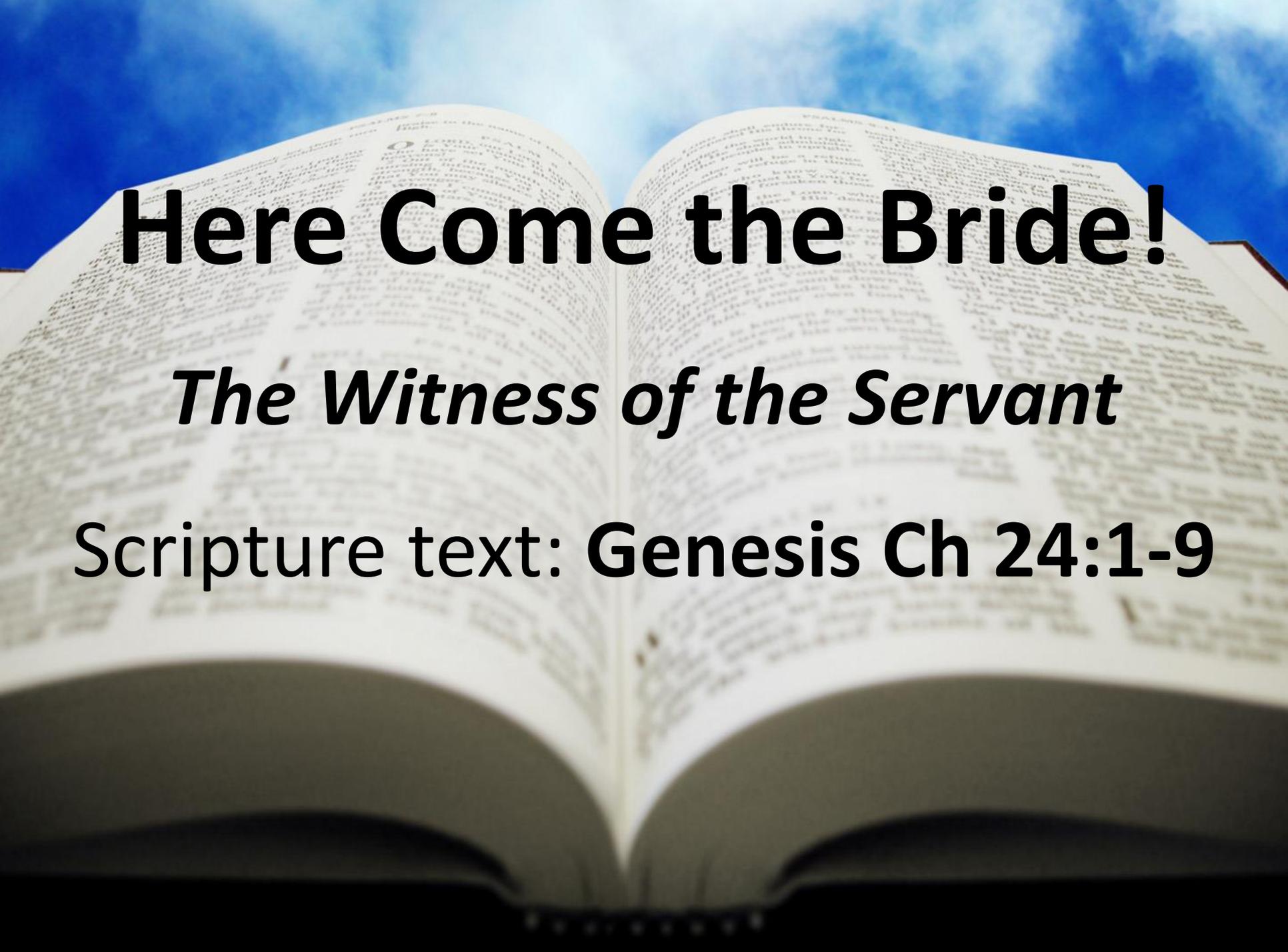


Welcome to Promise Land Bible Church  
We're glad you're here!



An open book with text overlaid on it. The background is a bright blue sky with white clouds. The book is open, showing two pages of text. The text is in a serif font, and the book is slightly out of focus.

**Here Come the Bride!**

***The Witness of the Servant***

**Scripture text: Genesis Ch 24:1-9**

**Genesis 24:6-8** Abraham said to him, "**See to it that you do not take my son back there.** 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. 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.**"

Sometimes we see **our past as a trap ... a dangerous trap** that we wouldn't want our children to fall in to or be exposed to.

**The things of this world are set to ensnare, trap, and capture us to a life of sin and despair.**

**It is Almighty God that sets us free and if we have been set free, DO NOT toy or play with sin, flee from it, least it should capture you and your later end becomes worse then the first.**

## **2. The witness of the servant (Gen. 24:10–49)**

The servant. Neither Abraham nor Isaac went to find the bride; the task was given to an anonymous servant, who was completely devoted to Abraham. His favorite name for Abraham was “my master,” which he used nineteen times in this narrative. He lived and served only to please his master, and that is a good example for us to follow today.

The servant got his orders from his master and did not change them. **When he made his vow of obedience, he meant it and kept it.** Whether his mission succeeded or failed, the servant knew he would have to give an account to his master; and he wanted to be able to do so without embarrassment. (See Rom. 14:10–12 and 1 John 2:28.)

**1 John 2:28** And now, little children, abide in him, **so that when he appears we may have confidence and not shrink from him in shame** at his coming.

**Romans 14:10-12** 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.**

**Genesis 24:12** And he said, "O LORD, **God of my master Abraham, please grant me success today and show steadfast love to my master Abraham.**

But how would he go about finding the right woman for his master's son? The servant acted by faith in the God of Abraham and Isaac (Gen. 24:12). **He believed the promise of God and trusted the providence of God to direct him (24:27).** He **took time to pray** and to ask God for help, and **he kept his eyes open to see what God might do.** In fact, while he was praying, God was sending the answer (Isa. 65:24). The **servant was not impulsive but waited on the Lord** to see what He might do (Gen. 24:21). **“Whoever believes will not act hastily”** (Isa. 28:16, NKJV).

## **The bride.**

In His providence, **God brought Rebekah** to the well just as the servant was praying; and **she did exactly what the servant had been praying about.** The servant did what Gideon would do years later, “put out a fleece” (Jud. 6:36–40). This is not the best way for God’s people to determine the will of God, because the conditions we lay down for God to meet might not be in His will. We are walking by sight and not by faith, and we may end up tempting God. However, God accommodated Himself to the needs of the servant (and Gideon) and guided them as they requested.

**Judges 6:36-40** Then Gideon said to God, "If you will save Israel by my hand, as you have said, **behold, I am laying a fleece of wool on the threshing floor.** If there is dew on the fleece alone, and it is dry on all the ground, then I shall know that you will save Israel by my hand, as you have said." And it was so. When he rose early next morning and squeezed the fleece, he wrung enough dew from the fleece to fill a bowl with water. Then Gideon said to God, "**Let not your anger burn against me; let me speak just once more. Please let me test just once more with the fleece.** Please let it be dry on the fleece only, and on all the ground let there be dew." And God did so that night; and it was dry on the fleece only, and on all the ground there was dew.

Little did Rebekah know that doing a humble task for a stranger would make her the bride of a wealthy man who was in a covenant relationship with God. She would become the mother of Jacob, and he would become the father of the twelve tribes of Israel! Years ago, I read a quotation from a writer identified only as “Marsden,” and it has stuck with me: **“Make every occasion a great occasion, for you can never tell when someone may be taking your measure for a larger place.”**

The **servant was evaluating Rebekah** to see if she would make a good wife for Isaac. **He could see that she was kind, pleasant, humble, healthy, and a hard worker.** Watering ten camels is no easy job! After a long trek, a thirsty camel might drink as much **as forty gallons of water**; and Rebekah had to draw all that water by hand. *(that would be 400 gallons of water)*

Remember that she did this for a stranger, someone she didn't even know.

Yet, this kind act for a stranger, would lead to a blessing beyond measure.

**“Whose daughter art thou?”** (Gen. 24:23) is a key question for any suitor to ask. Of course, the servant was interested in her family, but **the question has a wider application for Christian believers today, both men and women.**

**“Are you a child of God? Have you been born again into the family of God?”** What a tragedy when believers marry unbelievers and **try to establish a home without the full blessing of God.**

## **The family.**

Rebekah took her gifts and ran home to tell her father, mother, and brother Laban (who seemed to be the leader in the home) **that a generous stranger needed a place to stay for the night. Hospitality is the first law of the East**, so the family went out to meet the visitor. **Laban's character is revealed in 24:30: He was more excited about the expensive gifts than the privilege of showing hospitality to a stranger.** Isaac and Rebekah's son Jacob would discover years later what a clever rogue Laban really was (Gen. 29–31).

**The servant would not eat until he had fulfilled his mission (24:33; John 4:32). He did not speak about himself but about Isaac and his great wealth. (The train of ten camels helped to tell the story.)**

He reviewed his experience at the well, and for the first time Rebekah discovered that she had been “**measured**” for a new and exciting assignment. But, would they let her go, and would she be willing to go?

**Genesis 24:33** Then food was set before him to eat. But he said, “**I will not eat until I have said what I have to say.**” He said, “Speak on.”

**John 4:31-35** Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, saying, "Rabbi, eat." **But he said to them, "I have food to eat that you do not know about."** So the disciples said to one another, "Has anyone brought him something to eat?" Jesus said to them, **"My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to accomplish his work.** Do you not say, 'There are yet four months, then comes the harvest'? **Look, I tell you, lift up your eyes, and see that the fields are white for harvest.**

Before we learn the answer to those questions, **we must pause to see how the servant illustrates the work of the Holy Spirit** in the world today as He uses us to witness about Jesus Christ (Acts 1:8).

**He did not speak about himself but about his master and his riches** (John 15:26; 16:13–14).

**He gave tokens of his master's wealth just as the Spirit gives us the "firstfruits" and "down payment" of our spiritual riches in Christ** (Eph. 1:13–14). **The best is yet to come!**

**Act 1:8** But you will receive power when the **Holy Spirit has come upon you**, and you will be **my witnesses** in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and **to the end of the earth.**"

**John 15:26-27** "But when **the Helper comes**, whom I will send to you from the Father, **the Spirit of truth**, who proceeds from the Father, he will **bear witness about me**. And you also will **bear witness**, because you have been with me from the beginning.

**John 16:8-14** And when he comes, **he will convict** the world concerning **sin and righteousness and judgment**: concerning sin, because they do not believe in me; concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you will see me no longer; concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged. "I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. When **the Spirit of truth comes**, he will guide you **into all the truth**, for he will not speak on his own authority, but **whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things** that are to come. **He will glorify me**, for he will take what is mine and **declare it to you**.

**The servant's job** was not to argue or bribe but simply **to bear witness to the greatness of his master**. He did not force Rebekah to marry Isaac; **he merely gave her the facts and the opportunity to make a decision.**

While there is nothing wrong with urging people to be saved (Acts 2:40), **we must be careful not to try to take the place of the Spirit who alone can do the work of conviction in the human heart (John 16:7–11).**

**Ephesians 1:13-14** In him you also, **when you heard the word of truth**, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, **were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit**, who is the **guarantee of our inheritance** until we acquire possession of it, **to the praise of his glory**.

**Act 2:39-41** For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself." And **with many other words he bore witness and continued to exhort them**, saying, "**Save yourselves from this crooked generation**." So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.

**John 16:7-12** Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, **the Helper** will not come to you. But if I go, **I will send him to you**. And when he comes, **he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment**: concerning sin, because they do not believe in me; concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you will see me no longer; concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged. **"I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now.**