

Welcome to Promise Land Bible Church
We're glad you're here!



An open book is shown from a low angle, looking up at the pages. The pages are filled with small, dense text, likely a Bible. The background is a bright blue sky with wispy white clouds. The text is overlaid on the book in a bold, black, sans-serif font.

Here Come the Bride!

The Welcome of the Bridegroom

Scripture text: Genesis Ch 24:61-67

4. The welcome of the bridegroom (Gen. 24:61–67)

Camels traveled about 25 miles a day and could cover 60 miles if they had to, while the average pedestrian walked about 20 miles a day. A train of 10 camels with its attendants and guards could easily make the trip from Hebron to Mesopotamia and back (about 900 miles) in less than 2 months. The servant was the kind of man who permitted no delay and was anxious to complete his task successfully. Certainly Abraham and Isaac were both praying for him and his mission, and their prayers were answered.

Isaac pictures our Lord Jesus Christ in his miraculous birth (Gen. 21) and in his willingness to obey his father and give his life (Gen. 22).

We have already noticed that Genesis 22:19 does not tell us that Isaac returned with his father from Mount Moriah, although certainly he did (22:5). This omission suggests the ascension of our Lord: He returned to glory to wait for the time to receive His bride (1 Thes. 4:13–18).

Genesis 22:15-19 And the angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time from heaven and said, "By myself I have sworn, declares the LORD, **because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of his enemies, and in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice.**" **So Abraham returned to his young men, and they arose and went together to Beersheba. And Abraham lived at Beersheba.**

Genesis 21:2-6 And Sarah conceived and bore Abraham a son **in his old age** at the time of which God had spoken to him. Abraham called the name of his son who was born to him, whom Sarah bore him, Isaac. And Abraham circumcised his son Isaac when he was eight days old, as God had commanded him.

Abraham was a hundred years old when his son Isaac was born to him. And Sarah said, "God has made laughter for me; everyone who hears will laugh over me."

Genesis 22:1-2 After these things God tested Abraham and said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here am I." He said, "**Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering** on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you."

Genesis 22:8 Abraham said, "**God will provide for himself the lamb** for a burnt offering, my son." So they went both of them together.

Genesis 22:9-12 When they came to the place of which God had told him, Abraham built the altar there and laid the wood in order and **bound Isaac his son and laid him on the altar**, on top of the wood. Then Abraham reached out his hand and **took the knife to slaughter his son**. But the angel of the LORD called to him from heaven and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" And he said, "Here am I." He said, "Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him, for now **I know that you fear God, seeing you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me.**"

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep. For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, **will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. Therefore encourage one another with these words.**

Isaac was not living with his father at that time but was south of Hebron, getting ready to establish his own home.

Isaac is identified with wells (Gen. 24:62; 25:11; 26:17–33) just as Abraham is identified with altars. Water was a precious commodity and had to be guarded carefully.

Genesis 24:62 Now Isaac had returned from Beer-lahai-roi and was dwelling in the Negeb.

The name of the well would be an encouragement to Isaac as he waited for the return of the servant: **“the well of Him who lives and sees me”** (Gen 16:14).

If God took care of Hagar and met her needs, **surely He would take care of Isaac and provide the wife that he needed in order to maintain the messianic line.** Jehovah is the Living God who sees everything and plans all things for His glory and the good of His children.

Genesis 26:28-33 They said, "**We see plainly that the LORD has been with you.** So we said, let there be a sworn pact between us, between you and us, and let us make a covenant with you, that you will do us no harm, just as we have not touched you and have done to you nothing but good and have sent you away in peace. **You are now the blessed of the LORD.**" So he made them a feast, and they ate and drank. In the morning they rose early and exchanged oaths. And Isaac sent them on their way, and they departed from him in peace. That same day Isaac's servants came and told him about the well that they had dug and said to him, "**We have found water.**" He called it Shibah; therefore the name of the city is Beersheba to this day.

Genesis 24:63 suggests that Isaac was a quiet, meditative man **who pondered the things of the Lord in solitude** (Ps. 1:2). His wife was more the activist type, so there would be a good balance in their home. The two saw each other at a distance, and Rebekah dismounted so she could meet him on foot. In that day, it was considered a breach of etiquette if women rode beasts in the presence of strange men. She also put on the long veil that **was a mark of her modesty and submission.**

Psalm 1 Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; **but his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night.** He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. **In all that he does, he prospers.** The wicked are not so, but are like chaff that the wind drives away. Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous; for **the LORD knows the way of the righteous,** but the way of the wicked will perish.

It is significant that Isaac met his bride “**at the eventide**”; for when Jesus comes for His church, **it will be a time of spiritual darkness** (Rom. 13:11–14).

Genesis 24:63 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.

Just as a new day dawned for Rebekah, so also **will the coming of Jesus Christ usher in a new day for His people** (1 Thes. 5:1–11).

Romans 13:11-14 Besides this you know the time, that the hour has come for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed. The night is far gone; **the day is at hand.** So then let us **cast off the works of darkness** and **put on the armor of light.** Let us walk properly as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and sensuality, not in quarreling and jealousy. **But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.**

1 Thessalonians 5:1-6 Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers, you have no need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves are fully aware that **the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night**. While people are saying, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and **they will not escape**. But you are not in darkness, brothers, **for that day to surprise you like a thief**. For **you are all children of light, children of the day**. We are not of the night or of the darkness. **So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober.**

1 Thessalonians 5:7-11 For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, are drunk at night. **But since we belong to the day, let us be sober,** having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with him. **Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.**

But that meeting involved much more than the claiming of the bride by the bridegroom. **The servant also gave an account of himself to his master's son (*Genesis 24:66 And the servant told Isaac all the things that he had done.*)**.

When Jesus Christ comes for His church, there will not only be a joyful wedding but also a solemn judgment seat where our works will be examined and rewards given out.

Revelation 19:6-9 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.** 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;** it was granted her to clothe herself with fine linen, bright and pure"-- for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints. And the angel said 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.**"

Romans 14:10-13 Why do you pass judgment on your brother? Or you, why do you despise your brother? For **we will all stand before the judgment seat of God**; for it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God." So then **each of us will give an account of himself to God**. Therefore let us not pass judgment on one another any longer, but **rather decide never to put a stumbling block or hindrance in the way of a brother**.

1 Corinthians 3:11-15 For no one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw--**each one's work will become manifest, for the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed by fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each one has done.** If the work that anyone has built on the foundation survives, **he will receive a reward.** If anyone's work is burned up, he will suffer loss, though he himself will be saved, but only as through fire.

1 Corinthians 4:1-5 This is how one should regard us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found trustworthy. But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged by you or by any human court. In fact, I do not even judge myself. For I am not aware of anything against myself, but I am not thereby acquitted. **It is the Lord who judges me. Therefore do not pronounce judgment before the time, before the Lord comes, who will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness and will disclose the purposes of the heart. Then each one will receive his commendation from God.**

2 Corinthians 5:9-10 So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. **For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.**

Knowing this information ... has it changed your actions or attitudes towards others? Should we then be more devoted to Christ and His calling, knowing that we will have to give an account to Him for all that we have or have not done?

With Isaac, it was “love at first sight”; but what did Jesus Christ see in us that He should want us to be His bride? We were rebellious sinners with no beauty or merit to boast about, and yet Jesus loved us and died for us (Rom. 5:6–8).

Rebekah had received a few gifts from Isaac; but now that she was his very own, she possessed everything that he possessed. Their lives were one, and so it is with Christ and His church (Eph. 5:22–33).

Romans 5:6-10 For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. For one will scarcely die for a righteous person--though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die--but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life.

This is much more than an ancient, idyllic love story. It can be *your love story today if you trust Jesus Christ and say, "I will go!"*

If you already belong to Jesus Christ, then be like the faithful servant and tell others the good news about the marriage and the glorious wedding feast yet to come. Invite them to say, "I will go!"