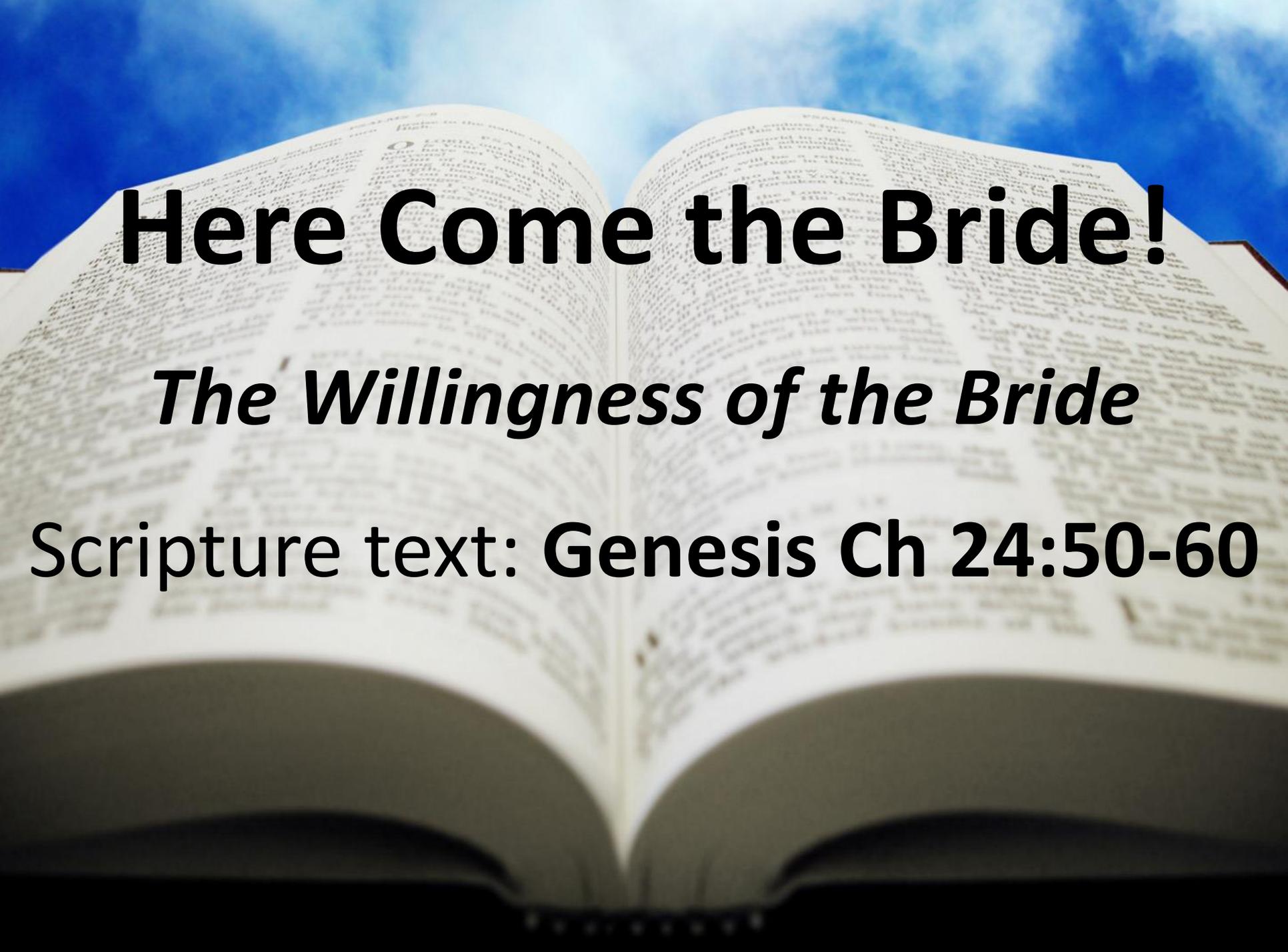


Welcome to Promise Land Bible Church
We're glad you're here!



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 Willingness of the Bride

Scripture text: Genesis Ch 24:50-60

Genesis 24:50-53 Then Laban and Bethuel answered and said, "**The thing has come from the LORD; we cannot speak to you bad or good.** 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." When Abraham's servant heard their words, he bowed himself to the earth before the LORD. 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.**

3. The willingness of the bride (Gen. 24:50–60)

Rebekah's brother and mother were willing for her to become Isaac's wife, but they wanted her to wait at least ten days before leaving home. This was a natural request, since the parents would want to spend as much time as possible with her and perhaps even invite the neighbors to celebrate with them (Gen. 31:25–27). **Of course, they were delighted with the wealth the servant gave them, which was probably the marriage dowry;** and no doubt they wanted to hear more about Isaac and the home Rebekah would share with him.

Genesis 31:25-29 And Laban overtook Jacob. Now Jacob had pitched his tent in the hill country, and Laban with his kinsmen pitched tents in the hill country of Gilead. And Laban said to Jacob, "What have you done, that you have tricked me and driven away my daughters like captives of the sword? Why did you flee secretly and trick me, and did not tell me, **so that I might have sent you away with mirth and songs, with tambourine and lyre?** And why did you not permit me to kiss my sons and my daughters farewell? Now you have done foolishly. It is in my power to do you harm. But the God of your father spoke to me last night, saying, '**Be careful not to say anything to Jacob, either good or bad.**'"

Just as the servant **would not delay in presenting his petition** (*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."*), **so he would not delay in completing his mission. When the Lord is at work, that is the time to keep going!** He asked that they let Rebekah make the choice, and her reply was, **"I will go."**

This is the decision every sinner must make if he or she is to be "married to Christ" and share His home in heaven.

What motivated Rebekah to make the right decision?

She heard the word about Isaac and believed it.

She saw the proof of his greatness, generosity, and wealth and wanted to belong to him for the rest of her life.

She had never seen Isaac (1 Peter 1:8), but what she had heard about him convinced her to go to Canaan with the servant.

1 Peter 1:6-9 In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, so that the tested genuineness of your faith--more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire--may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. **Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice** with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

Her parents and friends could have given Rebekah many arguments for waiting or even for saying no. “You have never seen the man!” “Maybe the servant is a fraud!” “It’s nearly 500 miles to where Isaac lives. That’s a long trip!” “You may never see your family again!” **But she was determined to make the long, difficult journey and become the wife of a man she knew only by hearsay.**

What if it was your daughter? What would you say to the evidence presented in this Chapter?

The application is obvious for unsaved people today: They must not delay in making their decisions for Christ. It is a decision of faith, based on the evidence provided by the Holy Spirit through the Word and the witness of the church.

The sinner who delays is in danger of losing the opportunity to belong to God's family and live in heaven (John 14:1–6).

John 14:1-6 "Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you **that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself,** that where I am you may be also. And you know the way to where I am going." Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" **Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.**

Hebrews 3:7-8 Therefore, as the Holy Spirit says, "Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion, on the day of testing in the wilderness,

Hebrews 3:15 As it is said, "Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion."

2 Corinthians 6:2 For he says, "In a favorable time I listened to you, and in a day of salvation I have helped you." Behold, **now is the favorable time; behold, now is the day of salvation.**

At the closing service of a great evangelistic crusade he conducted in Fort Worth, Texas, Dr. George W. Truett, then pastor of First Baptist Church of Dallas, said to a vast congregation: **“Satan does not care if men and women come to the house of God, and to public services such as these, and are attentive and serious and deeply moved, if only they will let the religious opportunity pass, and be unimproved.** Oh, dreadful possibility, that religious opportunity may come and pass by, and the highest things of the soul be lost and forfeited forever” (*A Quest for Souls*, p. 362). *Dreadful possibility indeed!*

A century and a half before, Charles Spurgeon said to his London congregation:

“Ten days did not seem too long; but they might have been ten days too late. One day does not seem much; but one day more may be one day too late, and one day too late is to be too late forever; yea, one minute too late is an eternity too late!” (*Metropolitan Tabernacle Pulpit, vol. 13, p. 533*)

The entire story makes it clear that God had chosen Rebekah for Isaac, for His providential leading is seen each step of the way. **Yet Rebekah had to make her choice of Isaac.** There is no conflict between divine sovereignty (God's plan) and human responsibility (man's choice).

In fact, Jesus taught both in one statement: **John 6:37 All that the Father gives me will come to me [divine sovereignty], and whoever comes to me [human responsibility] I will never cast out.**

“Am I one of God’s elect?” is not the question the lost sinner should ask.

The admonition to “make your calling and election sure” **was written to believers** (2 Peter 1:10), not to lost sinners.

The question the lost sinner should ask is, **“What must I do to be saved?”** (Acts 16:30; cf. 2:37) And the answer is, “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ” (16:31). **When God is speaking to you, that is the time to respond and put your faith in Christ** (Isa. 55:6–7).

2 Peter 1:5-10 For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love. For **if these qualities are yours and are increasing**, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful **in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ**. For whoever lacks these qualities is so nearsighted that he is blind, having forgotten that he was cleansed from his former sins. Therefore, **brothers, be all the more diligent to make your calling and election sure**, for if you practice these qualities you will never fall.

Act 16:27-32 When the jailer woke and saw that the prison doors were open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, supposing that the prisoners had escaped. But Paul cried with a loud voice, "**Do not harm yourself, for we are all here.**" And the jailer called for lights and rushed in, and **trembling with fear he fell down before** Paul and Silas. Then he brought them out and said, "**Sirs, what must I do to be saved?**" And they said, "**Believe in the Lord Jesus,** and you will be saved, you and your household." And **they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house.**

Act 2:36-39 Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified." **Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart,** and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "**Brothers, what shall we do?**" And Peter said to them, "**Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.** 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.**"

Isaiah 55:4-7 Behold, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. Behold, you shall call a nation that you do not know, and a nation that did not know you shall run to you, because of the LORD your God, and of the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you. **"Seek the LORD while he may be found; call upon him while he is near; let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the LORD, that he may have compassion on him, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.**

Proverbs 1:22-27 "How long, O simple ones, will you love being simple? How long will scoffers delight in their scoffing and fools hate knowledge? **If you turn at my reproof, behold, I will pour out my spirit to you; I will make my words known to you.**

Because I have called and you refused to listen, have stretched out my hand and no one has heeded, **because you have ignored all my counsel and would have none of my reproof, I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when terror strikes you, when terror strikes you like a storm and your calamity comes like a whirlwind, when distress and anguish come upon you.**

“We make our decisions,” wrote Frank Boreham, **“and then our decisions turn around and make us.”**

From the minute she left her home (Gen. 35:8), Rebekah was under the special providential care of God and was now a part of a thrilling plan that would bring salvation to the whole world (12:1–3). Had she stayed in Mesopotamia and married one of the local men, we would never have heard of her again.

Genesis 12:1-3 Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."