

## *Matriarchs of the Promise*

*Genesis 23-24*

*"Rebeka is a type of the church. One commentator says, 'she was thought of before she knew it and was chosen when she did not know of the existence of her bridegroom.' So it has been with us for we were chosen in Christ 'before the foundation of the world (Eph. 1:4).' Isaac passed through his experience of sacrifice and resurrection before Rebekah knew him. The faithful servant left home to find her when she was still ignorant of Isaac's existence. And when the servant found her, he initiated a contact and then induced her to come with him, not for himself, but for his absent master. Thus has the Holy Spirit sought us and drawn us to Jesus. As we travel through this life, he prepares us for when we will see Jesus face to face, much as the old servant of Abraham undoubtedly used the return trip to Beersheba to prepare Rebeka to love and live with Isaac. If the Holy Spirit is wooing you now, may your response be as quick and positive as that of this girl who lived so long ago. 'Will you go with this man?' 'I will go,' she answered. May you respond as Rebekah did and start out joyfully for heaven, knowing that someday, at the end of our life journey, you - 'without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless (Eph. 5:27)- will meet Jesus face to face. Boice*

- I. Sarah was the first matriarch of the promise. She was chosen by God because of her gentle and quiet spirit and for her submissive attitude toward her husband Abraham. God honored her faith and obedience by blessing her with the privilege of raising a godly son to further the line of Christ. He not only changed her name, but he also brought Sarah by name into the covenant promise. She had many faults, yet there was an inner beauty about her that fit perfectly into the type of wife and mother God wanted her to be. Like Sarah, we too have been chosen by God, as imperfect in living our faith as we are, to fulfill His specific and very important will for our lives. It's important that we know and value whatever that is, strictly because it is a privilege to do so.

Gen. 23  
Isaiah 51:1-2  
Heb. 11:11  
1 Pe. 3:3-6

**1 Peter 3:3-6** *Your beauty should not come from outward adornment, such as elaborate hairstyles and the wearing of gold jewelry or fine clothes. 4 Rather, it should be that of your inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God's sight. 5 For this is the way the holy women of the past who put their hope in God used to adorn themselves. They submitted themselves to their own husbands, 6 like Sarah, who obeyed Abraham and called him her lord. You are her daughters if you do what is right and do not give way to fear.*

- II. God is very proactive in fulfilling his will. In fact, Jesus tells us that we are to pray for God's will to be done on earth as it is in heaven (**Matt. 6:10**). We are also *told that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us. 15 And if we know that he hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests that we have asked of him (1 Jn. 5:14-15)*. Our responsibility is to test and discern God's good, pleasing, and perfect will in all matters pertaining to life and godliness (**Rom. 12:1-2**). That can only be accomplished through submission and obedience to his Lordship over our lives. Abraham and his servant Eliezer offer a perfect example of testing and discerning God's will concerning a wife for Isaac. They were godly men who wanted nothing more than what God wanted. They never wavered or doubted, instead they let God work out the details to the amazement and delight of all involved.

Gen. 24:1-27

Prov. 3:5-6

**Psalm 37:23** *The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord: and he delighteth in his way.*

*"What was most astonishing is that Rebekah volunteered to water his ten camels! To grasp what a wonder this was, we must understand that the ancient well was a large, deep hole in the earth with steps leading down to the spring water - so that each drawing of water required substantial effort. And more, a camel typically would drink about twenty-five gallons of water, and an ancient water jar held about three gallons of water. This means the Rebekah made between eighty to one hundred descents into the well. As to the amount of time she gave to this, a camel takes about ten minutes to drink its full complement of water. Rebekah's labors filled one and one half to two sweaty hours!" Hughes*

- III. Rebekah was the second matriarch of the promise. She too was carefully chosen by God to be the kind of wife that would not only bless Isaac but be a good mother to their son Jacob. Her beauty is emphasized, but almost as a side note. What stood out most, knowing that God looks at the heart (1 Sam. 16:7), was her character. Her kindness, humility, and willingness to please and serve Abraham's servant convinced him that she was the one picked by God to be Isaac's wife. We see in this wonderful account the joy of being in God's will as he providentially works in our lives to bless us and conform us into the likeness of His precious Son Jesus Christ. Rebekah, without hesitation, responded and let God take her by the hand onto His path righteousness and she didn't look back. There is not greater place to be than in God's will.

Gen. 24:28-66

*In all this, we see the coming together of Isaac and Rebekah as a remarkable picture of the coming together of Jesus and His people.*

*A father desired a bride for his son.*

*A son was accounted as dead and raised from the dead.*

*A nameless servant was sent forth to get a bride for the son.*

*The servant's name was actually Eliezer, meaning "God of help" or "helper."*

*The lovely bride was divinely met, chosen, and called, and then lavished with gifts.*

*She was entrusted to the care of the servant until she met her bridegroom. Guzik*

# Abraham's Servant Finds Isaac a Wife

