

## EXPOSITION OF GENESIS

### Message #58

### Genesis 24:1-67

In the history of interpreting the Bible some of the early church fathers such as Clement of Alexandria and Origen believed God's Word contained hidden meanings and out of this came a school of interpretation called the allegorical method of interpretation. John Calvin went so far as to say that the allegorical method of interpretation was "a contrivance of Satan to obscure the sense of the Scripture" (Henry Virkler, *Hermeneutics*, p. 66).

As a result, there has been a tendency to disregard true legitimate pictures and types that are actually in the Bible. Genesis 24 is one of them. W. H. Thomas said of this chapter: "Doubtless our forefathers went too far in the direction of spiritualizing the Old Testament narratives, but it is equally possible for us to go to the other extreme, and to see nothing of the king in them. If it be ever borne in mind that such a spiritual use of the narrative is secondary and not primary, that it is application not interpretation, and if moreover we avoid fanciful details and confine ourselves to leading lines of spiritual suggestion, the method is not only legitimate but essentially helpful. Let us, therefore, look at some of these suggestions that are often brought out of this chapter" (*Genesis*, p. 215). There have been some great men of the Bible who understood the picture of Genesis 24 - Dr. W. H. Griffith Thomas, Dr. C. I. Scofield, Dr. Lewis Sperry Chafer, Dr. Merrill Unger, Dr. S. L. Johnson and Mr. John Phillips.

### **GENESIS 24 IS A BEAUTIFUL PICTURE OF THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IN CARRYING OUT THE ENTIRE PLAN OF GOD FOR THE CHURCH.**

Even Calvin said that this chapter was in the Bible to in part teach a great truth about the Church that would spring from the family of Abraham (*Genesis*, Vol. 2, p. 11). This point is clearly seen in Hebrews 11:17-19.

### **LESSON #1 - The purpose of God the Father for this age. Genesis 24:3-4**

The purpose of God the Father for this age is to find a bride for His Son. God originally intended this bride to be Israel, but because she was an unfaithful wife, He extended His bridal invitation to other nations (Matthew 22:2-10). We learn in the N.T. that the church is the bride of Jesus Christ who will someday be presented to Him in all of her glory (II Corinthians 11:2; Ephesians 5:25-32).

### **LESSON #2 - The purpose of God the Son for this age. Genesis 24:62-67**

Isaac doesn't physically show up in this narrative until the bride has been found and brought part way back to his home. Isaac's focus was on doing the perfect will of the father, which is precisely the focus of the Son of God (John 8:28-29). The will of the Father was for the Son to wait for the bride. Presently we know that the Son is waiting at the right hand of the Father until the time the bride is brought partway back to Him and then He will go meet her in the air (I Thessalonians 4:13-18; John 14: 1-3). It would appear to me by carefully looking at Genesis 24 that one of the first things the Son will do when He spots His bride is to get a report of "all the things" that have been done. This will determine those in the bridal party who will be vessels of honor and vessels of dishonor (II Timothy 2:20).

**LESSON #3** - The purpose of God the Spirit for this age. Genesis 24:5-66

**Purpose #1** - The purpose of the Holy Spirit is to find a bride for the Son. Genesis 24:4

The purpose of the Holy Spirit is to bring people to Jesus Christ. This includes the entire process of conviction (John 16:7-11); of salvation (John 6:44); of giving gifts and even of transportation.

**Purpose #2** - The purpose of the Holy Spirit is to find specific individuals. Genesis 24:4, 14

The purpose of God for this age is to save specific people, those chosen before the foundation of the world (Ephesians 1:4, 13-14). Christ made it very clear while He was here on earth that no man can come to Him unless the Father draws him (John 6:44) just as no bride could get to Isaac unless this servant chose her. The One who draws him is the Holy Spirit.

**Purpose #3** - The purpose of the Holy Spirit is to paint a glorious picture of the Son. Genesis 24:34-40

The Spirit does not speak of Himself, but of the will of the Father in painting a glorious picture of the Son (John 15:26; 16:13-14). This is why the servant never names himself, but the fact that all of the Father's wealth belongs to the Son.

**Purpose #4** - The purpose of the Holy Spirit is to bring an individual to the point of decision. Genesis 24:8, 39-41, 49, 58

This picture does seem to suggest that a person has a perceived will. The human volition of Rebekah was involved in simply saying "I will go" (Genesis 24:58). For salvation it is "I will believe."

**Purpose #5** - The purpose of the Holy Spirit is to give gifts to the Church. Genesis 24:22, 53

God's Spirit gives the gift of salvation (Ephesians 2:8-9), gifts for service (I Cor. 12:4-11).

**Purpose #6** - The purpose of the Holy Spirit is to take the church to meet the Son. Genesis 24:61-65

The Spirit has one final job to do on His N.T. mission - take Christ's bride home to meet Him.

**LESSON #4** - The responsibility of the Bride for this age. Genesis 24:58, 61

The responsibility for the bride is to submit to the will of the Spirit and follow His leading.

Each one must ask - What is the Spirit prompting you to do today? Is He prompting you to come to Christ? Is He prompting you to deal with some sin? Remember this - this Spirit will be used to introduce us to the Son. An accurate report will be given as to what He was prompting us to do and how we responded to His promptings.