eliezer and his Camels, (to God's influence and Scriptures). This warranted special blessings from God.

Those feeling after God are blessed as God's agencies teach them about God and his Son.

The golden earring represents the truths for the potential bride class to hear to have faith in.

The bracelets represent the blessed effect of the truth upon all their doings thereafter.

Paul gives the forward explanation in:

1Co_1:30 But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us: (1) wisdom, (Knowledge of the Ransom to enter the Court)

(2) and righteousness, - (Justification as we learn more and approach God for consecration)

(3) and sanctification, - (Setting apart from Spirit-begettal to the finishing of our course)

(4) and redemption: (Deliverance – Death of the flesh and Spirit birth – divine nature – apolutrosis – loosing away –

(Gen 24:23) Eliezer asked, Whose daughter are you? Is there room in your father's house for us to lodge in?

(Gen 24:24) And she said unto him, I am the daughter of Bethuel the son of Milcah, which she bore unto Nahor.

She was already related to Abraham. Picturing the household of faith, and knowing that God is a good and loving with benevolent intentions for mankind...

(Gen 24:25) She said, We have both straw and food enough, and room to lodge in.

Those being drawn to God offer their own their resources to make progress.

Like on the road to Emmaus when the resurrected Lord opened the scriptures. They wanted to hear more... even though they didn't recognize him...

Luk 24:29 they constrained him, saying, Abide with us: for it is toward evening, and the day is far spent.

Eliezer gave thanks to God for prospering his way.

(Gen 24:28) And the damsel ran, and told family these things.

Rebecca overflowed with excitement to share the precious news with her family. Like those being drawn to God share the good tidings with others.

(Gen 24:29) Rebekah's brother Laban ran out unto the man at the well.

(Gen 24:30) when Laban saw the earring and bracelets upon his sister's hands, and when he heard the words of Rebekah his sister, Laban came to Eliezer and the camels

(Gen 24:31) And said, Come in, thou blessed of the LORD; for I have prepared the house, and room for the camels.

God wants to see effort on the part of those being favored with the truth...

(Gen 24:32) Eliezer came into the house: and Laban ungirded his camels, and gave straw and provender for the camels, and water to wash his feet, and the men's feet that were with him.

Laban showed regard for the scriptures and the Holy Spirit

Eliezer was urgent to tell his message...

(Gen 24:34) And he said, I am Abraham's servant.

(Gen 24:35) 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.

Eliezer explains Abraham great wealth, just as the Rebecca class learns of the bounties of God and his plan.

(Gen 24:36) And Sarah my master's wife bore a son to my master when she was old: and unto him hath he given all that he hath.

They learn that Jesus is God's son, not part of a trinity, but a human son, born in a miraculous birth... begotten by God, and born of Mary, but not contaminated by sin through the line of Adam. And that after his testing, death, and resurrection Jesus himself proclaimed...

Mat 28:18 ... All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.

(Which, which by the way, means that he didn't already have it! This was given to him by the Father.)

The message continued with Eleazer's instructions...

Gen 24:38 ...thou shalt go unto my father's house, and to my kindred, and take a wife unto my son.

God has planned for the bride of Christ, the Body of Christ, to be developed from amongst the faithful of fallen men, to be perfected in character, and to become joint-heirs in glory with God's heavenly son. What an amazing opportunity!

Eleazer recounts his question...

Gen 24:39 What if the woman will not follow me?

In other words...What if mankind is so fallen that no one will accept the offer to sacrifice their humanity, to become the bride of Christ?

Abraham reassured Eleazer...

Gen 24:40 ...the LORD, will send his angel with thee, and prosper thy way; and thou shalt take a wife for my son...

In other words... the bride of Christ will be found amongst the faithful of mankind. Even though it will take about 2000 years, the bride of Christ will be found. She will gladly lay down her humanity, complete her sacrifice, and fully become the Bride of Christ in Glory.

Eleazer then recounts his prayer to identify the bride class... in asking for water for himself and his camels... and Rebecca's amazing response... her haste, her zeal, and her volunteering to water the camels, even without being asked...

All of this was showing that it was by the LORD's overrulings that this invitation comes to the Rebecca class. This is important for all those being invited to see that this is no accident... that God himself is overruling in their lives for this very purpose.

Then all could see that this was God's will.

(Gen 24:50) Then Laban and Bethuel answered and said, The thing proceedeth from the LORD: we cannot speak unto thee bad or good.

(Gen 24:51) Behold, Rebekah is before thee, take her, and go, and let her be thy master's son's wife, as the LORD hath spoken.

(Gen 24:52) And it came to pass, that, when Abraham's servant heard their words, he worshiped the LORD, bowing himself to the earth.

(Gen 24:53) And the servant brought forth **jewels of silver**, and **jewels of gold**, and **raiment**, and gave them to Rebekah: he gave also to her brother and to her mother precious things.

At the point of full consecration, the marriage covenant is made, shown by spirit begettal.

Rebecca was given

Jewels of silver (symbolizing the deep truths)

Jewels of gold (divine blessings and graces)

New raiment – the imputed Righteous of Christ

Those of the household of faith are also blessed as the Rebecca class consecrates.

But...

(Gen 24:55) 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.

The earthly ties were strong from her natural family, They wanted a “long goodbye.”

December 2, Manna ...Some say Do not be an extremist, be moderate, go slowly

(Gen 24:56) 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.

Eleazer was saying that Lord's will is not only that she agrees to go to Isaac, but that she actually goes to Isaac.

When we make a consecration, it isn't just words, we must sanctify ourselves and be on our way.

They called Rebecca to hear it from her lips. Are you serious about living your consecration?

(Gen 24:58 KJVR-S ...they said unto her, Will you go with this man? And she said, I will go.

She was displaying the proper attitude of the betrothed:

Psa_45:10 Hearken, O daughter, and consider, and incline thine ear; forget also thine own people, and thy father's house;

She still loved her natural family but her priorities were now completely different.

(Gen 24:60) And they blessed Rebekah, and said unto her, Thou art our sister, be thou the mother of thousands of millions,

This was prophetic of the blessing of all the families of the earth in the future.

(Gen 24:61) And Rebekah arose, and her damsels, and they rode upon the camels, and followed the man: and the servant took Rebekah, and went his way.

The body of Christ is supported and transported by the camels, the word of God, as she is blessed with the truth, the precious promises, and the imputed righteousness of Christ.

We have to keep the robe clean without spot or wrinkle or any such thing.

We must embroider the robe as well.

Psa 45:11 So shall the king [Christ] greatly desire thy beauty: for he is thy Lord; and worship thou him.

He desires the beauty of character we shall finally attain.

The robe of Righteousness which we have now, which makes us beautiful in our Father's eyes, gives us the pattern of what we must attain.

We must perform painstaking embroidery on our characters to finally attain the likeness of the pattern we are given now. We are an unfinished work which must progress to completion.

We like a construction project in progress, but not ready for display, which is concealed behind a large billboard... with the designer's beautiful rendering of the final building. He shows us this rendering, as well as the ways and means to be transformed into the master's design.

There are hardships along the way. We must rely on the promises and never deviate from the master's design, to show our love determination for our master and his plan, and to finally bring our project to completion.

Rom 8:29 For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son...

The Embroidery consists not only of faith, but of virtue, knowledge, temperance, patience, brotherly kindness, agape, plus joy, peace, gentleness, goodness, and meekness.

At the end of our course, the embroidery work has made this righteousness inherent in us.

Psa 45:13 The king's daughter [Jehovah's Daughter] is all glorious within: her clothing is of wrought gold.

This is the final state of the Bride

king's daughter -- Jehovah's daughter, the Bride of Christ
Is all glorious within -- With the beauty of holiness in her perfected Character
Her clothing is -- when glorified
Of wrought gold -- immortality--the divine nature

Psa 45:14 She shall be brought unto the king [Jehovah] in raiment of needlework: the virgins her companions that follow her shall be brought unto thee.

Brought – By Christ the Head -

To the King – Jehovah

Rev 3:5 He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment (the inherent righteousness of the High priest – Christ Head and Body - in the garments of Glory and Beauty)... I will confess [fully profess] his name before my Father, and before his angels...

Psa 45:15 With gladness and rejoicing shall they be brought: they shall enter into the king's palace.

Looking at this prospect and all the helps and love of the Father...

Luk 12:32 Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.

Not because we earned it, but because wants us to have it when we have fulfilled our covenant of sacrifice and completed our part in the sin offering shown in Lev 8. God fulfills his part illustrated in the wafer... his Promises to us, including the promise of the divine nature.

Jehovah's joy is displayed:

Zep 3:17 The LORD thy God in the midst of thee is mighty; he will save, he will rejoice over thee with joy; he will rest in his love, he will joy over thee with singing.

The damsels picture the Great Company who do not become the bride of Christ – because they shirk sacrifice, they will be before the throne, rather than in it.

As Rebecca approached the end of her journey...

(Gen 24:62) ...Isaac came from the way of the well Lahai-roi; for he dwelt in the south country.

Lahai-roi - (Well of the Living One, who sees me) or, even better... "the well of the vision of life"

Makes me think of...

Isa 12:3 Therefore with joy shall ye draw water out of the wells of salvation.

Near the end of the journey

(Gen 24:63) Isaac went out to meditate in the field at the eventide: and he lifted up his eyes, and saw the camels were coming.

(Gen 24:64) And Rebekah lifted up her eyes, and when she saw Isaac, she lighted off the camel.

The field is the world. The Lord gives us evidence of this return in world events, as well as in the scriptures.

The Truth was served-up by the returned Lord to those watching...

Luk 12:37 Blessed are those servants, whom the lord when he cometh shall find watching: verily I say unto you, that he shall gird himself, and make them to sit down to meat, and will come forth and serve them.

Note that he is serving them...

But there is one who will be specially "blest"... (Not bless-ed but "blest" by God)

Luk 12:43 Blest is that [one] servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing.

Luk 12:44 Of a truth I say unto you, that he will make him ruler over all that he hath.

Rebecca lifted up her eyes – she was watching for him, just as Jesus had instructed...

Mat 24:42 Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come.

This is just before she got down from her Camel. Through the word of God, she could recognize Isaac, the Lord's presence... as all of the Bride-class must **now see** him

Isa 52:7-8 NIV Listen! Your watchmen lift up their voices; together they shout for joy. When the LORD returns to Zion, they will see it with their own eyes.

At the completion of her journey...

(Rotherham) ...she alighted with haste from off the camel

This shows the ride class is eager to join their heavenly bridegroom and get-to-work sharing God's wonderful plan of ransom and restitution and God's perfect character, and bring all mankind back to human perfection.

But, how was Rebecca so **sure** that this was Isaac? Though the Holy Spirit!

(Gen 24:65) For she had said unto the servant, [past tense, before alighting off the camel] What man is this that walketh in the field to meet us? And the servant had said, It is my master:

Through the Holy Spirit and deep study of the scriptures, she knew the Lord, was present.

And at the completion of her course...

...she took a veil, and covered herself.

The veil pictures the death of the human flesh and entering the Most Holy, really for the entire Church.

(Gen 24:66) And the servant told Isaac all the things that he had done.

Mission accomplished. Gods will, through his agencies, will be successful

Isa 55:11 So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: ...it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.

(Gen 24:67) 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.

This pictures the completion of the Church and the Sarah feature of the Abrahamic covenant which would bring forth the Blessed Seed... The Christ Head and Body.

Only then could Mediatorial blessing begin.

But note that Sarah was dead before Eliezer was even sent on his mission. Is there a problem here?

No... because of the one-ness of the Christ Head and Body...

Eph 5:31 For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh.

Eph 5:32 This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church.

Rebecca was counted as Isaac's wife, as a part of him, from the moment of spirit begettal.

Gal 3:16 Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ. (The Anointed.)

Gal 3:29 And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

Jesus spoke to Saul about this same oneness...

Act 9:4 Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me?

And...

Gal 4:28 Now we, brethren, as Isaac was, are the children of promise.

Eliezer was the "Friend of the Bridegroom."

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The old custom in Israel was for the father or a friend of the bridegroom to invite, and make the marriage contact with the bride. He was called the "the friend of the Bridegroom." This contract was the real marriage, but the contracting parties usually lived apart for a year, until the wedding feast to celebrate their union.

John the Baptist was the "friend of the Bridegroom" toward the Jewish nation, to have them accept Christ as their Bridegroom and become his Bride. (Joh 3:29) But, only a small remnant accepted. These, in turn, became the "friends of the Bridegroom," the mouthpieces of the Spirit to seek among God's people--believing Gentiles included--for the chaste, wise virgins and to espouse such to Christ--telling them of "the riches of grace in Christ Jesus."

Paul was also a "Friend of the Bridegroom" in that he said:

2Co 11:2 For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for **I have espoused** you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ.

The Third Wife...

Well, after Rebecca was taken into Sarah's tent, picturing the completion of the Church...

(Gen 25:1) Then again Abraham took a wife, and her name was Keturah.

Keturah bore six more sons to Abraham. This seems to have been miraculously overruled due to Abraham's natural physical age here in the type.

Keturah pictures the New Covenant, to be established through the ancient worthies and natural Israel, and then spread to all the families of the earth.

The restoring of mankind will be a miraculous process throughout the Mediatorial phase of the Kingdom.

Hagar's son Ishmael, the son of the bondwoman, pictured natural Israel, along with Keturah's six sons, (making seven in all) illustrate the fullness of earthly restitution.

When all is completed, the Abrahamic promise will have been fulfilled in its entirety. All God's intelligent creation will be fully reconciled to God and in harmony with the Christ Head and Body, the Holy Angels and with God Himself...

Dear Brethren, let us keep riding those ten camels, led by Eliezer to our Heavenly Isaac...

1Pe 1:8 Whom, having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory:

...and finally,... enter Sarah's tent.