

Turn in your Bibles tonight to Genesis Chapter 24. Last week we finished up our study of Job, and we do pray that it was as much a blessing to you as much as it was for us in teaching through the book. Matthew, Tim, and I wanted to return to Genesis and continue our study through the patriarchs of the Jewish nation. We called our first study of these men, "The God of Abraham!"



Abraham was the one that God called out from Ur and made the promise to him that a great nation, a great people would come from his lineage. As we studied, we saw this promise progress, as we followed Abraham's life, and Sarah's for that matter. We watched how their faith grew. Not perfectly, but none the less, it grew.

For a nation to come from Abraham and Sarah, what did they need? A son! There was a problem though wasn't there? Abraham and Sarah were old and could not have children. But God, stepped in and fulfilled his promise and Sarah was able to conceive and she gave birth to the promised son, Isaac.

As we look at this picture, we see something that is about to take place in the lives of Abraham and Isaac.



This picture is self-explanatory. This is a picture of a baton pass. Tonight, as we look at Chapter 24 of Genesis, we see the beginning of the baton pass from Abraham to Isaac in the keeping of the promise of God to make Abraham the father of a great nation. Soon, through Isaac, the continuation of this promise of this nation to grow so that the Messiah, the Savior of the world, Jesus Christ will be born.

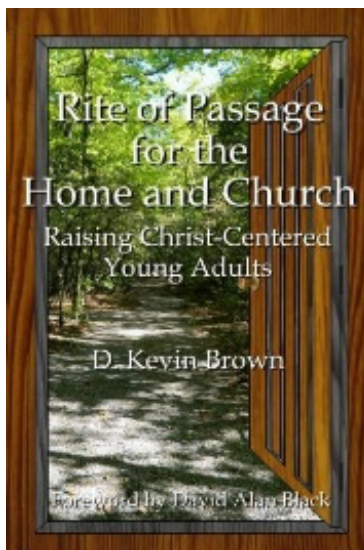
As you know, baton passing, is very important here at Mount Pleasant. A passion was burned into Pastor Kevin's heart in 2008 to begin what is called Rite of Passage. A passion to include our children and our young adults in the body life of the church. A passion to not separate out the children from our services but to let them grow up and see mommy and daddy worshipping as they sing. To have them under the preaching of the Word of God by the man of God that God has called to teach his Word.

It was in 2009 as Pastor Kevin and I were in Ethiopia together that we were able to share our hearts and it was this passion and this vision that lead my family here in 2010.

Pastor Kevin and I, as your two Pastor/Elders, understand that there is no full proof method that assures any of our children will become true followers of Jesus Christ and even if they profess Jesus Christ as their Lord, that once they enter Middle School, High School, or College and the walking away process begins because of the Marxist, Liberal Progressive, Anti Jesus Christ indoctrination begins to take place in their mind. If they do walk away, that only shows that they were never truly saved to begin with.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I do not say this with animosity but with a heavy heart. Culture is not neutral, our Education system is not neutral, our Government is not neutral, everything that comes across our TV's, streaming devices, and phones are not neutral. There is a Worldview being propagated to our young people that is anti-Jesus, anti-truth, and anti-purity.

So, every year we go through what Pastor Kevin terms, a Jesus season, for every 12 to 18 year old to participate in Rite of Passage. Pastor Kevin even wrote a book about it and here is a picture of the book.



In this book it details the 20 questions that each young adult is to search the Scriptures, the Bible, for the answers to questions like these two, which are the most important of the 20. Because from these everything else flows.

- 1. How does a person become a Christian (a born again, believer and follower of Christ)?***
- 2. Describe your relationship with Christ. Indicate what you are doing to grow in your knowledge and understanding of Christ. Indicate if you have a daily time of personal prayer time and Bible study. In other words, when, where and how do you spend time with the Lord?***

That is a very important place to start. You mean we as parents should expect our children to read, study the Word of God, and pray of those who profess to know Jesus Christ as their Lord. If they don't profess Jesus

Christ as their Lord, we should have them reading the Bible as well because God's Word is supernatural, and it can lead them to repentance and salvation.



Over a couple of months young adults like this fine-looking bunch go through these questions and then we celebrate with them, and the parent take a real track baton and places it in their hand and passes it to them. It is your faith my son, my daughter, as we see here with the Strickland family.



Run, my son! Run, my daughter! Run for the glory of the name of Jesus!!



Now, as you see our new image, we begin to see this baton passing from Abraham and Isaac and we begin our new study, God of our Fathers! Isaac and Jacob.

In Genesis 24 there are 67 verses that describe a marriage. Are we going to read all 67 verses? No, thankfully for time's sake over half the chapter is repetitive and since it is a narrative we can describe what is going on without reading and you can go back and read it later.

So, let's begin. Genesis Chapter 24 and we will read verses 1 through 9.

Genesis 24:1-9

¹ Now Abraham was old, well advanced in years. And the Lord had blessed Abraham in all things. ² And Abraham said to his servant, the oldest of his household, who had charge of all that he had, "Put your hand under my thigh, ³ that I may make you swear by the Lord, the God of heaven and God of the earth, that you will not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, among whom I dwell, ⁴ but will go to my country and to my kindred, and take a wife for my son Isaac." ⁵ The servant said to him, "Perhaps the woman may not be willing to follow me to this land. Must I then take your son back to the land from which you came?" ⁶ Abraham said to him, "See to it that you do not take my son back there. ⁷ The Lord, the God of heaven, who took me from my father's house and from the land of my kindred, and who spoke to me and swore to me, 'To your offspring I will give this land,' he will send his angel before you, and you shall take a wife for my son from there. ⁸ But if the woman is not willing to follow you, then you will be free from this oath of mine; only you must not take my son back there." ⁹ So the servant put his hand under the thigh of Abraham his master and swore to him concerning this matter.

At this time Abraham is 140 years old and as we go through this portion of Scripture he will live another 35 years. Abraham knows that really at anytime he may die and his son, Isaac, is not married yet. For the promise of a great nation of descendants to come from Abraham, his son, needed to be married and begin to have children. So, Abraham's priority right now was to find a wife for Isaac.

During this time, the parents were very involved in seeking out and choosing a spouse for their children. Some may think this to be old-fashioned today. I am not promoting that we choose the spouse for our children, but I am promoting, that we as parents, should be involved in the relationships that our children have. With their friends and especially when it comes to the man if our child is a daughter, and the woman, if our child is a son, of who they may say, "Until death do us part!"

The first way is prayer! Pray for our children, pray for their spouses to be.

Remember, we are talking about passing the baton here. Primarily the baton of faith. So, we should do with our children what these next verses command us to do.

Deuteronomy 6:4-7

⁴ “Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. ⁵ You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. ⁶ And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. ⁷ You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.

Proverbs 22:6

⁶ Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it.

This is not teaching that someone makes a profession of faith and then they go sow their wild oats for a season. It is that they will profess Jesus Christ and they will walk in the way being obediently as they grow old and will hold fast to their faith.

Ephesians 6:4

⁴ Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

So, if our children, truly have a relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ, then they too will be seeking a Godly spouse as we would want for a child. This is where we can apply this verse to marriage.

2 Corinthians 6:14

¹⁴ Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers. For what partnership has righteousness with lawlessness? Or what fellowship has light with darkness?

In context this is speaking to every relationship in life that we have. Now, we are not to use this to where we never associate with unbelievers because that would take away the fact that we, as our Savior did, are to seek and to save that which is lost. We are not to associate in a manner that would be a detriment to our witness as follower of the Lord Jesus Christ.

But what better relationship that this could be applied to than the marriage relationship. Because how is the relationship between the church, made up of true followers of the Lord Jesus Christ, and Jesus Christ? Marriage! Jesus being the bridegroom and the church being the bride presented as a gift to Jesus. More on that later.

This is what Abraham is wanting to do for Isaac. Present the gift of a bride to Isaac, but one that is not unequally yoked. Abraham gave his servant specific orders in this task ahead.

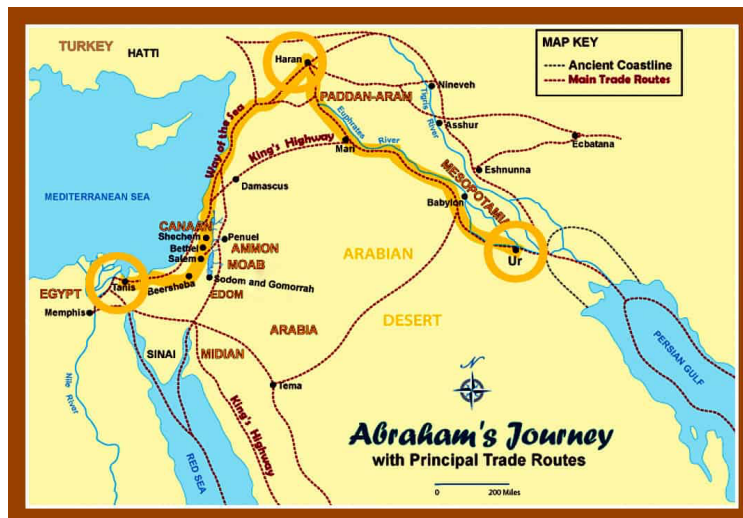
1. You will not take a wife for my son from the Canaanites. Why? If you remember Canaan, the grandson of Noah, was cursed because of the sin of Noah's son Ham, of seeing his father naked. The Canaanite people became godless pagans that were idolatrous people who did not worship the one true God.
2. Go to my kinsman to choose the wife.
3. Do not take Isaac back there because this is the land that God had promised Abraham and his descendants.

The servant obeyed and by placing his hand in a very intimate location, the servant made a covenant with Abraham to do just as he commanded. So, off the servant goes. Let's read 10 to 28 to see what happens.

Genesis 24:10-28

¹⁰ Then the servant took ten of his master's camels and departed, taking all sorts of choice gifts from his master; and he arose and went to Mesopotamia to the city of Nahor. ¹¹ And he made the camels kneel down outside the city by the well of water at the time of evening, the time when women go out to draw water. ¹² And he said, "O Lord, God of my master Abraham, please grant me success today and show steadfast love to my master Abraham. ¹³ Behold, I am standing by the spring of water, and the daughters of the men of the city are coming out to draw water. ¹⁴ Let the young woman to whom I shall say, 'Please let down your jar that I may drink,' and who shall say, 'Drink, and I will water your camels'—let her be the one whom you have appointed for your servant Isaac. By this I shall know that you have shown steadfast love to my master." ¹⁵ Before he had finished speaking, behold, Rebekah, who was born to Bethuel the son of Milcah, the wife of Nahor, Abraham's brother, came out with her water jar on her shoulder. ¹⁶ The young woman was very attractive in appearance, a maiden whom no man had known. She went down to the spring and filled her jar and came up. ¹⁷ Then the servant ran to meet her and said, "Please give me a little water to drink from your jar." ¹⁸ She said, "Drink, my lord." And she quickly let down her jar upon her hand and gave him a drink. ¹⁹ When she had finished giving him a drink, she said, "I will draw water for your camels also, until they have finished drinking." ²⁰ So she quickly emptied her jar into the trough and ran again to the well to draw water, and she drew for all his camels. ²¹ The man gazed at her in silence to learn whether the Lord had prospered his journey or not. ²² When the camels had finished drinking, the man took a gold ring weighing a half shekel, and two bracelets for her arms weighing ten gold shekels, ²³ and said, "Please tell me whose daughter you are. Is there room in your father's house for us to spend the night?" ²⁴ She said to him, "I am the daughter of Bethuel the son of Milcah, whom she bore to Nahor." ²⁵ She added, "We have plenty of both straw and fodder, and room to spend the night." ²⁶ The man bowed his head and worshiped the Lord ²⁷ and said, "Blessed be the Lord, the God of my master Abraham, who has not forsaken his steadfast love and his faithfulness toward my master. As for me, the Lord has led me in the way to the house of my master's kinsmen." ²⁸ Then the young woman ran and told her mother's household about these things.

As we read the servant went to the area of Mesopotamia and the city of Nahor.



Quick review:

You see to the right in the circle Ur. Terah, Abraham's father led the family from Ur to go to the land of Canaan. Before that Terah, fathered Abraham and his two brothers, Nahor, and Haran. Haran died in Ur. Follow the gold line and the family goes up to Haran as they were heading to Canaan. In says in Genesis Chapter 12 that Terah takes Abraham, and Lot to Haran. The family decides to settle in Haran and that is where Terah, Abraham, Nahor, and Haran's daddy dies.

God calls Abraham, Abram, at that time to continue to the land of Canaan. We follow the gold line down to Canaan and this is where Abraham is now in the city of Hebron.

At the end of Chapter 22, after Abraham passed the test of sacrificing Isaac, but God stopped him by producing a ram in a thicket nearby. God gives Abraham some family news that his brother Nahor had several children and from his son Bethuel, a daughter named Rebekah was born. This is where Abraham sends his servant to seek out a wife for Isaac. In Genesis Chapter 12 it does not say that Nahor even left Ur, but it doesn't mean he didn't. It is obvious by what we see, that at some point Nahor did migrate to Haran.

Researching this, the city is Haran, and it could be said, Haran the city of Nahor. The servant was going to Haran, the city where Nahor lived.

We are about to see something about the servant. We see him take 10 camel's and choice gifts from his master. As he comes to the city he stops just on the outskirts of the city at the wells of the city. What do we see him do? Verse 11, he had the camels kneel by the well at the time when the women come to draw water.

What else? He begins to pray!

Genesis 24:12

¹² And he said, "O Lord, God of my master Abraham, please grant me success today and show steadfast love to my master Abraham."

The servant was very specific in his prayer. Correct? What we saw as we read is that God was sovereign over this time in Isaac's and Rebekah's life. God was going to show his faithfulness, and he was going to keep his promise to Abraham, according to his timing and his will.

Before the servant even got to the end of his prayer!

Here Comes the Bride!

Rebekah did all that the servant prayed about and he found out she was from Abraham's family, and he praised the Lord for his faithfulness and leading. Rebekah runs to her house and tells them everything the servant said and did.

Laban, Rebekah's brother comes out to meet the servant, invites him back to the house to eat and from verses 34 to 48 the servant tells the family everything that had happened and why he was there. Now, it is up to the family and Rebekah to decide what they are going to do? The servant speaks again.

Genesis 24:49-53

⁴⁹ Now then, if you are going to show steadfast love and faithfulness to my master, tell me; and if not, tell me, that I may turn to the right hand or to the left." ⁵⁰ Then Laban and Bethuel answered and said, "The thing has come from the Lord; we cannot speak to you bad or good. ⁵¹ Behold, Rebekah is before you; take her and go, and let her be the wife of your master's son, as the Lord has spoken." ⁵² When Abraham's servant heard their words, he bowed himself to the earth before the Lord. ⁵³ And the servant brought out jewelry of silver and of gold, and garments, and gave them to Rebekah. He also gave to her brother and to her mother costly ornaments.

Rebekah's Dad, Bethuel, and Laban, said this is of the Lord, we cannot deny it. You have our blessings. The servant gives them the choice gifts he had brought. What is he doing? He is paying the bride's price for Rebekah to go back with him.

The servant and the men that came with him spend the night and they are ready to leave the next morning, but the family makes a request.

Genesis 24:54-61

54 And he and the men who were with him ate and drank, and they spent the night there. When they arose in the morning, he said, "Send me away to my master." 55 Her brother and her mother said, "Let the young woman remain with us a while, at least ten days; after that she may go." 56 But he said to them, "Do not delay me, since the Lord has prospered my way. Send me away that I may go to my master." 57 They said, "Let us call the young woman and ask her." 58 And they called Rebekah and said to her, "Will you go with this man?" She said, "I will go." 59 So they sent away Rebekah their sister and her nurse, and Abraham's servant and his men. 60 And they blessed Rebekah and said to her, "Our sister, may you become thousands of ten thousands, and may your offspring possess the gate of those who hate him!" 61 Then Rebekah and her young women arose and rode on the camels and followed the man. Thus the servant took Rebekah and went his way.

The servant is ready to go. We read the request of the family. Can we keep Rebekah for 10 more days? Here is an important lesson in those words.

The family has already acknowledged that God is in this. God has revealed and made his will known. When God reveals his will, we delay in obeying to the detriment to ourselves. When we pray and seek God to know his will in our lives and it is revealed, then we are to act at that time.

Delayed obedience is disobedience! What comes with delayed obedience, is repentance. In Matthew Chapter 21, Jesus shares a parable to the Pharisees about two sons. He tells them there is a man with a vineyard and he asked one son to go out into the vineyard and work. One son, said, I'm not going out there, but later, the Scripture said, ***he changed his mind***. The Greek word for that phrase is:

Metamelomai – To REPENT one's self.

This son recognized his sin of disobedience and repented and went. The other son, said he would go, but never did. Since he said he would do something and he didn't, "What do we call that?" Lying! Lying is a sin, but the lying is a symptom of a wicked heart.

Believer, follower of the Lord Jesus, when we delay in our obedience, we show our mistrust of the Lord. I know, we want to make sure, so sometimes, we keep asking, "God, are you sure? Really? You want me to do this?"

The parable is a description of the call to repentance. The first son, though delayed in his repentance, he does repent and therefore, Heaven. The other son, never obeys, and does not repent, therefore, Hell.

Even here, Rebekah, had a choice! The question was posed to her. Will you go with this man? Rebekah also saw that God has revealed to her and the whole family that she was to marry Isaac. Will you go, Rebekah? What did she say? Yes, I will go! No, hesitation, no delay! I will go! If Rebekah didn't go, the servant was off the hook. He was not responsible for Rebekah's decision. The servant completed his responsibilities. It was now up to Rebekah to make up her mind and she says, I will go!

So they go, as we read, and now they are arriving back in Hebron, and this is what happens next.

Genesis 24:62-66

62 Now Isaac had returned from Beer-lahai-roi and was dwelling in the Negeb. 63 And Isaac went out to meditate in the field toward evening. And he lifted up his eyes and saw, and behold, there were camels coming. 64 And Rebekah lifted up her eyes, and when she saw Isaac, she dismounted from the camel 65 and said to the servant, "Who is that man, walking in the field to meet us?" The servant said, "It is my master." So she took her veil and covered herself. 66 And the servant told Isaac all the things that he had done.

The servant, Rebekah, and the entourage that was them arrived back in Hebron. Isaac is in the field, praying. What was he praying? We don't know. We can surmise that Isaac, knew that Abraham had sent his servant to go seek a bride. Isaac lifted up his eyes from prayer and here comes the servant and the camels! Rebekah lifts up here eyes and sees Isaac approaching.

She asks, "Who is this?" The servant says, "My Master!" Wait, I thought Abraham was his master! The baton is being passed. Once Isaac is married he now becomes the leader of the household and all that Abraham has.

Rebekah has already dismounted the camel and now upon hearing who Isaac is, she puts a veil over her face and now it is time for a wedding.

Genesis 24:67

67 Then Isaac brought her into the tent of Sarah his mother and took Rebekah, and she became his wife, and he loved her. So Isaac was comforted after his mother's death.

Remember everyone that the Old Testament is true history, and it is a shadow a picture of the Messiah, the Savior, Jesus Christ to come. There are aspects of Isaac's life that is a Typology in similarity to Jesus Christ. The most well known is when Abraham, the Father, was to sacrifice his one and only son. A reference to God the Father sacrificing his one and only son for the sins of mankind.

We saw a father, sending out a servant to bring back a bride for his son. And in going the servant completed his mission, paid the bride's price and brought the bride for the son and there was a marriage and a marriage feast.

There is another father, God the Father, and he sent out a servant. But not just a servant but the son! The son was seeking a bride. The son was willing and able to pay the bride's price. This son paid the bride's price with his life. This son is Jesus Christ our bridegroom.

The bride for Jesus Christ is all those that will repent and put their faith in the Jesus as their Lord, as their bridegroom. Jesus has proposed! The question if you have not accepted is will you go! His will has been revealed! Repent and believe the Gospel!

For many tonight you are part of the bride and we will be at the wedding as described in Revelation 19.

Revelation 19:6-9

6 Then I heard what seemed to be the voice of a great multitude, like the roar of many waters and like the sound of mighty peals of thunder, crying out, "Hallelujah! For the Lord our God the Almighty reigns. 7 Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his Bride has made herself ready; 8 it was granted her to clothe herself with fine linen, bright and pure"— for the fine linen

is the righteous deeds of the saints. ⁹ And the angel said^{al} to me, “Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.” And he said to me, “These are the true words of God.”

Have you accepted the proposal? Have you said, “I will go!” Or are you here tonight and you are delaying? Don’t delay! The proposal does not last forever!