

The Eternal God and An Arranged Marriage

Genesis 24

Proverbs 3:1-12; Ephesians 5:22-33

Growing as Disciples

- *"Imitate me as I imitate Christ"*
- MEDITATE: 1 Timothy 4:12



El Olam: The Everlasting God

- His Eternity and Time (Isaiah 57:15; 41:22-23; 44:7; 46:9-10; 10; Acts 15:18; Hebrews 1:3)
- His Eternal Plan Defined:

"From all eternity God purposed to gather to Himself a special people from every nation, tribe, peoples, and tongue, re-created in His image, purchased by the blood of His own Son, that would treasure, glorify, praise, worship and enjoy Him for His infinite worth and beauty for now and all eternity for His own glory and their good and pleasure"

➤ His Eternal Plan . . .

- . . . is **ETERNAL**. (2 Timothy 1:9; Psalm 33:11; 119:89; Isaiah 37:26; 46:9-10; 2 Thessalonians 2:13; Matthew 25:34; 1 Peter 1:20; Jeremiah 31:3; Acts 15:18; Psalm 139:16) **MEDITATE!**
- . . . is **PERFECT**. (Deut 32:4; 2 Sam 22:31; Psa 18:30; 19:7; Eccl 3:14; Matt 5:48; James 1:17; Rom 12:2)
- . . . is, therefore, **UNCHANGABLE**. (James 1:17; Isaiah 14:24; 46:10-11; Numbers 23:19; Mal 3:6; Acts 15:18)
- . . . is **WISE**. (Psalm 104:24; 147:5; Isaiah 40:28; Romans 11:33; 16:27; Col 2:2-3; Jude 25). Wisdom is the ability to apply knowledge in a **RIGHT** and **GOOD** way.
- . . . is **FREE**. Isaiah 40:13-14; Romans 11:34. God is not surprised! God's plan comes from within inside of Himself – not outside Him. Nothing influenced God's plan except Himself.
- . . . is **ABSOLUTE** and **UNCONDITIONAL**. What God has planned **WILL** happen! By the **command** of God. (Isaiah 46:10; Ephesians 1:11; Lamentation 3:37-38)
- . . . includes the **FUTURE ACTS** of **MEN**. Dan 2:28-35; John 6:64; Matt 20:18, 19; Luke 22:10-13; 1 Pet 1:20; Isaiah 44:28; 1 Kings 13:1-2.

- ... includes “**chance happenings.**” (Prov 16:33; Jonah 1:7; Job 36:32; 1 Kings 22:28, 34; Job 5:6; Mark 14:30; Gen 37:28 with 45:5; 1 Sam 9:15, 16 and 9:5-10; John 19:23-24 with Psalm 22:18.) There is no such thing as chance!
- ... includes **FIXED** events. (Luke 22:22; John 8:20; Matthew 24:36; Genesis 41:32; Habakkuk 2:3; Luke 21:24; Job 14:5; 2 Samuel 12:14 with 12:15, 19; Jeremiah 27:7; Daniel 9:24-27)
- ... includes the **SINFUL acts of men.** (Genesis 50:20; Isaiah 45:7; Amos 3:6; Matthew 21:42; 2 Samuel 12:11 with 16:20-22; 1 Peter 1:20; Acts 2:23; 4:27-28)
- ... includes **BIG** and **MINUTE** details. (Luke 12:7; Psa 139:16; 147:4)
- God works to will and do for His good pleasure. (Philip 2:13; Jer 31:33; Hebrews 13:21; James 1:16-18)
- God works at both ends of His plan. (Isaiah 41:4; 44:6; 48:12)

• **The God Who IS. The Great I AM. The Absolute!**

➤ Definition: **His Sovereignty**

God is the Almighty, the Possessor of all power in heaven and earth, so that none can defeat His counsels, stop or slow His purpose, or resist His will. God does as He pleases, only as He pleases, however He pleases, with whatever He pleases, whenever He pleases and always as He pleases.

➤ Definition: **His Predestination**

By His eternal and unchangeable decree (plan/purpose), *for His own glory*, He has foreordained whatsoever comes to pass in time.

➤ Definition: **His Providence**

God’s constant care for and His absolute rule over all His creation, directing all things to their appointed end for His own glory and the good of His people.

Death of Sarah (Genesis 23)

- Another demonstration of Abraham’s faith.

The Unfolding of His Eternal Plan in Time

- Starting with Abraham - Genesis 12:1-5
- God’s promise/covenant - Genesis 17:19
- Birth of Isaac - the son of promise **given** - Joshua 24:3-4; Isaiah 9:6
- Sacrifice of Isaac - Genesis 22
- Now Abraham seeks a wife for Isaac - Genesis 24
- The seed of Isaac - Genesis 25

The Significance of Chapter 24

Faith of Abraham/Faithfulness of His Servant (Genesis 24:1-9)

- (v. 1) Abraham in his old age. (Psalm 71:17-18; 92:12-15; Isaiah 46:4)
- (v. 2) A faithful, trusted servant. (Matthew 25:14-30)
- (vv. 2-4) A **solemn** command/oath
 - Not trusting human nature
 - Not among the Canaanites - "my people".
- (vv. 6, 8) Do not take my son. He is to remain in the land of promise.
- (v. 7) Abraham's faith in God's promises and providence. (Heb 1:14)

In Search for an Honorable Bride (Genesis 24:10-28)

- No small journey.
- (vv. 10, 32) Ten camels are key to the story!
- (vv. 12-14) Persistent unceasing prayer. "LORD God"
- (v. 13) A well - not a palace, mansion, playhouse, park, etc.
- (v. 14) Your will not mine.
- (v. 15) "*And it happened*" - the providence of God.
 - God works out His plan on both ends!
- (vv. 15-20, 25) The description of an honorable woman!
- (v. 22) No small gifts! (Meditate on Ephesians 3:8)
- (vv. 21-27) The servant **wondered** and **worshiped** ("to bow down and prostrate oneself"). See Matt 2:11; 4:9; John 4:24; Rev 5:14; etc.

The Master's Plan Revealed (Genesis 24:29-53)

- (vv. 29-32) The "LORD" is known in the land of idolatry. (Josh 24:3-4)
- (vv. 32-34) The will of my master is more necessary than my necessary food. (**Job 23:12**; John 4:34)
- (vv. 34-47) The **servant** (v. 34) testifies of God - His goodness toward his master and His providence.
 - ★ The servant's **worship** of the LORD God. (v. 48)
 - ★ "... who led me in the way of truth . . ."
- (v. 49) Pressing for a decision.
 - ☆ There was urgency for the servant to complete his task.
- (v. 50) "The thing comes from the LORD; we cannot speak to you either bad or good." (Remember: Gen 21:22; see Gen 39:2-3, 23)
- (v. 51) "Here is Rebekah, take her and go . . . as the LORD has spoken." (Psalm 110:3; Proverbs 21:1; Jer 10:23; Proverbs 19:21; 20:24)
 - ★ The LORD reigns! - Psalm 99:1
- (v. 52) Again, the servant **worships God**! See 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18
- (vv. 53) More gifts. (Eph 3:16; 3:19; 2:7; 1 Cor 2:9)

The Urgency (Genesis 24:54-61)

- (vv. 54-55) “Take her as the LORD has spoken BUT . . .”
- (v. 56) The single focus of the servant - He is a servant of one master and he must return and not tarry!
 - Family, traditions, customs, fleshy desires are not to deter us from “following wholly” the Lord.
 - We are called to “live circumspectly . . . redeeming the time . . . understand what the will of the Lord is” (Ephesian 5:15-17) - and do it! (Matthew 7:23)
- (v. 58) MEDITATE: “**I will go!**” Immediate and cheerful obedience!
- (v. 60) She receives the same blessing as God promised Abraham in Genesis 22:17 -
 - ★ Multiply of descendants!
 - ★ “They shall possess the gate of their enemies!” (See Genesis 3:15; Matthew 16:18; 1 Corinthians 15:57; John 16:33; Romans 8:3, 37; Colossians 1:13; 2:15; Hebrews 2:14; 1 John 3:8)

God’s Will Done! (Genesis 24:62-67)

- (v. 62) PROVIDENCE - “Beer Lahai Roi” - “the well of Him that lives and sees me” (Genesis 16:14)
- (v. 63) He went out to MEDITATE. (Psalm 1:1-3; 4:4; 63:6; 77:12; 119:15, 23, 27, 48, 78, **97**, 99, 148; 143:5; 145:5; **Malachi 3:16**; **1 Timothy 4:15**)
- (vv. 64-65) The bride’s humility and submission. (Ephesians 5:24)

Isaac’s Marriage and Me

- God has HIS PLAN for His creation, He is unfolding it day by day in the affairs of men, and nothing and no one can stop Him. God **IS** reigning over all! (Psalm 47:8; 33:8, 11; 93:1; 96:10; 97:1; Proverbs 19:21; Isaiah 14:24; 46:10; 52:7; Lam 3:37; Eph 1:11; Rev 19:6)
- God is sovereign over **everything** and **everyone**. (Isaiah 46:10; Daniel 4:35; Psalm 115:3; 135:6; Romans 9:16, 18)
- Our lives are in the hand of God - His will for our life will be done! (Psalm 31:15; James 4:13-16; 1 Corinthians 6:19-20)
- Though God is sovereign over all persistent prayer is an **essential element** of His eternal plan. (1 Thessalonians 5:17; Luke 18:1; Romans 12:12; Colossians 4:2; 1 Peter 4:7)
- When is the last time you **worshipped** God? Have you ever worshiped God? (John 4:23-24)
- **LET US TREMBLE and REJOICE!** (Psalm 99:1; 97:1; 2:11-12)