

Morning Star Baptist Church
"I am a Baptist Because..."
The Engagement
6/3/07

Introduction

Genesis 24:1-9 (1)And Abraham was old, and well stricken in age: and the LORD had blessed Abraham in all things.(2) And Abraham said unto his eldest servant of his house, that ruled over all that he had, Put, I pray thee, thy hand under my thigh: (3) And I will make thee swear by the LORD, the God of heaven, and the God of the earth, that thou shalt not take a wife unto my son of the daughters of the Canaanites, among whom I dwell: (4) But thou shalt go unto my country, and to my kindred, and take a wife unto my son Isaac. (5) And the servant said unto him, Peradventure the woman will not be willing to follow me unto this land: must I needs bring thy son again unto the land from whence thou camest? (6) And Abraham said unto him, Beware thou that thou bring not my son thither again. (7) The LORD God of heaven, which took me from my father's house, and from the land of my kindred, and which spake unto me, and that sware unto me, saying, Unto thy seed will I give this land; he shall send his angel before thee, and thou shalt take a wife unto my son from thence. (8) And if the woman will not be willing to follow thee, then thou shalt be clear from this my oath: only bring not my son thither again. (9) And the servant put his hand under the thigh of Abraham his master, and sware to him concerning that matter.

Rehearse the dramatic story of Eliezer, the eldest servant of Abraham, who was sent to fetch a Bride for Isaac. Abraham gave strict instructions of who not to get. Eliezer swore to his master and the Lord sent Rebekah to the well! **Genesis 24:21-28**

Gifts were given and the proposal was urgent **Genesis 24:56-60**. She said "I will go." What a journey, a long caravan, where Eliezer describes Isaac to Rebekah. Meanwhile, Isaac is meditating in the field at eventide. What a symbolic story!

I. The Courtship

- A. The Lord Jesus chose His bride **Mark 3:13-19 and Luke 6:12-16**. The First Church was founded after a prayer meeting.
- B. Jesus promised that He would build His church and gave the keys to His church **Matthew 16:18**.
- C. Jesus gave authority and responsibility to the church to apply discipline to disorderly members **Matthew 18:15-18**.
- D. The Lord Jesus rehearsed how much He loved His church in **John 13**. He washed her feet, allowed affection, and reaffirmed His love (vv. 4-12, 23, and 34, respectively).

E. The Lord Immanuel wowed His Bride to be with miracles, gifts, and undivided attention.

II. The Contract

A. The proposal occurs with a cup of unfermented wine **Matthew 26:26-30**. It is based in Hebrew custom.

B. The promise **John 14:1-6**. Not a mansion over the hilltop but rather a prepared place.

C. What woman does not want a man that loves her so much that he is willing to die for her!? Christ did die for His Bride **Ephesians 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it.**

III. The Course

A. Since the Bridegroom has gone back to His Father's House to prepare a place and to meditate for us, the Church must go through a long journey on a course predetermined by God.

B. The Church was given two ordinances, the Holy Bible, and church discipline to help keep her wedding gown clean and white!

C. The Lord wants a clean and glorious Bride **Ephesians 5:26-32**.

D. There is a danger that a church can be enticed away from the Lord **II Corinthians 11:2-4**. She could lose her candlestick, represented in heaven, because she left Christ, her first love **Revelation 2:5**.

E. The contractual blessings below were given to the bride.

- **Rev 2:7** The right to eat of life
- **Rev 2:10** The crown of life
- **Rev 2:17** Hidden manna, white stone, and a new name
- **Rev 2:26-27** The power to rule and the morning star
- **Rev 3:5** White raiment and her name announced
- **Rev 3:12** Pillar in the temple, name of God, name of city, and a new name
- **Rev 3:24** Sit with me on my throne

IV. The Consummation

A. The raging controversy - Who is the Bride? It is neither the Roman harlot nor her harlot daughters **Revelation 19:1-2**.

B. Who is the Bride of Christ? **Revelation 19:7-10**.

C. Her honeymoon suite is almost ready **Revelation 21:1-3**.

D. She is the Lamb's wife **Revelation 21:9**.

E. She is the one who received the Great Commission **Revelation 22:17**.

F. And John the Baptist is the best man **John 3:29** and **Luke 7:28-29**.

G. As the veil is lifted, she is the same girl Jesus proposed to back in the land of Judah, romanced by the shores of Galilee, and courted on the mountains of Judea, betrothed in an upper room, and purchased on a hill called Calvary.

Conclusion

Many will be embarrassed if they presume to be a part of such honor. Not all believers share the honor of divine marriage, but all born-again believers share the family privileges **Luke 14:7-11**.

Back to our original passage, **Genesis 24:64-67**. Rebekah saw Isaac. "Who, who, who is that?" "My master Isaac." My, my, my is how we will react when we see Jesus.

Genesis 24:64-67 (64) And Rebekah lifted up her eyes, and when she saw Isaac, she lighted off the camel. (65) For she had said unto the servant, What man is this that walketh in the field to meet us? And the servant had said, It is my master: therefore she took a veil, and covered herself.(66) And the servant told Isaac all things that he had done.(67) And Isaac brought her into his mother Sarah's tent, and took Rebekah, and she became his wife; and he loved her: and Isaac was comforted after his mother's death.