

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

- a. The Stewardship Principle of Procuring a Bride,
24:1-9
- b. The Spiritual Preparation for Procuring a Bride,
24:10
 - (1) The Path of Faith, 24:10
 - (2) The Prayer of Faith, 24:11-14
 - (3) The Provisions by Faith, 24:15-21
 - (4) The Presentation by Faith, 24:22-27

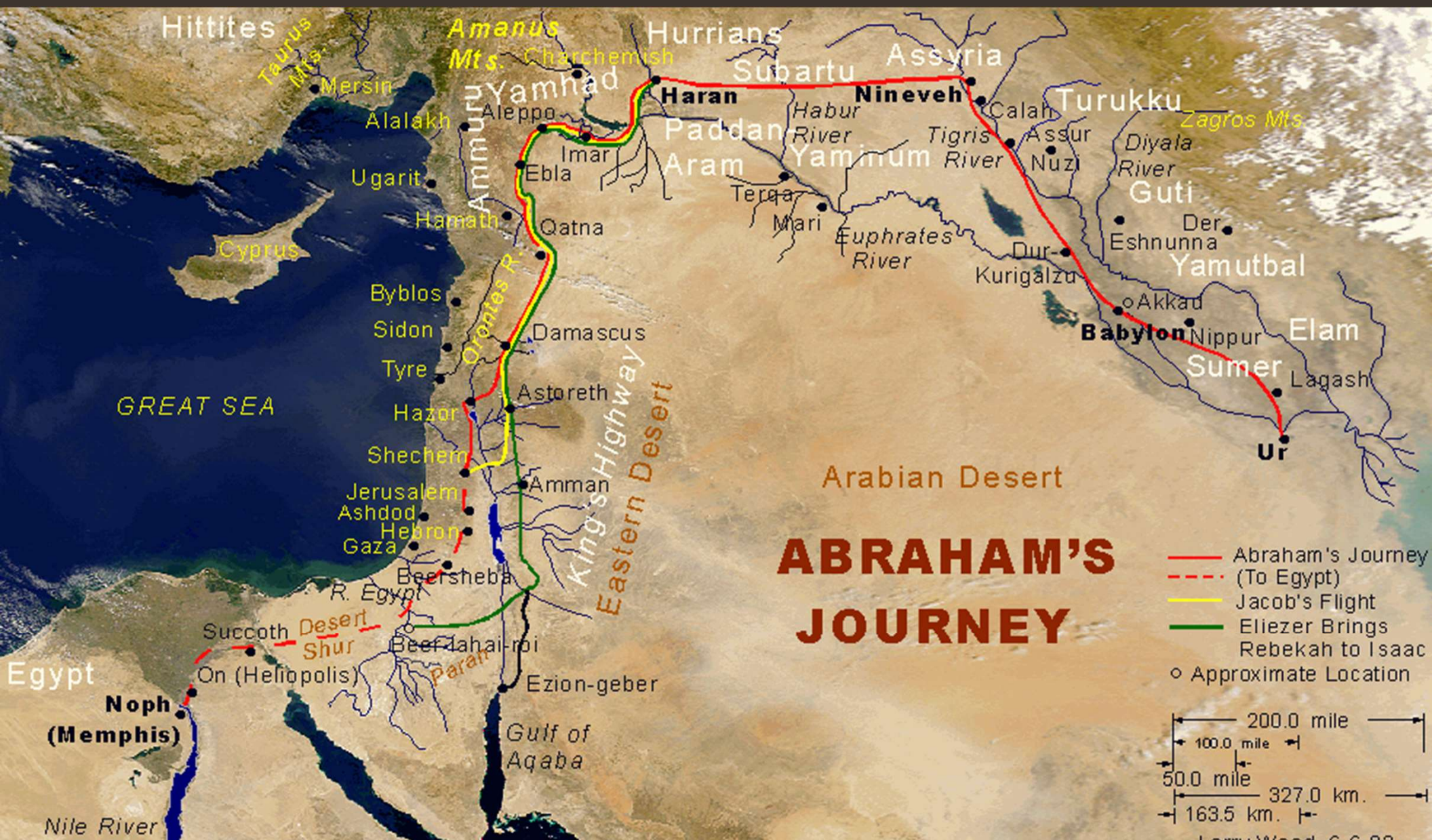
❖ Tonight, we will continue to observe “*the Precautions of Faith*” in Gen. 24. The length of the chapter must indicate its importance to God and that we should observe it closely. The incident is a wonderful picture of salvation, the bride’s preparation for the Groom.

❖ In chapter 24, we considered the typology represented:

- Isaac is a type of the Son, the Lord Jesus;
- Eliezer (“My God helps”) is a type of the Holy Ghost filled servant;

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?

- The chapter does not give the name of “the servant” as all of the focus is upon the primary account of the son and his bride, Isaac and Rebekah. We know from Gen. 15:2 that Abraham’s servant is Eliezer.
- This chapter does not record his name as to make the point that as the Holy Spirit works through the believers today, the emphasis is upon the Son of God and reaching souls that will constitute His bride in the near future. Like Eliezer, all believers are servants to the Lord Jesus Christ and our focus should be to please Him.
- Rebekah is a type of the Virgin Bride of Christ.



Abraham's Servant Finds Isaac a Wife



We continue to observe how our passage reveals the way God answers the prayer of “the servant.” When a believer is engaged in faithful service, doing the will of God, the principle of God’s provisions to whom He calls is experienced.

❖ As we begin the next section, 24:22-27, we observe the continuation of God’s answer to the servant’s prayer.

(5) The Profession of Faith, 24:28-31

Gen. 24:28 And the damsel ran, and told *them of* her mother's house these things.

29 And Rebekah had a brother, and his name *was* Laban: and Laban ran out unto the man, unto the well.

30 And it came to pass, **when he saw the earring and bracelets** upon his sister's hands, and when he heard the words of Rebekah his sister, saying, Thus spake the man unto me; that he came unto the man; and, behold, he stood by the camels at the well.

31 And he said, Come in, thou blessed of the LORD; wherefore standest thou without? for I have prepared the house, and room for the camels.

- ❖ Rebekah reflects the general reaction of a new believer → the desire to tell others.
- ❖ Rebekah's brother, Laban, was first attracted to what he saw, then responded to what he heard.
- ❖ Laban and Jacob had a few things in common:

Gen. 45:27 And they told him all the words of Joseph, which he had said unto them: and **when he saw the wagons** which Joseph had sent to carry him, **the spirit of Jacob their father revived:**

❖ Carnal motivations are to be resisted within a congregation.

Jas. 2:1 My brethren, have not the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, *the Lord* of glory, with respect of persons.

2 For if there come unto your assembly a man with a gold ring, in goodly apparel, and there come in also a poor man in vile raiment;

3 And ye have respect to him that weareth the gay clothing, and say unto him, Sit thou here in a good place; and say to the poor, Stand thou there, or sit here under my footstool:

4 Are ye not then partial in yourselves, and are become judges of evil thoughts?

(6) The Projection of Faith, 24:32-49

Gen. 24:32 And the man came into the house: and he 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. 33 And there was set *meat* before him to eat: but he said, **I will not eat, until I have told mine errand.** And he said, Speak on.

34 And he said, **I am Abraham's servant.**

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.

36 And Sarah **my master's** wife bare a **son to my master** when she was old: and unto him hath **he given all that he hath.**

37 And **my master** made me swear, saying, Thou shalt not take a wife to **my son** of the daughters of the Canaanites, in whose land I dwell:

38 But thou shalt go unto my father's house, and to my kindred, and take a wife unto **my son**.

39 And I said unto **my master**, Peradventure the woman will not follow me.

40 And he said unto me, The LORD, before whom I walk, will send his angel with thee, and prosper thy way; and thou shalt take a wife for my son of my kindred, and of my father's house:

41 Then shalt thou be clear from *this* my oath, when thou comest to my kindred; and if they give not thee *one*, thou shalt be clear from my oath.

42 And I came this day unto the well, and said, O LORD God of **my master** Abraham, if now thou do prosper my way which I go:

43 Behold, I stand by the well of water; and it shall come to pass, that when **the virgin** cometh forth to draw *water*, and I say to her, Give me, I pray thee, a little water of thy pitcher to drink;

44 And she say to me, Both drink thou, and I will also draw for thy camels: *let the same be* the woman whom the LORD hath appointed out for **my master's** son.

45 **And before I had done speaking in mine heart**, behold, Rebekah came forth with her pitcher on her shoulder; and she went down unto the well, and drew *water*: and I said unto her, Let me drink, I pray thee.

46 And she made haste, and let down her pitcher from her *shoulder*, and said, Drink, and I will give thy camels drink also: so I drank, and she made the camels drink also.

47 And I asked her, and said, Whose daughter *art* thou? And she said, The daughter of Bethuel, Nahor's son, whom Milcah bare unto him: and I put the earring upon her face, and the bracelets upon her hands.

48 And **I bowed down my head, and worshipped the LORD, and blessed the LORD God of my master Abraham, which had led me in the right way** to take my master's brother's daughter unto his son.

49 And now if ye will deal kindly and truly with my master, tell me: and if not, tell me; that I may turn to the right hand, or to the left.

❖ In verse 32, other men are mentioned which magnifies the amount of water that Rebekah provided.

- ❖ The servant gives a testimony of his mission, his prayer, and the answer to the prayer.
- ❖ The urgency of the mission smothered the natural appetite for a meal.

Jn. 4:31 In the mean while his disciples prayed him, saying, Master, eat.

32 But he said unto them, **I have meat to eat that ye know not of.**

33 Therefore said the disciples one to another, Hath any man brought him *ought* to eat?

34 Jesus saith unto them, **My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work.**

❖ Eliezer emphasizes his role in v. 34:

34 And he said, **I am Abraham's servant.**

❖ Believers should have the same attitude about being a servant to Christ:

Col. 3:24 Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for **ye serve the Lord Christ.**

Mt. 4:10 Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, **Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.**

Rom. 1:1 **Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ**, called *to be* an apostle, separated unto the gospel of God,

Phil. 1:1 **Paul and Timotheus, the servants of Jesus Christ**, to all the saints in Christ Jesus which are at Philippi, with the bishops and deacons:

Jas. 1:1 **James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ**, to the twelve tribes which are scattered abroad, greeting.

2 Pet. 1:1 **Simon Peter, a servant and an apostle of Jesus Christ**, to them that have obtained like precious faith with us through the righteousness of God and our Saviour Jesus Christ:

Jude 1:1 **Jude, the servant of Jesus Christ**, and brother of James, to them that are sanctified by God the Father, and preserved in Jesus Christ, *and* called:

❖ Duty, over selfish desire, is the foremost concern of a servant in pleasing his Master.

Luke 17:7 But which of you, having **a servant** plowing or feeding cattle, will say unto him by and by, when he is come from the field, Go and sit down to meat?

8 And will not rather say unto him, Make ready wherewith I may sup, and gird thyself, and **serve me, till I have eaten and drunken; and afterward thou shalt eat and drink?**

9 Doth he thank that servant because he did the things that were commanded him? I trow not.

10 So likewise ye, when ye shall have done all those things which are commanded you, say, We are unprofitable servants: **we have done that which was our duty to do.**

❖ The Lord Jesus Christ was a servant to His Father:

Isa. 41:9 *Thou* whom I have taken from the ends of the earth, and called thee from the chief men thereof, and said unto thee, **Thou art my servant**; I have chosen thee, and not cast thee away.

Isa. 42:1 **Behold my servant**, whom I uphold; mine elect, **in whom my soul delighteth**; I have put my spirit upon him: he shall bring forth judgment to the Gentiles. ...

19 Who *is* blind, but **my servant**? or deaf, as my messenger *that* I sent? who *is* blind as *he that is* perfect, and blind **as the LORD'S servant**?

Isa. 52:13 **Behold, my servant** shall deal prudently, **he shall be exalted and extolled, and be very high.**

Isa. 53:11 He shall see of the travail of his soul, *and* shall be satisfied: by his knowledge shall **my righteous servant** justify many; for he shall bear their iniquities.

Jn. 8:29 And he that sent me is with me: the Father hath not left me alone; for **I do always those things that please him.**

Rom. 15:3 **For even Christ pleased not himself;** but, as it is written, The reproaches of them that reproached thee fell on me.

❖ The servant emphasizes his role in focusing upon the son:

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.

36 And Sarah **my master's** wife bare a **son to my master** when she was old: and **unto him hath he given all that he hath.**

37 And **my master** made me swear, saying, Thou shalt not take a wife to **my son** of the daughters of the Canaanites, in whose land I dwell:

38 But thou shalt go unto my father's house, and to my kindred, and take a wife unto **my son.**

❖ God's servants stay on point, witnessing about their Master's greatness:

Acts 4:13 Now **when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marvelled; and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus. ...**

31 And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and **they spake the word of God with boldness.**

Gal. 6:14 But **God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ,** by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world.

Eph. 1:20 Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and **set *him at his own right hand in the heavenly places,***

21 **Far above all** principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come:

22 And **hath put all *things* under his feet, and gave him *to be the head over all things to the church,***

❖ In v. 43, there is an allusion to Mary – (see Isa. 7:14 and Mt. 1:23, Luke 1:27) as well as to the Bride of Christ.

2 Cor. 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 servant ends his testimony glorifying God and pressing for a “decision.”

24:48 And I bowed down my head, and worshipped the LORD, and blessed the LORD God of my master Abraham, which had led me in the right way to take my master's brother's daughter unto his son.

49 And now if ye will deal kindly and truly with my master, tell me: and if not, tell me; that I may turn to the right hand, or to the left.

Summary

- ❖ In order to procure the bride, servants must do the following:
- ❖ This lengthy chapter is a beautiful picture of how a church should be focused today.
- ❖ Be submissive to the Master.
- ❖ Our Father wants us to go out into the hedges, byways, and highways and compel all mankind to come into His house.

- ❖ Be a faithful servant, showing forth the love of Christ.
- ❖ We are to go, prayerfully, with a testimony of holiness and a strong work ethic.
- ❖ Maintain a focus upon the mission at hand – winning souls by emphasizing the Gospel.
- ❖ Remember Who you represent, and do all things for His glory – 1 Cor. 10:31.
- ❖ Worship the Lord, be thankful to serve Him, and press for an answer in regard to trusting Christ by faith.

Conclusion

Isa. 6:8 Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? **Then said I, Here *am* I; send me.**

Isa. 55:10 For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater:
11 **So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void**, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper *in the thing* whereto I sent it.