

SEARCHING THE SCRIPTURES

AN OVERVIEW OF THE OLD TESTAMENT

JN. 5:39



Jn. 5:39 “**Search the scriptures....they are they which testify of me.**”

Jn 8:56 Your father **Abraham rejoiced to see my day: and he saw it**, and was glad.

Jn 5:46 For had ye believed Moses, ye would have believed me: for **he wrote of me.**

Genesis 24:1-67

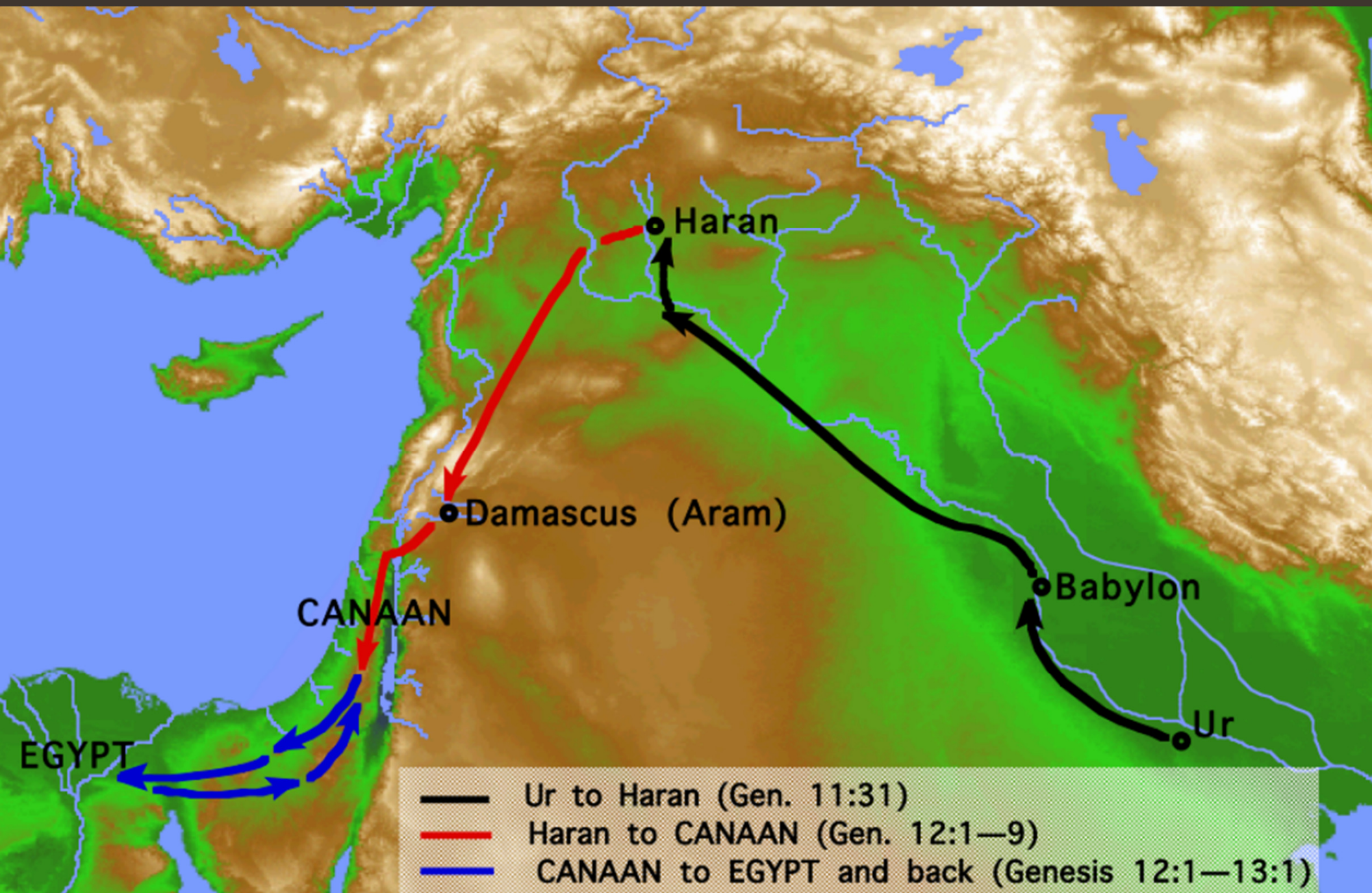
We began in Genesis with the beginnings of the human race.

I. THE PRIMEVAL HISTORY: BEGINNINGS OF THE HUMAN RACE, 1:1—11:32

II. PATRIARCHAL HISTORY: BEGINNINGS OF THE HEBREW RACE, 12:1—50:26

A. The Progenitor: Abraham, 12:1—25:11

1. The Path of Faith, 12:1-20
2. The Price of Faith, 13:1-18
3. The Power of Faith, 14:1-24
4. The Pledge of Faith, 15:1-21
5. The Pawning of Faith, 16:1-16
6. The Potential of Faith, 17:1-27
7. The Perplexing of Faith, 18:1-33
8. The Position of Faith, 19:1-38
9. The Perils of Faith, 20:1-18
10. The Prize of Faith, 21:1-34
11. The Proof of Faith, 22:1-24
12. The Patience of Faith, 23:1-20
 - a. The Death of Sarah, 23:1-2
 - b. The Debate over the Sepulchre, 23:3-18
 - c. The Development and Security, 23:19-20



Tonight, we will observe “*the Precautions of Faith.*” The length of the chapter must indicate its importance to God that we observe it closely.

- ❖ In chapter 24, consider the typology represented:
 - Isaac is a type of the Son, the Lord Jesus;
 - Eliezer (“My God helps”) is a type of the Holy Ghost;

Gen. 15:2 And Abram said, Lord GOD, what wilt thou give me, seeing I go childless, and **the steward of my house is this Eliezer** of Damascus?

- Rebekah is a type of the Virgin Bride of Christ.

13. The Precautions of Faith, 24:1-67

- ❖ As we begin chapter 24, consider the precaution of faith being made by several people:
 - Abraham is cautious in finding the right bride for Isaac;
 - Eliezer is cautious in fulfilling his responsibility to find a bride for Abraham's sake;
 - Rebekah is the least cautious of them all.

a. The Stewardship Principle of Procuring a
Bride, 24:1-9

Gen. 24:1 And Abraham was old, *and* well stricken in age: and the LORD had blessed Abraham in all things.

2 And Abraham said unto his eldest **servant of his house**, that ruled over all that he had, Put, I pray thee, thy hand under my thigh:

3 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:

4 But thou shalt go unto my country, and to my kindred, and take a wife unto my son Isaac.

5 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?

6 And Abraham said unto him, Beware thou that thou bring not my son thither again.

7 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, and **thou shalt take a wife unto my son from thence.**

8 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.

9 And **the servant** put his hand under the thigh of Abraham his master, and sware to him concerning that matter.

- ❖ Sarah has died and Abraham is a very old man (v. 1,) about 140 years old. Isaac is 40 years old and will marry Rebekah (see Gen. 25:20.)
- ❖ The servant (Eliezer) is sent by Abraham to get a bride for Isaac, “his only son,” and swears allegiance under submission to the Father’s power (v. 2.)

Mt. 28:18 And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, **All power** is given unto me in heaven and in earth.

Rom. 15:19 Through mighty signs and wonders, **by the power of the Spirit of God**; so that from Jerusalem, and round about unto Illyricum, I have fully preached the gospel of Christ.

20 Yea, so have I strived to preach the gospel, not where Christ was named, lest I should build upon another man's foundation:

Luke 24:49 And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, **until ye be endued with power from on high.**

Acts 1:8 But **ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you**: and **ye shall be witnesses unto me** both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

- ❖ The qualifications (vs. 3-4) for the bride include “separation,” = no “**daughters of the Canaanites.**”

2 Cor. 6:14 **Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers:** for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?

- ❖ The general acceptance of heathen, worldly standards should not influence believers to be satisfied with the status quo of the world for their children – like public school education!

❖ A “precautious faith” is listed in 24:5:

5 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?

❖ The servant acknowledges the perspective of free will – “...not willing...” and possible rejection – “...not be willing **to follow me...**”

❖ The servant was to fulfill his purpose and trust God for success (vs. 6-7.)

- ❖ If he was rejected, then he was free from the obligation (v. 8.)
- ❖ The servant submitted to the terms (v.9.)

b. The Spiritual Preparation for Procuring a Bride,
24:10

- ❖ The servant received the instructions and began his mission to procure a bride for the son.

(1) The Path of Faith, 24:10

Gen. 24:10 And the servant took ten camels of the 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.



Abraham's Servant Finds Isaac a Wife



- ❖ The number “ten” is related to Gentiles, indicating that Rebekah could be considered a Gentile.
- ❖ Eliezer travelled about 400 miles to find a bride for Isaac.
- ❖ Believers need to put forth the effort to be a faithful witness.

Luke 14:23 And the lord said unto the servant, Go out into the highways and hedges, and **compel them to come in, that my house may be filled.**

❖ Faithful obedience begins by going:

Psa. 126:5 They **that sow in tears shall reap in joy.**

6 **He that goeth forth** and weepeth, bearing precious seed, **shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves *with him.***

(2) The Prayer of Faith, 24:11-14

Gen. 24:11 And he made his camels to kneel down without the city by a well of water at the time of the evening, *even* the time that women go out to draw *water*.

12 And he said, O LORD God of **my master** Abraham, I pray thee, send me good speed this day, and shew kindness unto my master Abraham.

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

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 shewed kindness unto **my master**.

❖ The power of prayer is too often an advantage for believers that is grossly neglected.

1 Jn. 5:14 And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us:

Jas. 5:16b “...The **effectual fervent prayer of a righteous** man availeth much.”

Jer. 33:3 **Call unto me, and I will answer thee**, and shew thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not.

Summary

- ❖ This lengthy chapter is a beautiful picture of what a church should be focused upon today.
- ❖ Our Father wants us to go out into the hedges, byways, and highways and compel all mankind to come into His house.
- ❖ We are to go, but go in His power, with a humble attitude of dependence upon His authority, by His grace, and for His glory.

Conclusion

Eph. 6:18 Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;
19 And for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel,
20 For which I am an ambassador in bonds: that therein I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.