

Purpose: Examine Isaac, an Old Testament type of Jesus Christ, and the sequence of events that led to his marriage to Rebekah, a type of the Gentile bride.

Compare the sequence of events in Genesis 22-24 that correspond to the sequence of events in the life of Jesus Christ in the NT.

Gen. 22: Figurative Death & Resurrection of Isaac, the son of promise

Literal Death & Resurrection of Jesus Christ, the promised son, the Messiah

Gen. 23: Death & setting aside of Sarah, the Matriarch of Israel

Setting Aside of National Israel

Gen. 24: Unnamed servant [type of Holy Spirit] sent to procure bride for Isaac

The Holy Spirit is actively seeking & preparing a pure bride for Jesus Christ.

Isaac: Type of Jesus Christ

Note: ~2048 years have passed since Adam until the birth of Isaac who will marry at age 40.

1. Isaac and Jesus were both from Abrahamic lineage. Gen. 17:21; Micah 5:2
2. Both were born in accordance with the promises given many years in advance.
3. Both were conceived and born miraculously.
 - Isaac's mother, Sarah was barren and well past age. Gen. 17-18, 21
 - Jesus was born of a virgin. Matt. 1:18, 20, 23
4. Both were born at the appointed time.

Gen. 17:21; 21:2 But my covenant will I establish with Isaac, which Sarah shall bear unto thee at this set time in the next year. ²For Sarah conceived, and bare Abraham a son in his old age, at the set time of which God had spoken to him.

Gal. 4:4a But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman...

5. Were named by God; given a special name before their birth
 - Genesis 17:19 Sarah... shall bear you a son, and you shall call his name Isaac.
 - Matthew 1:21 [Mary] shall bring forth a Son and call His name Jesus."

The procuring of Isaac's bride is detailed in Genesis 24 which provides us with further information regarding the procuring of a bride for Jesus Christ.

Key: The events in Gen. 22-23 set the stage for seeking a bride for Isaac in Genesis 24.

Key: The type in the OT must reflect the sequence of events in the NT.

Event #1: Happens Before The Bride Is Sought

Gen. 22 Isaac, the son, being in a figure, offered up, and received again from the dead.

6. Both were loved by their fathers.

Genesis 22:2 And he said, Take now thy son, thine only son [2x] Isaac, whom thou lovest, and get thee into the land of Moriah; and offer him there for a burnt offering upon one of the mountains which I will tell thee of.

The typology between Isaac and Jesus is strong. The language used regarding Abraham and Isaac is almost identical to the language used in the NT regarding God the Father and His Son.

Matt. 3:17 And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. The parallel verses in Mark 1:11 and Luke 3:22 are also the first time the word love is used in each gospel.

- As Isaac was the object of his father's love toward the beginning of the Old Testament, Jesus was the object of His Father's love toward the beginning of the New Testament.

The Principle of First Mention: God reveals the truest meaning of a word when it first occurs.

- 1st time the word "love" is in the OT, it describes the love a father feels toward his son.
- 1st time the word "love" occurs in the NT also describes a Father's love for a Son.

7. Both carried the wood for their sacrifice.

Gen. 22:6 So Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son; and he took the fire in his hand, and a knife, and the two of them went together.

John 19:17a They took Jesus, therefore, and He went out, carrying His own cross,...

8. Isaac and Jesus each asked a question at the moment they were to be sacrificed:

Gen. 22:7 Isaac spake unto Abraham his father, and said, My father: and he said, Here am I, my son. And he said, Behold the fire and the wood: but where is the lamb for a burnt offering? And Abraham said, "My son, God will provide Himself as the lamb for a burnt offering."

And the two of them went together.

Matt. 27:46 And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying,

Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani? that is to say, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?

9. Both were offered up in sacrifice by their father.

10. Both were submissive to their fathers and were willing to die.

11. Both were silent when laying down their lives.

God pronounced the death sentence on Isaac when He asked Abraham to sacrifice him.

For three days, Isaac was considered "dead" to Abraham. An angel of the Lord stopped the sacrifice from occurring once God saw the sincere heart intention of Abraham.

Heb. 11:17-19 By faith Abraham, when God tested him, offered Isaac as a sacrifice. He who had received the promises was about to sacrifice his only begotten son, even though God had said to him, 'It is through Isaac that your descendants will be named.' He considered that God is able to raise *people* even from the dead, from which he also received him back as a type.

Key: Isaac is a type of Jesus, the Son of God,

who *literally* died and rose again after being dead for three days.

12. Both were raised on the 3rd day.

- Isaac was brought back from the dead figuratively.
- Jesus Christ was brought back from death literally.

Heb. 11:17-19

Matt. 28

Abraham "offered up his one and only son" Isaac, prefiguring Calvary.

- *Just as Abraham did not withhold Isaac,
so God the Father did not spare His one and only Son.*
- Isaac, on the altar and then taken from the altar [the ram; substitute for Isaac], is a prophetic picture of the death and resurrection of our Lord.

Event #2: After the events in Genesis 22, the Bible records the death of Sarah in Gen. 23

BEFORE the bride is sought for Isaac [son of promise] in Gen. 24. Is this intentional? Cannot get a bride yet! Sarah, who represents Israel, must be Set Aside out of the narrative.

- Israel formally became the wife of Jehovah, God the Father,
in the "ceremony" at the foot of Mt. Sinai.

Ex. 19: 4-6 Ye have seen what I did unto the Egyptians, and how I bare you on eagles' wings, and brought you unto myself. ⁵ Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine: ⁶ And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation.

These are the words which thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel.

- Israel the "bride" of Yahweh said: "We will & We do" to the vows. [Ex. 19:8]

Gen. 17:15-16 Sarah is explicitly named by God as the 'mother of nations.'

And God said unto Abraham, As for Sarai thy wife, thou shalt not call her name Sarai, but Sarah shall her name be. ¹⁶ And I will bless her, and give thee a son also of her:

yea, I will bless her, and she shall be a mother of nations; kings of people shall be of her.

The text of Gen. 17:15-16 makes clear that Sarah wasn't merely a vessel for Abraham's seed, she was an essential covenant partner whose body and faith would become the foundation of the Jewish nation.

- Genesis identifies Sarah as the ancestral mother of the Jewish people.
- God chose her to be the mother of the child of promise.
- Through Isaac, her line would carry forward God's covenant, making her not only a matriarch of Israel but a mother of nations.

Gen. 23:1 And Sarah was an hundred and seven and twenty years old:
these were the years of the life of Sarah.

Sarah is uniquely positioned in Scripture as the only woman whose age at death is recorded.

- Sarah is the only woman whose age, death, and burial are distinctly noted in Scripture.
- an honor reserved for Sarah who served as the matriarch of the nation of Israel.

Her death, therefore, is not merely a family sorrow but a moment of profound covenant significance—Sarah's death is the first death recorded in the land God had sworn to give them. Though Abraham owned not even a foot of that land, he would soon purchase a burial site there by faith, declaring that even in death, God's promises stand.

Abraham Purchases The Cave of Machpelah

• Fulfillment of God's Promise

The cave sits near Hebron, within the very territory God had pledged to him. [Gen. 13:14-17] Purchasing it publicly expresses faith that the whole land will one day belong to his descendants. Acts 7:5 Stephen notes, And He gave him none inheritance in it, no, not so much as to set his foot on: yet He promised that He would give it to him for a possession, and to his seed after him, when as yet he had no child.

This first parcel becomes a down payment on that promise.

• Permanence and Ownership

- By insisting on paying "the full price" [Gen. 23:9, 16],
Abraham secures indisputable title—field, cave, and trees [23:17-20].
- A family tomb signals a permanent stake. Sarah's burial there anticipates Abraham [25:9], Isaac and Rebekah, Jacob and Leah [Gen. 49:29-32].

Faith Looking Forward

Heb. 11:9-10, 13 Abraham lived "in tents" yet looked "forward to the city with foundations whose builder and maker is God."

Buying Machpelah showed:

- Confidence that God's word would be fulfilled on earth.
- Hope that extended beyond the grave, anticipating resurrection and a better homeland

Faith and Promise: Sarah's death is intertwined with the themes of Faith and Divine Promise. Abraham's actions following her death reflect His Trust in God's Plan for their Descendants, as he seeks a wife for Isaac to fulfill the covenant made with him.

Key: Sarah who represents Israel, The Wife Of Jehovah, God The Father, must be set aside and written out of the narrative BEFORE the bride for Isaac, the son of promise is procured.

Question: Do events after the Resurrection & Ascension of Jesus Christ follow this sequence?

- Was the nation of Israel set aside BEFORE the Bride for Jesus Christ is procured?

God's judgment of the Jews and His setting Israel aside.

Matt. 23:37-39 O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not! ³⁸ Behold, your house is left unto you desolate. For I say unto you, Ye shall not see me henceforth, till ye shall say,

Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.

Acts 15:13-18 The first real effort to bring the Gospel to the Gentiles didn't begin until almost 20 years after the cross. James told the apostles Israel was being set aside until the Lord took from the gentiles a people for himself.

- After that He would turn His attention to the Jews again.

Acts 28:25-28 *"The Holy Spirit spoke rightly through Isaiah the prophet to our fathers, saying, 'Go to this people and say: Hearing you will hear, and shall not understand; And seeing you will see, and not perceive; For the hearts of this people have grown dull."*

Their ears are hard of hearing, And their eyes they have closed, Lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears, Lest they should understand with their hearts and turn, So that I should heal them.'

Therefore, let it be known to you that this salvation of God
has been sent to the Gentiles; they will also listen.

This is the third and last such pronouncement Paul made throughout his ministry in the book of Acts. He quotes from Isaiah 6 which was God's prophecy regarding the judicial, spiritual blinding of His chosen nation, Israel. This passage was quoted by the Lord Jesus during His ministry, as the people of Israel rejected Him, their Messiah and King [Matt. 13:14-15]

- Paul quotes it here after the people of Israel had completely rejected the offer of the kingdom through the ministry of the Holy Spirit.

Israel's long-awaited kingdom and the blessings it would bring was to be postponed. When God set them aside, it did not mean that they would never experience their promised kingdom on earth, for the Scriptures plainly teach that one day they will.

Rom. 11:25 For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery,
lest you should be wise in your own opinion,

that blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in.
Fullness of the Gentiles: Israel's hardening will continue until the divinely set number of Gentiles are saved. It is often translated "fullness" carries connotations of "completion," "fulfillment," or "the sum total": something that has reached its intended capacity or goal. Then God's focus will shift back to Israel, leading to the eventual salvation of all Israel.

Morris: Israel will indeed be restored as the WIFE OF JEHOVAH. This promise is eternal, not conditional, though its implementation must await the national repentance and acceptance of Messiah when He returns, after His long absence and her long affliction [Hosea 5:5]

In one concise prophecy, Jesus announces a temporary withdrawal from Israel, a guaranteed future visibility, and the indispensable requirement of their heartfelt acknowledgment of Him as the Lord-sent Messiah. Scripture weaves this pattern consistently: present rejection, promised repentance, and a glorious return. When Israel finally cries, "Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord," the long-awaited reunion between the King and His covenant people will become a glorious reality, fulfilling every promise exactly as written. [Matt. 23:39]

Feldick: God set Israel aside because she rejected her Messiah—the King and the Kingdom—along with the opportunity to evangelize the nations. This rejection brought a dispersion lasting over 1900 years, during which God turned to the Gentiles without the nation of Israel, forming the predominantly Gentile Body of Christ.

Key: This timing of Sarah's death is significant as it marks a shift in the Biblical narrative from the life of Sarah to the focus on Isaac and his future.

Sarah's passing also emphasizes the importance of her role as the matriarch.

With her death, the narrative transitions to Isaac, who will carry on the family legacy.

Finding a suitable bride for Isaac becomes a priority to ensure the continuation of their lineage.

When Abraham left the two servants, he said, "Stay here with the donkey, and

I and the lad will go yonder and worship and come again to you." [Genesis 22:5].

Consider: Abraham knew that God had promised that his future generations would be through Isaac. In the eyes of Abraham, if God wanted him to sacrifice Isaac, then Abraham did not have a problem. God had a problem.

Gen. 22:6, 8 "The two of them walked on together."

Gen. 22:19 "Abraham returned to his young men." Where is Isaac?

Why did they not return together?

Key: Isaac is "out of the narrative" after his "figurative death & resurrection" and the death or setting aside of Sarah who represents Israel. [Gen. 23]

He is out of the narrative in Gen. 24 while Abraham, the father, sends his unnamed servant, [type of the Holy Spirit] to procure a bride for his son Isaac who is the son of promise.

Isaac enters the narrative in Gen. 24:62 when he meets his bride.

Gen. 24:65 And the servant had said, It is my master: [Isaac, the son of promise]
therefore, she took a veil and covered herself.

Key: After the death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus Christ,
He is now at the right hand of the Father.

- God's Unconditional Covenants & ultimate plan for Israel has been set aside.
- The Holy Spirit is procuring and preparing a bride for Jesus Christ, the Son of God.
- He will not be seen again until He meets The Church, His Body at the Rapture.

MY Belief: The Bride is veiled and will be revealed after the Judgment Seat of Christ.
Then the Marriage of the Lamb will take place. [Rev. 19:7-8]

Event #3: Procure a Bride for the Son of Promise

Consider: Only 31 verses are devoted to the creation account in Genesis 1.

Gen. 24: 67 verses are devoted to: How Rebekah became Isaac's wife.

Why would the Spirit of God occupy an unusually long chapter with the mere detail of a family compact, were that compact not typical or illustrative of some great truth?

Abraham commissioned his most trusted servant to find a bride worthy
to be the next mother of the "line of the promise."

How Isaac acquired his bride provides
valuable insights for those who are the future Bride of Jesus Christ.

God began to reveal the truth of the Gentile Bride to the patriarchs of Israel.

Abraham type of God the Father who desires a bride for His one & only son.

Unnamed servant type of the Holy Spirit, who does not speak of himself but takes the things of the Bridegroom with which to win the bride. John 16:13-14

The servant type of the Spirit as enriching the bride with the bridegroom's gifts
I Cor. 12:7-11; Gal. 5:22-23

The servant type of the Spirit as bringing the bride to the meeting with the bridegroom.
Acts 13:4; 16:6-7; Romans 8:11; I Thess. 4:14-17

Rebekah type of the Church, the ecclesia, the called-out virgin bride of Christ.
Gen. 24:16; II Cor. 11:2; Eph. 5:25-27

While Rebekah was a kinswoman of Isaac, she was a gentile. Abraham was the first Hebrew, But his kinspeople were gentiles just as he was when God called him out of the Ur of Chaldea.

Isaac Type of the bridegroom whom having not seen,
the bride loves through the testimony of the unnamed servant.
Type of the bridegroom who goes out to meet & receive his bride.

Gen. 24:1 And Abraham was old, and well stricken in age:
and the Lord had blessed Abraham in all things.

- Abraham was very rich in possessions, but his greatest treasure was his only son, Isaac, the son of promise who was with him in Canaan.
- Only then could God fulfill His covenant promises to bless Abraham with many descendants & give them Canaan for their inheritance.
- Find a wife for his one & only son
- Find the bride away from where they dwelt
- The son would share his riches with his bride.

Gen. 24:2 The Unnamed Servant administered the entire wealth of the father, Abraham.

The Holy Spirit rules over and administers all that the Father and the Son, Jesus have. Jesus is the embodiment of all wisdom and knowledge of God, but it's the Holy Spirit who actually gives you access to it. The Holy Spirit takes what belongs to Jesus and shares it with you, acting as the administrator of God's wealth and blessings. Even though God has already blessed you with everything through Christ, you won't fully experience those blessings unless you know the Holy Spirit. "*The Holy Spirit: Access To All Your Spiritual Wealth*"

Gen. 24:2 The oath between Abraham and his most trusted servant [Eliezer, type of Holy Spirit] had for its object the provision of a bride for the son. The call and exaltation of Rebekah were founded upon the oath between Abraham and his most trusted servant.

She knew nothing of this, though she was, in the purpose of God, entirely the subject of it all.

Requirements for Isaac's Bride:

Verse 3: She could not be a Canaanite; curse on them - pagan, unbelievers in Abraham's God

Requirements for The Bride of Jesus Christ

- Must be born-again; cannot be an unbeliever

Gal. 3:13 Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us:

Verse 4: She must be from Abraham's country and his family.

Secure a God-appointed wife for Isaac so the promises can advance.

- Abraham insisted that Isaac's bride must be found in his own country to ensure she came from his own people. He wanted a wife who shared their faith and values, specifically, to avoid the Canaanite women who did not follow the one true God.

Why did Abraham insist she must be from his kindred? [family of the father]

- Isaac's bride must be of the same stock as himself and among his kindred.
- He was in the line of Shem which was blessed by Noah and especially blessed by God.
- This is the line of the nation of Israel, and eventually the Messiah, Jesus Christ.

Requirements for The Bride of Jesus Christ

- Must be in the family of God The Father
- Share the faith and values of God's Word
- Must be of the nature of Jesus Christ - Progressive Sanctification

God's people are told to come out of Babylon.

Gen. 11:28 speaks of Abraham's father Terah, who lived in "Ur of the Chaldeans."

Gen. 11:31 & 15:7 God called Abraham, a descendant of Shem, out of Ur of the Chaldeans.

- God told Abram to leave Chaldea and go to a land He would show him. Promised Land.

The bride for Isaac must be willing to leave Chaldea behind and go to the land

God promised to Abraham and Isaac.

God's call to His Son's Bride: Come out of Babylon and follow Him to the spiritual promised land.

Separate yourself from the wickedness of the world: "Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness? What harmony is there between Christ and Belial? Or what does a believer have in common with an unbeliever? What agreement is there between the temple of God and idols? For we are the temple of the living God. . . . Therefore, 'Come out from them and be separate,' says the Lord.

'Touch no unclean thing, and I will receive you'" [II Cor. 6:14-17].

Rebekah, who lived in Mesopotamia, the city of Nahor, which is Chaldean [Babylonian], must be willing to come out of this land and make the long journey to the land of Isaac to become the bride of Isaac, type of Jesus Christ.

Gen. 24: 5, 8 teach us that the bride must be willing to follow the trusted servant to make the journey to the bridegroom.

We also must choose to follow the Holy Spirit on a long journey of sanctification.

Those who constitute the Bride of Christ will be in that company, not by compulsion or chance,

But By Choice.

Vernon McGee: Man has been given free will and must make decisions in his life. Man asserting his free will, will not stop or interfere with the program of God who is running on schedule.

You have a free will, but God will hold you responsible.