

Quarter Two: Allusions, Images, Symbols: How to Study Bible Prophecy

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Lesson 3—Images from Marriage

Wednesday: Isaac and Rebekah

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- **Last Week:** “The Genesis Foundation”
 - Understanding the doctrines & concepts in Genesis prepares for a study of the Bible – especially Revelation
- **This Week:** “Images from Marriage”
 - Biblical examples & descriptions of marriage & it’s illustration of God’s relationship with His people

Memory Text: “Then he said to me, ‘Write: “Blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb!”’ And he said to me, ‘These are the true sayings of God’” (Rev 19:9, NKJV)

The week in brief:

- 1. **Sunday:** “One Flesh” (James)
 - Bible illustrations of marriage being like God’s relationship with His people; the gospel in marriage
- 2. **Monday:** The Beautiful Bride (Rise)
 - Eze 16 – God’s bride (church) as an abandoned baby & how He loved, cherished & made her beautiful; the church’s trust in her own “beauty” (her own righteousness)
- 3. **Tuesday:** Hosea’s Harlot Wife (SQ)
 - God’s love for His people; His deep pain when they left Him; yet He took us back
- 4. **Wednesday:** Isaac and Rebekah (Jill)
 - Gen 24 – lessons about Christ & His church from Isaac & Rebekah
- 5. **Thursday:** The Harlot is Judged (Daniel)
 - Rev 19 – the judgment of the harlot & the marriage of the Lamb, 2 acts of love; God’s great love & redemption, even when we played the harlot

Wednesday: Isaac and Rebekah

Gen 24:1 – 4; 57 – 67; Gen 15:5

7 Takeaways of Christ & His church (from Isaac & Rebekah)

- Gen 24:1 – 4 – “Now Abraham **was old**, well advanced in age, and the Lord had blessed Abraham in all things. (2) So Abraham said to the oldest servant of his house, who ruled overall that he had, ‘Please put your hand under my thigh, (3) and I will make you swear by the Lord, the God of heaven and the 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 you shall go to my country and to my family, and take a wife for my son Isaac.’”
 - Abraham = 140 years old; Isaac = 40
 - Was Abraham being exclusive about his son?
 - Racist in his selection of a bride?

- “Don’t take a wife from the Canaanites”
 - “Go to my country”
- The issue was spiritual
 - The marriage was to be pure – no idolatry or other gods
 - OT Israelites – followed other gods
 - Taken into Babylonian captivity
 - NT Church – compromise with paganism; false doctrines crept into church
 - Dark Ages
- Vs 15, 16, “And it happened, before he had finished speaking, that behold, Rebekah, who was born to Bethuel, son of Milcah, the wife of Nahor, Abraham’s brother, came out with her pitcher on her shoulder. (16) Now the young woman was very **beautiful** to behold, a virgin; no man had known her. And she went down to the well, filled her pitcher, and came up.”
 - Beautiful = same Heb word as “very good” in Genesis – it was very good
 - Means “good” – also “beautiful”
 - **Takeaway #1: God’s bride is pure** – not prostituted / doesn’t follow other idols
 - “No man had known her”
 - God will love & take back the prostitute / harlot (Hosea)
 - What a gift if our heart is only for God
 - He wants all of us
- Vs 19 – “And when she had finished giving him a drink, she said, ‘I will draw water for your camels also, until they have finished drinking.’”
 - Servant asked for a drink – she gave him water - & then the camels
 - 10 camels = 200 – 300 gallons of water
 - 1 camel drinks 20 – 30 gallons of water at a time
 - **Takeaway #2: God’s bride is strong** - because His presence is with us
 - Joshua 1:9 – “Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage, do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.”
 - Why are we strong and not afraid?
 - He is with us
 - Eph 6:10 – “Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might.”
 - **Takeaway #3: God’s bride is kind** – because He is compassionate & forgiving toward us
 - Eph 4:32 – “And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.”
 - We are kind because He forgave us
- Vs 57, 58 – “So they said, ‘We will call the young woman and ask her personally.’ (58) Then they called Rebekah and said to her, ‘Will you go with this man?’ And she said, ‘I will go.’”
 - **Takeaway #4: “God’s bride chooses her Bridegroom** – because He chose her first
 - She said – “I will go”
 - Love never forces; God gives us opportunity to choose Him

- Josh 24:15 – “...choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.”
 - Choose Him
 - Not tradition (gods which your fathers served)
 - Not peer pressure (gods in whose land you dwell)
 - “Will u go with this man?” And she said, “I will go”
 - Regardless of cost or price
 - Regardless of pain or pleasure
 - Regardless of other’s opinions
 - Regardless of hardship & discouragement
 - Regardless of how I feel
 - I will go
 - For now and forever
 - We choose Him – because He chose us first
 - Rom 5:8 – “But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”
 - John 15:16 – “You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain...”
- Vs 60 – “And they blessed Rebekah and said to her: ‘Our sister, may you become the mother of thousands of ten thousands; and may your descendants possess the gates of those who hate them.’”
 - **Takeaway #5: Christ’s bride has children** – the saved become a witness to the Savior
 - One of the purposes of marriage is to produce children
 - In the Garden: “be fruitful & multiply; fill the earth”
 - One of the purposes of our union with Christ is to produce other Christians
 - Isa 14:12b – “...You are My witnesses,’ Says the Lord, ‘that I am God.’”
 - 1 Pet 2:9 – “But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him, who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light, ‘ 10) who once were not a people, but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy.”
 - Isa 54:1 – 3 – “Sing, O barren, you who have not borne! Break forth into singing, and cry aloud; you who have not labored with child! For more are the children of the desolate than the children of the married woman,’ says the Lord. (2) Enlarge the place of your tent, and let them stretch out the curtains of your dwellings; do not spare, lengthen your cords, and strengthen your stakes, (3) For you shall expand to the right and to the left, and your descendants will inherit the nations, and make the desolate cities inhabited.”
- Vs 61 – “Then Rebekah and her maids arose, and they rode on the camels and followed the man. So the servant took Rebekah and departed.”

- **Takeaway #6: Christ's bride follows Him** – as He leads the way
 - Jesus said – “Follow Me, and I'll make you fishers of men”
 - Jesus said – “If anyone wants to follow Me, he must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow Me”
 - Jesus said – “My sheep hear My voice and they follow Me”
- Vs 67 – “Then Isaac brought her into his mother Sarah's tent, and he took Rebekah and she became his wife, and he loved her. So Isaac was comforted after his mother's death.”
 - **Takeaway #7: Christ's bride is deeply loved** – by her Husband
 - John 3:16 – “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.”

7 Takeaways of Christ & His church (from Isaac & Rebekah)

- #1: God's bride is pure – not prostituted
- #2: God's bride is strong - because His presence is with us
- #3: God's bride is kind – because He is compassionate & forgiving toward us
- #4: Christ's bride chooses her Bridegroom – because He chose her first
 - “I will go”
- #5: Christ's bride has children – the saved become a witness to the Savior
- #6: Christ's bride follows Him – as He leads the way
- #7: Christ's bride is deeply loved – by her Husband