

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

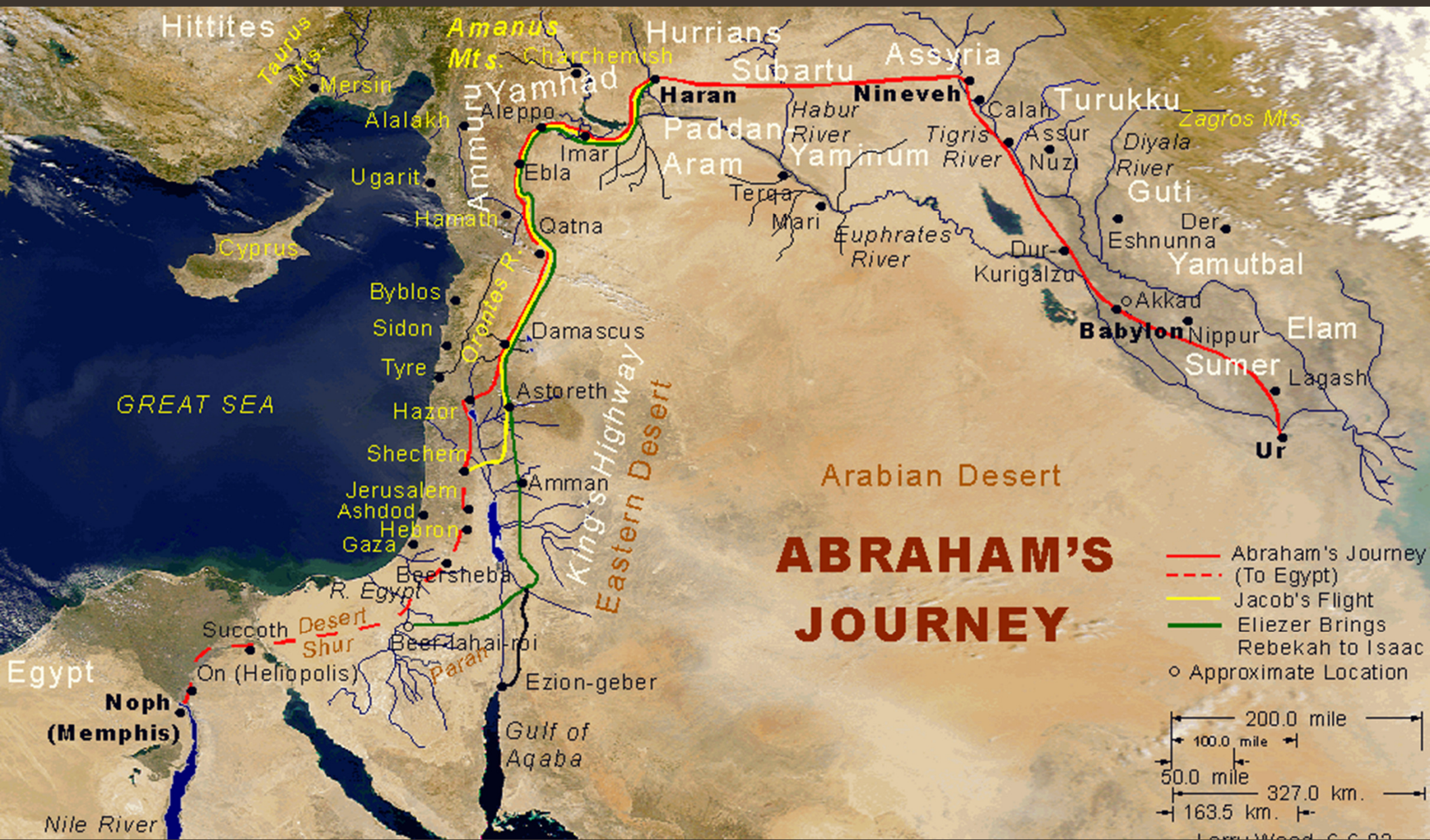
- a. The Stewardship Principle of Procuring a Bride, 24:1-9
- b. The Spiritual Preparation for Procuring a Bride, 24:10
 - (1) The Path of Faith, 24:10
 - (2) The Prayer of Faith, 24:11-14
 - (3) The Provisions by Faith, 24:15-21
 - (4) The Presentation by Faith, 24:22-27
 - (5) The Profession of Faith, 24:28-31
 - (6) The Projection of Faith, 24:32-49

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



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- ❖ We continue to observe how our passage reveals the actions of the servant:
 - ❖ He goes as commanded;
 - ❖ He continues in prayer while going, after he arrives, etc.
 - ❖ He maintains focus upon his mission, representing his master;
 - ❖ He presses for a decision, and he returns with the bride.
- ❖ As we finish the next two sections, 24:50-67, we view the typology of Christian conversion, its consummation, culmination, and continuation as is expected for a believer.

Heb. 6:9 But, **beloved, we are persuaded better things of you, and things that accompany salvation,** though we thus speak.

❖ After salvation, a believer should grow in faith:

2 Pet. 3:18 But **grow in grace, and *in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.*** To him *be* glory both now and for ever. Amen.

(7) The Proceeding of Faith, 24:50-58

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

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.

52 And it came to pass, that, when Abraham's servant heard their words, **he worshipped the LORD**, *bowing himself* to the earth.

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.**

54 And they did eat and drink, he and the men that *were* with him, and tarried all night; and they rose up in the morning, and he said, Send me away unto my master.

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.

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**.

57 And they said, We will call the damsel, and enquire at her mouth.

58 And they called Rebekah, and said unto her, Wilt thou go with this man? And she said, **I will go**.

- ❖ The mission is a success – Rebekah’s family acknowledges her special standing as well as God’s will being done, vs. 50-51.
- ❖ The servant’s first reaction is to worship the Lord, v. 52.
- ❖ The servant adorned the bride with gifts, v. 53:

Isa. 61:10 I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for **he hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, he hath covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decketh *himself* with ornaments, and as a bride adorneth *herself* with her jewels.**

1 Tim. 2:9 In like manner also, that **women adorn themselves** in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array;

1 Pet. 3:3 **Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair**, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel; ...

5 For after this manner in the old time **the holy women also, who trusted in God, adorned themselves**, being in subjection unto their own husbands:

Rev. 21:2 And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, **prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.**

❖ The servant made haste to fulfill the marriage of the bride with the master's son, vs. 54-56.

❖ Rebekah walks by faith, not by sight, vs. 57-58.

2 Cor. 5:7 (For **we walk by faith, not by sight:**)

1 Pet. 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:

9 Receiving **the end of your faith, *even* the salvation of your souls.**

(8) The Production of Faith, 24:59-67

Gen. 24:59 And **they sent away Rebekah** their sister, and her nurse, and Abraham's servant, and his men.

60 And they blessed Rebekah, and said unto her, Thou *art* our sister, be thou *the mother* of thousands of millions, and let thy seed possess the gate of those which hate them.

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**.

62 And Isaac came from the way of the well Lahairoi; for he dwelt in the south country.

63 And Isaac went out to meditate **in the field at the eventide**: and he lifted up his eyes, and saw, and, behold, the camels *were* coming.

64 And Rebekah lifted up her eyes, and when she saw Isaac, she lighted off the camel.

65 For she *had* said unto the servant, What man *is* this that walketh in the field to meet us? And the servant *had* said, It *is* **my master**: therefore **she took a veil, and covered herself**.

66 And the servant told Isaac all things that he had done.

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*.

❖ Rebekah is “sent” away, v. 59, = a picture of the believer’s role in separation.

2 Cor. 6:17 Wherefore **come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord**, and touch not the unclean *thing*; and I will receive you,

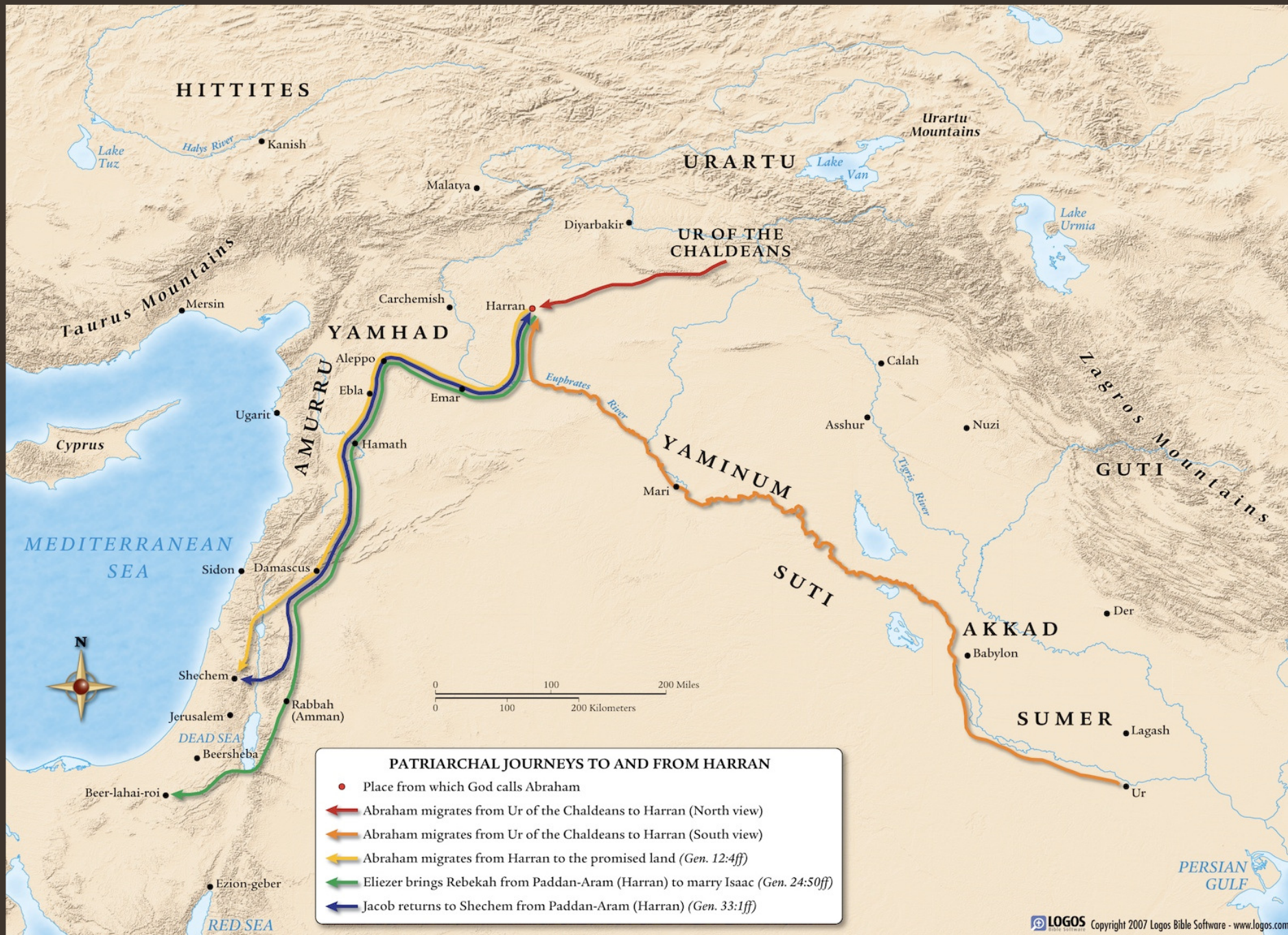
❖ The “Bride” is submissive to the Holy Spirit’s leadership (Eliezer,) vs. 60-61.

❖ Isaac, living “in the south country,” met them at “well Lahairoi,” v. 62.

Gen. 16:13 And she called the name of the LORD that spake unto her, **Thou God seest me**: for she said, Have I also here looked after him that seeth me?

14 Wherefore the well was called Beerlahairoi; behold, *it is* between Kadesh and Bered.





❖ The “Groom” (the Son) is in the field (world) at eventide (Jn. 9:4.)

Jn. 9:4 I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: **the night cometh, when no man can work.**

❖ No mention is made of the journey. The bride’s journey is a picture of simply following the leadership of the servant.

Rom. 8:14 For as many as are **led by the Spirit of God,** they **are the sons of God.**

1 Thess. 2:10 Ye *are* witnesses, and God *also*, how holily and justly and unblameably we behaved ourselves among you that believe:

11 As ye know how we exhorted and comforted and charged every one of you, as a father *doth* his children,

12 That ye would **walk worthy of God**, who hath called you unto his kingdom and glory.

Eph. 5:1 Be ye therefore **followers of God**, as dear children;

2 And **walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us**, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour.

- ❖ Israel's (Sarah) relationship is over and a new era begins with (Rebekah) the "Bride = Church Age."
- ❖ The Bride is "covered" = modesty and separation for her "marriage."

Eph. 5:27 That he might present it to himself a glorious church, **not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.**

Rev. 19:7 Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for **the marriage of the Lamb is come**, and his wife hath made herself ready.

8 And to her was granted that she should be **arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints.**

9 And he saith unto me, Write, **Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb.** And he saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God.

- ❖ Isaac's father and son both practiced polygamy, but Isaac only has one bride, similar to the Lord Jesus having only one Bride.
- ❖ The "servant" (Eliezer) reported to the Son (v. 66) like the Apostle Paul reporting to the church in Antioch.
- ❖ When Isaac took Rebekah into his mother's tent, it is a picture of Christ's bride replacing Israel, a dispensational change in God's procedural relationship with believers.

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 regarding trusting Christ by faith.

Conclusion

Jn. 20:21 Then said Jesus to them again, Peace *be* unto you: **as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you.**

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

19 **Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:**

20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, *even* unto the end of the world. Amen.

Mark 16:15 And he said unto them, **Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.**

Luke 24:47 And that **repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.**