

The Holy Spirit brings the Bride to Christ (Genesis 24)

I put the whole Genesis 24 at the end. It would be good to read the teaching, then read the whole Genesis 24.

The Father sends out the Holy Spirit to bring the Bride to Jesus.

But when the Father sends the Advocate as My representative — that is, the Holy Spirit — He will teach you everything and will remind you of everything I have told you. (John 14:26)

He will bring Me glory by telling you whatever He receives from Me. (John 16:14)

This is how we know if they have the Spirit of God: If a person claiming to be a prophet acknowledges that Jesus Christ came in a real body, that person has the Spirit of God. (1 John 4:2)

And the Holy Spirit, in bodily form, descended on Him like a Dove. And a Voice from Heaven said, "You are My dearly loved Son, and You bring Me great joy. (Luke 3:22)

And God has given us His Spirit as proof that we live in Him and He in us. (1 John 4:13)

In John 14:26 it becomes clear that the Holy Spirit is here to teach us all things regarding Jesus, while in John 16:14 it becomes clear He is here to point us to Jesus, and in 1 John 4:2 and Luke 3:22 it teaches that He is here to help us see and acknowledge Jesus as the only Savior.

And 1 John 4:13 it also points out that the Holy Spirit also acts as a form of "engagement ring" bringing assurance that we truly belong to Christ as believers.

No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up on the last day (John 6:44)

Being "drawn to the well", being drawn to seeking something (Someone) does not happen unless the Father does it (by His Holy Spirit). Some think they found God "by accident", but the truth is all that find, was drawn to the well.

We can see a type and shadow of this in Genesis 24.

A crucial part of this story revolves around the well, drawing water, and as we know Jesus is the One who is and brings rivers of living waters. But Genesis 24 also has many revelations around this that we should not overlook.

When I refer to "religion" I am speaking specifically of a religious mindset, a set religious system etc. in other words everything that does not flow with God, but tries to control God.

Verse 4 Go instead to my homeland, to my relatives, and find a wife there for my son Isaac.

The Father tasks the Holy Spirit with bringing the Bride to Jesus, the Holy Spirit also knows exactly where the Bride is and how to find her. We are all made in God's image, so we are all His "relatives".

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Verse 5 The servant asked, "But what if I can't find a young woman who is willing to travel so far from home? Should I then take Isaac there to live among your relatives in the land you came from?" 6 "No!" Abraham responded. "Be careful never to take my son there."

Jesus said to His disciples, you are in this world, not of this world. We are to be "taken out" of our old worldly mindsets and ways, and brought to a higher place, a place of intimacy with Jesus.

Verse 8 If she is unwilling to come back with you, then you are free from this oath of mine.

The Holy Spirit will never force you to come to Jesus, you must do so of your own free will.

Verse 10a Then he loaded ten of Abraham's camels with all kinds of expensive gifts from his master, and he traveled to...
Verse 22 Then at last, when the camels had finished drinking, he took out a gold ring for her nose and two large gold bracelets for her wrists.

God always lets the Holy Spirit bring gifts when He initially draws you, gifts of salvation, healing, deliverance, provision etc.

Verse 11 He made the camels kneel beside a well just outside the town. It was evening, and the women were coming out to draw water.

The Holy Spirit will always meet you "where you are at", He doesn't expect you to pursue Him to bring salvation, He pursues you to bring you to Jesus. But He also knows the best time to draw you is when there is a need for "water", when you thirst.

Verse 14a This is my request. I will ask one of them, 'Please give me a drink from your jug.' If she says, 'Yes, have a drink, and I will water your camels, too!'—let her be the one you have selected as Isaac's wife.

The Holy Spirit knows that those that truly come to Christ (not just make an emotional decision) will always be willing to make sacrifices.

Verse 18a "Yes, my lord," she answered...

The Holy Spirit knows that someone who is genuine about seeking Christ, does not have to be begged nor threatened nor manipulated into making a decision, they will immediately respond positively.

Verse 23 "Whose daughter are you?" he asked. "And please tell me, would your father have any room to put us up for the night?"

We again see the Holy Spirit does not force Himself on others, but waits to be asked.

Verses 28 - 30 The young woman ran home to tell her family everything that had happened. Now Rebekah had a brother named Laban, who ran out to meet the man at the spring. He had seen the nose-ring and the bracelets on his sister's wrists, and had heard Rebekah tell what the man had said. So he rushed out to the spring, where the man was still standing beside his camels.

Now Laban (as we know from the later encounter he has with Jacob) loves money (and possessions), so this "dignified" man running to meet the Servant was definitely

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triggered / influenced by the expensive gifts he saw Rebekah got (or it wouldn't be mentioned so obvious that he saw the gifts, then heard what she told). Laban is a representation of religion, religion always looks to what it can get from the situation and is driven by need, greed and "self".

The book of Romans (around chapter 8) makes it clear that the law was the guardian of people until Christ brought grace, just as Laban was Rebekah's guardian until the Servant brought her to Isaac.

Verse 31 Laban said to him, "Come and stay with us, you who are blessed by the Lord! Why are you standing here outside the town when I have a room all ready for you and a place prepared for the camels?"

It isn't necessarily true that religious people don't welcome the Holy Spirit. They are sometimes the first to welcome Him, but do so for what He can bring and not for what He can teach. The moment they are challenged to forget "gifts" and sacrifice, that is normally the turning point away from the Holy Spirit.

Verse 33 Then food was served. But Abraham's servant said, "I don't want to eat until I have told you why I have come."

The Holy Spirit does not come to seek of and for Himself, but to represent Christ, this is a task He takes very seriously.

Verse 45a Before I had finished praying in my heart...

Just a quick sidetrack with this one... God truly knows our deepest thoughts...

Verse 50 - 51 Then Laban and Bethuel replied, "The Lord has obviously brought you here, so there is nothing we can say. Here is Rebekah; take her and go. Yes, let her be the wife of your master's son, as the Lord has directed."

Verse 57 - 58 "Well," they said, "we'll call Rebekah and ask her what she thinks." So they called Rebekah. "Are you willing to go with this man?" they asked her. And she replied, "Yes, I will go."

This is interesting, here we see religion again, as it always wants to decide on behalf of others what their walk with God must be, while it is meant to be an individual decision.

Only a while later do they think to ask her if she is willing to go, and then she says "yes", that and that alone is the actual point where we would see "conversion".

They only thought to ask Rebekah when the timeframe came into question (we will talk about this as well soon), Laban would probably have tried to force her to go if she refused because he had already "decided" she shall marry. Religion always tries to coerce, force, manipulate, shame etc. people into doing something.

Religion also thinks salvation comes by "it's my fathers God" or "I grew up in church" or "you will go to church even if I have to drag you there" etc... But only when each person says for themselves "yes I will go to Him" is there an actual salvation.

Verse 53 Then he brought out silver and gold jewelry and clothing and presented them to Rebekah. He also gave expensive presents to her brother and mother.

God will sometimes when someone comes to salvation even bless those around them for their sake. But this also points to God showing religion that His goodness is a gift, this is very hard for religion to accept, that we are not able to "earn" anything.

Verse 55 – 58 "But we want Rebekah to stay with us at least ten days," her brother and mother said. "Then she can go." But he said, "Don't delay me. The Lord has made my mission successful; now send me back so I can return to my master."
"Well," they said, "we'll call Rebekah and ask her what she thinks." So they called Rebekah. "Are you willing to go with this man?" they asked her.
And she replied, "Yes, I will go."

Human nature likes to "linger", when the Holy Spirit brings something, (even if the Holy Spirit has moved on to the next thing), we often find ourselves already having built a little "religious shrine" to the first thing and being unwilling to change. Something good today might be bad tomorrow, just like the manna was, heavenly taste today, rotten tomorrow.

We must never linger in the old, for the Word says those that are continually led by the Spirit of God, those are the sons of God. (Romans 8:14)

But in comes Rebekah, the virgin bride to be - the symbol of those that are truly His Bride, those that hunger and thirst for His presence. And when He says come, she says "yes Lord here I come". (We find this same attitude with David in Psalm 27:8) There is no hint of resistance nor postponement.

Verse 59b The woman who had been Rebekah's childhood nurse went along with her.

Verse 61 Then Rebekah and her servant girls mounted the camels and followed the man.

It is very seldom that salvation changes just the situation of the person who is "saved", often those around them are also influenced – if they like it or not. It is like this nurse (and it seems several other serving girls) that also had to go to live in another land with Rebekah.

How was their lives eventually influenced by it? Did they all maybe meet their own "Isaac's" in this new land? Unfortunately we have no answers to those questions.

Verse 60 They gave her this blessing as she parted:
"Our sister, may you become the mother of many millions!
May your descendants be strong and conquer the cities of their enemies."

This obviously ended up being prophetic because she was the mother of millions upon millions (all the descendants of Israel). But she also became the mother of billions because she is the ancestor of Christ, in who many came to salvation and to become the new "Spiritual Israel".

We must remember that God will use anyone He wishes to speak truth to you and to bless you (look at Balaam and how God used him to bless Israel), even sometimes the most religious people you know... (Selah)

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Verse 63 One evening as he was walking and meditating in the fields, he looked up and saw the camels coming.

Interesting how Isaac is found walking in the fields and meditating (meditating in the Bible refers to thinking on the goodness of God, not the demonic meditation new age tries to push). Jesus is called "The Lord of the Harvest", maybe Isaac was walking amongst his harvest fields...

Verse 65 "Who is that man walking through the fields to meet us?" she asked the servant. And he replied, "It is my master." So Rebekah covered her face with her veil.

True "spirituality" will always bring modesty and respect for the Lord, if we think we can talk to God as if He is our slave or servant we need to seriously make sure we are truly in right standing with God. (This is true for the Triune Godhead not just the Father)

Verse 66 Then the servant told Isaac everything he had done.

The Holy Spirit is the 'Spirit of Christ', He does nothing that Christ did not "sanction". The Word made it clear that all power, authority, rule etc was given to Christ by the Father. Only in Him can we rule, but because we are co-rulers because of His sacrifice for us. There is no rule or authority that we could have in the Kingdom of God outside of Jesus (As the seven sons of Sceva found out - Acts 19:14-17)

Verse 67 And Isaac brought Rebekah into his mother Sarah's tent, and she became his wife. He loved her deeply, and she was a special comfort to him after the death of his mother.

Here we see a beautiful picture of Christ's love for His bride, His love is seen in His intimacy with us. We see this in Ephesians 5:31-32

For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two will become one flesh. This mystery is profound, but I am talking about Christ and the church. (Ephesians 5:31-32)

We can spend all eternity digging into the love of Christ and never reach the end, for His love for us is never ending. If we only truly understood this, this would solve so much problems in individual believer's lives and also in many fellowships.

In Verse 67 we also see Rebekah comforting Isaac after the passing of his mother, pointing to Christ cleaving to His bride after the law (the things of old) has been "dealt with". Christ doesn't just love us, He relishes our love to Him, and it is a two way street relationship not a religion.

Genesis 24 below (NLT used):

A Wife for Isaac

1Abraham was now a very old man, and the Lord had blessed him in every way. 2One day Abraham said to his oldest servant, the man in charge of his household, "Take an oath by putting your hand under my thigh. 3Swear by the Lord, the God of heaven and earth, that you will not allow my son to marry one of these local Canaanite women. 4Go instead to my homeland, to my relatives, and find a wife there for my son Isaac."

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5The servant asked, "But what if I can't find a young woman who is willing to travel so far from home? Should I then take Isaac there to live among your relatives in the land you came from?"

6"No!" Abraham responded. "Be careful never to take my son there. 7For the Lord, the God of heaven, who took me from my father's house and my native land, solemnly promised to give this land to my descendants. He will send his angel ahead of you, and he will see to it that you find a wife there for my son. 8If she is unwilling to come back with you, then you are free from this oath of mine. But under no circumstances are you to take my son there."

9So the servant took an oath by putting his hand under the thigh of his master, Abraham. He swore to follow Abraham's instructions. 10Then he loaded ten of Abraham's camels with all kinds of expensive gifts from his master, and he traveled to distant Aram-naharaim. There he went to the town where Abraham's brother Nahor had settled. 11He made the camels kneel beside a well just outside the town. It was evening, and the women were coming out to draw water.

12"O Lord, God of my master, Abraham," he prayed. "Please give me success today, and show unfailing love to my master, Abraham. 13See, I am standing here beside this spring, and the young women of the town are coming out to draw water. 14This is my request. I will ask one of them, 'Please give me a drink from your jug.' If she says, 'Yes, have a drink, and I will water your camels, too!'—let her be the one you have selected as Isaac's wife. This is how I will know that you have shown unfailing love to my master."

15Before he had finished praying, he saw a young woman named Rebekah coming out with her water jug on her shoulder. She was the daughter of Bethuel, who was the son of Abraham's brother Nahor and his wife, Milcah.

16Rebekah was very beautiful and old enough to be married, but she was still a virgin. She went down to the spring, filled her jug, and came up again. 17Running over to her, the servant said, "Please give me a little drink of water from your jug."

18"Yes, my lord," she answered, "have a drink." And she quickly lowered her jug from her shoulder and gave him a drink. 19When she had given him a drink, she said, "I'll draw water for your camels, too, until they have had enough to drink." 20So she quickly emptied her jug into the watering trough and ran back to the well to draw water for all his camels.

21The servant watched her in silence, wondering whether or not the Lord had given him success in his mission.

22Then at last, when the camels had finished drinking, he took out a gold ring for her nose and two large gold bracelets for her wrists.

23"Whose daughter are you?" he asked. "And please tell me, would your father have any room to put us up for the night?"

24"I am the daughter of Bethuel," she replied. "My grandparents are Nahor and Milcah. 25Yes, we have plenty of straw and feed for the camels, and we have room for guests."

26The man bowed low and worshiped the Lord. 27"Praise the Lord, the God of my master, Abraham," he said. "The Lord has shown unfailing love and faithfulness to my master, for he has led me straight to my master's relatives."

28The young woman ran home to tell her family everything that had happened. 29Now Rebekah had a brother named Laban, who ran out to meet the man at the spring. 30He had seen the nose-ring and the bracelets on his sister's wrists, and had heard Rebekah tell what the man had said. So he rushed out to the spring, where the man was still standing beside his camels. 31Laban said to him, "Come and stay with us, you who are blessed by the Lord! Why are you standing here outside the town when I have a room all ready for you and a place prepared for the camels?"

32So the man went home with Laban, and Laban unloaded the camels, gave him straw for their bedding, fed them, and provided water for the man and the camel drivers to wash their feet. 33Then food was served. But Abraham's servant said, "I don't want to eat until I have told you why I have come."

"All right," Laban said, "tell us."

34"I am Abraham's servant," he explained. 35"And the Lord has greatly blessed my master; he has become a wealthy man. The Lord has given him flocks of sheep and goats, herds of cattle, a fortune in silver and gold, and many male and female servants and camels and donkeys.

36"When Sarah, my master's wife, was very old, she gave birth to my master's son, and my master has given him everything he owns. 37And my master made me take an oath. He said, 'Do not allow my son to marry one of these local Canaanite women. 38Go instead to my father's house, to my relatives, and find a wife there for my son.'

39"But I said to my master, 'What if I can't find a young woman who is willing to go back with me?' 40He responded, 'The Lord, in whose presence I have lived, will send his angel with you and will make your mission successful. Yes, you must find a wife for my son from among my relatives, from my father's family. 41Then you will have fulfilled your obligation. But if you go to my relatives and they refuse to let her go with you, you will be free from my oath.'

42"So today when I came to the spring, I prayed this prayer: 'O Lord, God of my master, Abraham, please give me success on this mission. 43See, I am standing here beside this spring. This is my request. When a young woman comes to draw water, I will say to her, "Please give me a little drink of water from your jug." 44If she says, "Yes, have a drink, and I will draw water for your camels, too," let her be the one you have selected to be the wife of my master's son.'

45"Before I had finished praying in my heart, I saw Rebekah coming out with her water jug on her shoulder. She went down to the spring and drew water. So I said to her, 'Please give me a drink.' 46She quickly lowered her jug

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from her shoulder and said, 'Yes, have a drink, and I will water your camels, too!' So I drank, and then she watered the camels.

47"Then I asked, 'Whose daughter are you?' She replied, 'I am the daughter of Bethuel, and my grandparents are Nahor and Milcah.' So I put the ring on her nose, and the bracelets on her wrists.

48"Then I bowed low and worshiped the Lord. I praised the Lord, the God of my master, Abraham, because he had led me straight to my master's niece to be his son's wife. 49So tell me—will you or won't you show unfailing love and faithfulness to my master? Please tell me yes or no, and then I'll know what to do next."

50Then Laban and Bethuel replied, "The Lord has obviously brought you here, so there is nothing we can say.

51Here is Rebekah; take her and go. Yes, let her be the wife of your master's son, as the Lord has directed."

52When Abraham's servant heard their answer, he bowed down to the ground and worshiped the Lord. 53Then he brought out silver and gold jewelry and clothing and presented them to Rebekah. He also gave expensive presents to her brother and mother. 54Then they ate their meal, and the servant and the men with him stayed there overnight.

But early the next morning, Abraham's servant said, "Send me back to my master."

55"But we want Rebekah to stay with us at least ten days," her brother and mother said. "Then she can go."

56But he said, "Don't delay me. The Lord has made my mission successful; now send me back so I can return to my master."

57"Well," they said, "we'll call Rebekah and ask her what she thinks." 58So they called Rebekah. "Are you willing to go with this man?" they asked her.

And she replied, "Yes, I will go."

59So they said good-bye to Rebekah and sent her away with Abraham's servant and his men. The woman who had been Rebekah's childhood nurse went along with her. 60They gave her this blessing as she parted:

"Our sister, may you become
the mother of many millions!

May your descendants be strong
and conquer the cities of their enemies."

61Then Rebekah and her servant girls mounted the camels and followed the man. So Abraham's servant took Rebekah and went on his way.

62Meanwhile, Isaac, whose home was in the Negev, had returned from Beer-lahai-roi. 63One evening as he was walking and meditating in the fields, he looked up and saw the camels coming. 64When Rebekah looked up and saw Isaac, she quickly dismounted from her camel. 65"Who is that man walking through the fields to meet us?" she asked the servant.

And he replied, "It is my master." So Rebekah covered her face with her veil. 66Then the servant told Isaac everything he had done.

67And Isaac brought Rebekah into his mother Sarah's tent, and she became his wife. He loved her deeply, and she was a special comfort to him after the death of his mother.

Love in Christ

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