



Eliezer
The Faithful Servant
Of Abraham

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Overview

Eliezer, Abraham's servant

Eliezer requested the hand of Rebecca. He was enthusiastic concerning his mission.

Before receiving a meal, he made his mission known.

Eliezer made a great impression on Laban, that he immediately granted permission for Rebecca to become the bride of Abraham's son.

The rare and precious gifts sealed the agreement as they celebrated the coming marriage. Rebecca agreed to go with Eliezer without delay.

The Holy Spirit courts the church as the bride of Christ. Genesis provides us with a parable of another One who is also looking for a bride, prepared and given to the firstborn of the father.

In this story Eliezer did exactly the same job that the Holy Spirit has been doing in a spiritual way for many years.

Since the church is called the "Bride of Christ", this application is correct with an understanding of Christ gathering his bride.

Abraham's Care for Isaac's Marriage

Genesis 24:1-9

Abraham was now a very old man, and the Lord had blessed him in every way.

One day Abraham said to the man in charge of his household, who was his oldest servant,

"Swear by the Lord, the God of heaven and earth, that you will not let my son marry one of these local Canaanite women. Go instead to my homeland, to my relatives, and find a wife there for my son Isaac."

The servant asked, "But suppose I can't find a young woman who will travel so far from home? May I then take Isaac there to live among your relatives?"

"No!" Abraham warned. "Be careful never to take my son there. For the Lord, the God of heaven, who took me from my father's house and my native land, solemnly promised to give this land to my offspring. He will send his angel ahead of you, and he will see to it that you find a young woman there to be my son's wife.

If she is unwilling to come back with you, then you are free from this oath. But under no circumstances are you to take my son there."

So the servant took a solemn oath that he would follow Abraham's instructions.

The effects of a good example

The effect of good example, good teaching, and the worship of God in a family, will generally appear in the piety, faithfulness, prudence, and affection of the servants.

To live in such families, or to have such servants, both are blessings from God which should be highly valued, and thankfully acknowledged.

But no concern in life is of greater importance to ourselves, to others, or to the church of God, than marriage.

It therefore ought always to be undertaken with much care and prudence, especially with reference to the will of God, and with prayer for his direction and blessing.

Where good parents are not consulted and regarded, the blessing of God cannot be expected. Parents, in disposing of their children, should carefully consult the welfare of their souls, and their furtherance in the way to heaven.

Observe the charge Abraham gave to a good servant, one whose conduct, faithfulness, and affection, to him and his family, he had long known. Observe also, that Abraham remembers that God had wonderfully brought him out of the land of his birth, by the call of his grace; and therefore doubts not but He will prosper his care, not to bring his son thither again.

God will cause that to end in our comfort, in which we sincerely aim at his glory.

The Journey of Abraham's Servant to Mesopotamia,

His Meeting with Rebekah

Genesis 24:10-28

He loaded ten of Abraham's camels with gifts and set out, taking with him the best of everything his master owned. He traveled to Aram-naharaim and went to the village where Abraham's brother Nahor had settled.

There the servant made the camels kneel down beside a well just outside the village. It was evening, and the women were coming out to draw water.

"O Lord, God of my master," he prayed. "Give me success and show kindness to my master, Abraham. Help me to accomplish the purpose of my journey.

See, here I am, standing beside this spring, and the young women of the village are coming out to draw water.

This is my request. I will ask one of them for a drink. If she says, 'Yes, certainly, and I will water your camels, too!'—let her be the one you have appointed as Isaac's wife. By this I will know that you have shown kindness to my master."

As he was still praying, a young woman named Rebekah arrived with a water jug on her shoulder. Her father was Bethuel, who was the son of Abraham's brother Nahor and his wife, Milcah.

Now Rebekah was very beautiful, and she was a virgin; no man had ever slept with her. She went down to the spring, filled her jug, and came up again. Running over to her, the servant asked, "Please give me a drink."

"Certainly, sir," she said, and she quickly lowered the jug for him to drink. When he had finished, she said, "I'll draw water for your camels, too, until they have had enough!"

So she quickly emptied the jug into the watering trough and ran down to the well again. She kept carrying water to the camels until they had finished drinking.

The servant watched her in silence, wondering whether or not she was the one the Lord intended him to meet.

Then at last, when the camels had finished drinking, he gave her a gold ring for her nose and two large gold bracelets for her wrists.

"Whose daughter are you?" he asked. "Would your father have any room to put us up for the night?"

"My father is Bethuel," she replied. "My grandparents are Nahor and Milcah. Yes, we have plenty of straw and food for the camels, and we have a room for guests."

The man fell down to the ground and worshiped the Lord. "Praise be to the Lord, the God of my master, Abraham," he said. "The Lord has been so kind and faithful to Abraham, for he has led me straight to my master's relatives."

The young woman ran home to tell her family about all that had happened.

Scriptural Understanding

Abraham's servant devoutly acknowledged God. We have leave to be particular in recommending our affairs to the care of Divine providence.

He proposes a sign, not that he intended to proceed no further, if not gratified in it; but it is a prayer that God would provide a good wife for his young master; and that was a good prayer.

She should be simple, industrious, humble, cheerful, serviceable, and hospitable. Whatever may be the fashion, common sense, as well as piety, tells us, these are the proper qualifications for a wife and mother.

When the steward came to seek a wife for his master, he did not go to places of amusement and sinful pleasure, and pray that he might meet one there, but to the well of water, expecting to find one there employed aright.

He prayed that God would please to make his way in this matter plain and clear before him. Our times are in God's hand; not only events themselves, but the times of them.

We must take heed of being over-bold in urging what God should do, lest the event should weaken our faith, rather than strengthen it.

But God owned him by making his way clear. Rebekah, in all respects, answered the characters he sought for in the woman that was to be his master's wife. When she came to the well, she went down and filled her pitcher, and came up to go home with it.

She did not stand to gaze upon the strange man his camels, but minded her business, and would not have been diverted from it but by an opportunity of doing good.

She did not curiously or confidently enter into discourse with him, but answered him modestly.

Being satisfied that the Lord had heard his prayer, he gave the damsel some ornaments worn in eastern countries; asking at the same time respecting her kindred.

On learning that she was of his master's relations, he bowed down his head and worshipped, blessing God. His words were addressed to the Lord, but being spoken in the hearing of Rebekah, she could perceive who he was, and whence he came.

Rebekah and Her Relatives Consent to Her Marriage

Genesis 24:29-53

Now Rebekah had a brother named Laban. When he saw the nose-ring and the bracelets on his sister's wrists, and when he heard her story, he rushed out to the spring, where the man was still standing beside his camels. Laban said to him,

"Come and stay with us, you who are blessed by the Lord. Why do you stand here outside the village when we have a room all ready for you and a place prepared for the camels!"

So the man went home with Laban, and Laban unloaded the camels, gave him straw to bed them down, fed them, and provided water for the camel drivers to wash their feet.

Then supper was served. But Abraham's servant said, "I don't want to eat until I have told you why I have come."

"All right," Laban said, "tell us your mission."

"I am Abraham's servant," he explained. "And the Lord has blessed my master richly; he has become a great man. The Lord has given him flocks of sheep and herds of cattle, a fortune in silver and gold, and many servants and camels and donkeys.

When Sarah, my master's wife, was very old, she gave birth to my master's son, and my master has given him everything he owns. And my master made me swear that I would not let Isaac marry one of the local Canaanite women.

Instead, I was to come to his relatives here in this far-off land, to his father's home. I was told to bring back a young woman from here to marry his son.

“But suppose I can't find a young woman willing to come back with me?’ I asked him. You will,’ he told me, ‘for the Lord, in whose presence I have walked, will send his angel with you and will make your mission successful.

Yes, you must get a wife for my son from among my relatives, from my father's family. But if you go to my relatives and they refuse to let her come, you will be free from your oath.'

"So this afternoon when I came to the spring I prayed this prayer: 'O Lord, the God of my master, Abraham, if you are planning to make my mission a success, please guide me in a special way.

Here I am, standing beside this spring. I will say to some young woman who comes to draw water, "Please give me a drink of water!" And she will reply, "Certainly! And I'll water your camels, too!" Lord, let her be the one you have selected to be the wife of my master's son.'

"Before I had finished praying these words, I saw Rebekah coming along with her water jug on her shoulder. She went down to the spring and drew water and filled the jug. So I said to her, 'Please give me a drink.'

She quickly lowered the jug from her shoulder so I could drink, and she said, 'Certainly, sir, and I will water your camels, too!' And she did.

When I asked her whose daughter she was, she told me, 'My father is Bethuel, the son of Nahor and his wife, Milcah.' So I gave her the ring and the bracelets.

"Then I bowed my head and worshiped the Lord. I praised the Lord, the God of my master, Abraham, because he had led me along the right path to find a wife from the family of my master's relatives. So tell me—will you or won't you show true kindness to my master? When you tell me, then I'll know what my next step should be, whether to move this way or that."

Then Laban and Bethuel replied, "The Lord has obviously brought you here, so what can we say? Here is Rebekah; take her and go. Yes, let her be the wife of your master's son, as the Lord has directed."

At this reply, Abraham's servant bowed to the ground and worshiped the Lord. Then he brought out silver and gold jewelry and lovely clothing for Rebekah. He also gave valuable presents to her mother and brother.

Scriptural Understanding.

The making up of the marriage between Isaac and Rebekah is told very particularly.

We are to notice God's providence in the common events of human life, and in them to exercise prudence and other graces. Laban went to ask Abraham's servant in, but not till he saw the ear-ring, and bracelet upon his sister's hands.

We know Laban's character, by his conduct afterwards, and may think that he would not have been so free to entertain him, if he had not hoped to be well rewarded for it.

The servant was intent upon his business. Though he was come off a journey, and come to a good house, he would not eat till he had told his errand.

The doing our work, and the fulfilling our trusts, either for God or man, should be preferred by us before our food: it was our Saviour's meat and drink.

John 4:34

Then Jesus explained: "My nourishment comes from doing the will of God, who sent me, and from finishing his work."

He tells them the charge his master had given him, with the reason of it. He relates what had happened at the well, to further the proposal, plainly showing the finger of God in it.

Those events which to us seem the effect of choice, contrivance, or chance, are "appointed out" of God. This hinders not, but rather encourages the use of all proper means.

They freely and cheerfully close with the proposal; and any matter is likely to be comfortable, when it proceeds from the Lord. Abraham's servant thankfully acknowledges the good success he had met with.

He was a humble man, and humble men are not ashamed to own their situation in life, whatever it may be. All our temporal concerns are sweet if intermixed with godliness.

The Happy Meeting and Marriage of Isaac and Rebekah

Genesis 24:54-67

Then they had supper, and the servant and the men with him stayed there overnight. But early the next morning, he said, “Send me back to my master.”

“But we want Rebekah to stay at least ten days,” her brother and mother said. “Then she can go.”

But he said, “Don’t hinder my return. The Lord has made my mission successful, and I want to report back to my master.”

“Well,” they said, “we’ll call Rebekah and ask her what she thinks.” So they called Rebekah. “Are you willing to go with this man?” they asked her.

And she replied, “Yes, I will go.”

So they said good-bye to Rebekah and sent her away with Abraham’s servant and his men. The woman who had been Rebekah’s childhood nurse went along with her. They blessed her with this blessing as she parted:

“Our sister, may you become

The mother of many millions!

May your descendants overcome

All their enemies.”

Then Rebekah and her servants mounted the camels and left with Abraham’s servant.

Meanwhile, Isaac, whose home was in the Negev, had returned from Beer-lahairoi. One evening as he was taking a walk out in the fields, meditating, he looked up and saw the camels coming.

When Rebekah looked up and saw Isaac, she quickly dismounted. “Who is that man walking through the fields to meet us?” she asked the servant.

And he replied, “It is my master.” So Rebekah covered her face with her veil. Then the servant told Isaac the whole story.

And Isaac brought Rebekah into his mother’s tent, and she became his wife. He loved her very much, and she was a special comfort to him after the death of his mother.

Scriptural Understanding

Abraham's servant, as one that chose his work before his pleasure, was for hastening home. Lingering and loitering no way become a wise and good man who is faithful to his duty.

As children ought not to marry without their parents' consent, so parents ought not to marry them without their own.

Rebekah consented, not only to go, but to go at once. The goodness of Rebekah's character shows there was nothing wrong in her answer, though it be not agreeable to modern customs among us.

We may hope that she had such an idea of the religion and godliness in the family she was to go to, as made her willing to forget her own people and her father's house.

Her friends dismiss her with suitable attendants, and with hearty good wishes. They blessed Rebekah.

Isaac was well employed when he met Rebekah. He went out to take the advantage of a silent evening, and a solitary place, for meditation and prayer; those divine exercises by which we converse with God and our own hearts.

Observe what an affectionate son Isaac was: it was about three years since his mother died, and yet he was not, till now, comforted.

See also what an affectionate husband he was to his wife. Dutiful sons promise fair to be affectionate husbands; he that fills up his first station in life with honour, is likely to do the same in those that follow.

This is a true picture of the Bride of Christ waiting for the Lord to return. The ingathering of the saints are an example of this event.

You may have faced a long journey, but the days is soon to arrive. Are you ready for this event? That is “The Marriage Supper of the Lamb?”

To ask Jesus to come into your heart please pray this Prayer:

Dear Lord Jesus, I believe you are the Christ, the Son of the Living God. I ask you to forgive me of my sins and coming into my heart. I accept you as savior and will follow you as Lord. Amen.

References:

Verse Concept: Matthew Henry’s Concept Bible Commentary.