

Genesis 23-24: A Funeral And A Wedding.

I. A Funeral.

Sarah is the only woman in the Bible whose age at death is recorded; it gives us some measure of understanding how great a woman she is in the Bible.

"To weep for a loved one is to show that we have been close, that the loss is keenly felt, that death is an enemy, and that sin has brought this sad punishment upon the human race." (Boice)

Abraham wasn't afraid to mourn, though he did not sorrow as those without hope.

Matthew 5:4 - *Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.*

1 Thessalonians 4:13-14 - *But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus*

II. A Wedding.

Abraham, in faith, sends out a servant to seek out a bride for his son from among his people. Isaac was never to leave the Promised Land. Eliezer prays and asks for a sign. The sign was fulfilled; watering ten camels meant at least an hour of hard work. Rebekah receives gifts; the servant is entertained, explains his mission, Rebekah accepts, gifts given, Rebekah is sent off and brought to Isaac (a veil signified chastity, modesty, and submission).

i. Christians-character.

Abraham cared more about the inner beauty/character of the bride.

Proverbs 31:10-31

1 Peter 3:3-6 - *Do not let your adornment be merely outward—arranging the hair, wearing gold, or putting on fine apparel—rather let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the incorruptible beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is very precious in the sight of God. For in this manner, in former times, the holy women who trusted in God also adorned themselves, being submissive to their own husbands, as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord, whose daughters you are if you do good and are not afraid with any terror.*

2 Corinthians 6:14 - *Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness?*

- ii. Prepare (pray and act).

Finding a suitable bride is tough; it takes a lot of wisdom which comes from prayer.

Luke 18:1 - *Then He spoke a parable to them, that men always ought to pray and not lose heart,*

- iii. Wait

Rebekah was waiting when she was sought out. Isaac on the other side had to wait for the servant to bring the bride.

Psalms 27:14 - *Wait on the LORD; be of good courage, and He shall strengthen your heart; wait, I say, on the LORD!*

- iv. Love

Marital love is mutual and reciprocated acceptance and commitment to each other.

Ephesians 5:2 - *And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma.*

In all this, we see the coming together of Isaac and Rebekah as a remarkable picture of the coming together of Jesus and the church.

- A father desires a bride for his son.
- The lovely bride is divinely met, chosen, called and then lavished with gifts.
- She is entrusted to the care of the servant until she meets her bridegroom.
- Chosen for marriage before they knew it (Revelation 19:7).
- This was necessary for the accomplishment of God's eternal purpose.
- The bride submissive and the groom loving.