

# *Shadows of Christ & His Bride*

Lesson #4

Isaac: Type of Jesus

February 7, 2024

The Old Testament is the New Testament Concealed.

The New Testament is the Old Testament Revealed.

Christ is promised in the Old and revealed in the New.

Romans 15:4 For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope.

Type: a person or thing in the Old Testament believed to foreshadow another in the NT.

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

## *Isaac: Type of Jesus Christ*

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. <sup>2</sup>For 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."
6. They were both hated by their brothers without cause.
  - Gen. 21:9-10; Gal. 4:29 Isaac was hated by Ishmael & Abraham's other sons [Gen. 25:6]
  - Mark 3:21; John 15:25 Jesus was thought crazy by his family & God's chosen people.

7. Both were loved by their fathers.

Genesis 22:2 And he said, Take now thy son, thine only son [2x] Isaac, whom thou lovest,

The typology between Isaac and Jesus is immediately established strongly in Genesis 22:2.

The language used regarding Abraham and Isaac is almost identical to the language used in the New Testament regarding God the Father and His Son.

Gen. 22:12 And He said, Do not lay your hand on the lad, or do anything to him;

for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, *your only son*, from Me.

Gen. 22:16 [The Angel of the Lord] said: By Myself I have sworn, says the Lord, because you have done this thing, and have not withheld your son, *your only son*.

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.

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.

8. Both carried the wood for their sacrifice.

9. 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?

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?

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

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

12. Both were silent when laying down their lives.

13. Both were sacrificed on Mt. Moriah.

14. Both were raised on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day.

- Isaac was brought back from the dead figuratively.

Heb. 11:17-19

- Jesus Christ was brought back from death literally.

Matt. 28

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 one and only son, even though God had said to him, 'It is through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned.' Abraham reasoned that God could raise the dead, and figuratively speaking, he did receive Isaac back from death."

Following these events, Isaac receives a lovely bride, Rebekah.

Following Jesus Christ's resurrection, He'll receive His bride, at His coming.

15. Both return with their bride.

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

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?*

Isaac is a type of Jesus Christ in the Old Testament. How he acquired his bride provides valuable insights for those who are the future Bride of Jesus Christ

Gen. 24:1-67 relate how Rebekah became Isaac's wife.

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

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

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

Isaac, the son of Abraham, is a type of the Son of God.

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. Isaac was figuratively "raised from the dead" when his life was spared by God.

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 one and only son, even though God had said to him, 'It is through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned.' Abraham reasoned that God could raise the dead, and figuratively speaking, he did receive Isaac back from death."

➤ His son [of promise] was accounted as "dead" and "raised from the dead."

Note: Isaac is a type of Jesus, the Son of God, who *literally* died and rose again after being dead for three days. Isaac, on the altar and then taken from the altar [substitute for Isaac], is a prophetic picture of the death and resurrection of our Lord.

Key Points:

1. It is important that Isaac was figured as raised from the dead. Gen.22
2. Sarah, wife of Abraham, the father, was laid aside. Gen. 23
3. The unnamed servant sent forth by the father to procure a bride for Isaac who had been, as it were, figuratively raised from the dead. Gen. 24

The unnamed servant testified of the Father and the Son. He told of the massive wealth of the father. Isaac, the one and only son, is the heir of all the riches.

*Genesis 24 can be viewed as a type or illustration of the calling out of the Church by the Holy Spirit. It furnishes us with a beautiful illustration or foreshadowing of the great mystery of the Church.*

Important: While there is no direct revelation of this mystery in the Old Testament, there are, scenes and circumstances which, in a very remarkable manner, shadow it forth.

1. The Son, Jesus Christ, was offered up. The rejection and death of Christ.
2. The setting aside of Israel after the flesh. In the Old Testament, Israel was called the wife of Jehovah, God the Father. The national setting aside of Israel occurred after Christ was risen from the dead and returned to the Father.
3. The calling out of the Church by the Holy Spirit > to occupy the high position of the bride of The Lamb. [the Son]

Just as Isaac was prefigured as dead and raised, BEFORE the unnamed servant was sent to procure his bride, the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ needed to be an accomplished fact BEFORE the Holy Spirit would begin the work of calling out the Church.

To call out a bride for His Son, God sent His Holy Spirit to prepare a people to meet and marry Jesus, the Bridegroom. He was sent forth after Christ was glorified and with the day of Pentecost, He began His mission on earth. He testified of the Father and the Son; how rich the father is and that Jesus is the heir of all the riches. The Holy Spirit does not speak of Himself but of the Father and of the Son. He makes known the eternal purposes of the Father.

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. I Peter 1:8

Isaac                      type of the bridegroom who goes out to meet and receive His bride.  
Gen. 24:63; I Thess. 4:14-17

Despite God's promise to Abraham, Isaac is in many ways a transitional character, who falls between the stories of Abraham and Jacob. Even the story of his marriage in Genesis 24 is different from the two other extended narratives which describe how descendants of Abraham first meet the women who will be their wives. While both Jacob, in Genesis 29:1-3 and Moses in Exodus 2:15-22 meet their future spouses at wells outside city gates, Isaac does not meet Rebekah until the day of their marriage. The one who meets her for the first time is an unnamed servant [Holy Spirit]. Isaac does not appear until the conclusion in Genesis 24:62-67. Just as Adam 1 was taken out of the picture while God made his bride, Isaac is out of the narrative until his bride is presented to him by the unnamed servant, the Holy Spirit. Despite the lack of activity on Isaac's part, this story is of vital significance to the narrative of Genesis.

- God is faithful in providing not only a wife for Isaac,  
but also fulfilling the divine promise to Abraham of Genesis 12:1-3.
- If Isaac were not married Abraham could not become the father of a great nation.

#### Key Points:

1. Isaac, the beloved son of Abraham, is the next "living link" in the chain of blessing that culminated in the birth of the Savior, Jesus Christ.
2. What happens to Isaac is of utmost importance in God's great plan of salvation.

Elements involved in the marriage of Isaac and Rebekah are involved in the marriage of Christ and His church.

II Cor. 11:2-3            The church is compared to a bride. [Eph. 5:22-23]

During this present age, the Holy Spirit is calling people to trust Jesus Christ and be "married to Him."

Rom. 7:4 Wherefore, my brethren, ye also are become dead to the law by the body of Christ; that ye should be married to another, even to him who is raised from the dead, that we should bring forth fruit unto God.

<u>Types:</u>	Abraham	type of	God the Father
	Isaac	type of	Jesus, the one & only son of the Father
	Servant	type of	Holy Spirit
	Rebekah	type of	Church; Bride of Christ

1. The Will of the Father    The commission to the servant    Gen. 24:1-9

<sup>1</sup>And Abraham was old, and well stricken in age: and the LORD had blessed Abraham in all things.

➤ Abraham was 140 [Gen. 21:5; 25:20]. He would live 35 more years.

➤ Abraham was very rich in possessions: cattle, gold, silver, tents, flocks, herds.

<sup>2</sup> And Abraham said unto his eldest servant of his house, that ruled over all that he had,

Question: Who is the eldest unnamed servant?

Gen. 15:2 And Abram said, LORD God, what wilt thou give me, seeing I go childless, and the steward of my house is this Eliezer of Damascus?

From this comment we gather that Eliezer of Damascus is Abraham's chief steward, a servant so esteemed that he could have inherited Abraham's estate.

➤ This passage occurred > 50 years earlier. He must be elderly. Eliezer means comforter.

Consider: Did Eliezer the servant of Abraham show up in a type of the Holy Spirit before?

This previous time was in the Power of the Spirit but again incognito.

Romans 15:13 Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the POWER of the Holy Ghost.

In Genesis 14, Abraham's nephew Lot had been taken captive by the forces of 4 kings who overpowered the forces of 5 kings.

Genesis 14:14 And when Abram heard that his brother was taken captive, he armed his trained servants, born in his own house, three hundred and eighteen [318], and pursued them unto Dan. And he divided himself against them, he and his servants, by night, and smote them, and pursued them unto Hobah, which is on the left hand of Damascus.

Abraham chased them from the Dead Sea to Damascus about 140 miles, one way!

Why we are given the exact number, 318?

Eliezer has shown himself to act as a type of the Holy Spirit.

Eliezer > Strong's H-461 = God is (of) help, comforter

John 16:7 Jesus said He must leave the Earth to send back the Holy Spirit, the "Helper, Advocate, Comforter."

Interesting: Eliezer is one of only 66 Hebrew words in the entire Bible that has a gematria value of 318. There is No Hebrew word for "coincidence." Everything is "an act of God."

Abraham, a type of God the Father, goes out to battle against such forces with 318 servants, but they are born in His House, (shadow of being Born Again and Spirit Filled).

Based on Genesis 15:2, we know the servant's name is Eliezer, which means "God is help." This makes the connection with the Holy Spirit Who is "the Helper" (John 14:16, 26, 16:7). Even though the servant's name is known, it is not mentioned anywhere in the account, furthering the typology with the Holy Spirit, who is the Unnamed Servant working behind the scenes.

Eliezer is NOT named here because as Jesus said:

John 16:13-14 Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for HE SHALL NOT SPEAK OF HIMSELF; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.

He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you.

God the Father sent out a Servant—the Holy Spirit—to find a bride for His Son

- after His death, resurrection and ascension.

Abraham maintains the typology with God the Father by sending out a servant, Eliezer who is a type of the Holy Spirit with power, to find a bride for his beloved son, Isaac, who was in type figured "dead" for 3 days, removed from the altar and is out of the narrative.

- 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.
- His primary concern >
  - ❖ Find a wife for his only son, Isaac, with whom he would share his riches.
  - ❖ Seek the bride away from the place where Abraham & Isaac dwelt.
- Only then could God fulfill His covenant promises to bless Abraham with many descendants and give them Canaan for their inheritance. [12:1-3; 13:14-17; 15:18; 21:12]

The Jewish Wedding consisted of 3 steps.

1. The contract                      proposal and decision
2. The betrothal                    preparation
3. The wedding                     consummation

The Contract [Ketubah] - Proposal and Decision

Once the terms of the marriage were agreed upon, the groom could formally "propose" to his prospective bride. He would present her with a ketubah, a formal document that specified the marriage terms and stated his intent to consecrate himself to her.

The groom then offered her a gift of value, a possession symbolic of his esteem for her and his willingness to sacrifice in her behalf.

When a Jewish man "proposed" to a woman he would offer her a cup of wine. Because Jewish law stated that a woman could not be forced to marry a man distasteful to her, the bride was ultimately allowed to choose whether to accept or reject the groom's proposal.

If the woman accepted the cup and drank the wine, she was giving consent to become his wife. They were now betrothed.

Jesus Christ has offered a gift of great value and sacrifice to us. The "spiritual contract" we have with Jesus took place when we turned to Him in faith and trusted in His shed blood for the payment of the penalty of our sins.

Jesus offered us the "wine" of His blood. We accepted and partook of the cup of His blood, the payment for our sins, and we were saved by Him and given promises to come.

Jesus confirmed the contract, and sealed our betrothal, with the Holy Spirit who is the security (guarantor) of our inheritance. We are sealed by the Holy Spirit until the day of redemption [Eph. 4:30] when Jesus will return for His Bride.

*With the contract in place, the next step was the betrothal or preparation period.*

In Jewish culture, it was the time during which the bride would prepare herself for the marriage and the groom would prepare a home for his bride. During this long period of waiting, she was referred to as "consecrated," "set apart," "bought with a price."

During the betrothal period, it was the father's responsibility to ensure that his daughter remained faithful to her pledged husband. Then he would present her to him at the wedding ceremony as a pure virgin. [Deut. 22:13-24; II Cor. 6:14-7:1]

II Cor. 11:2 For I am jealous for you with godly jealousy. For I have betrothed you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ.

Paul [spiritual father] describes the Church as "a chaste virgin," a pure and undefiled bride, betrothed (pledged) to one Husband. This is our current relationship with Christ.

➤ We are not a wedded bride, but a betrothed bride.

God The Father has joined or espoused every believer to one husband, Jesus Christ. We are a betrothed bride, united with Christ in a contractual promise sealed by the Holy Spirit.

While Christ has gone to prepare a home for us, we are being prepared for our Bridegroom.

➤ Rom. 8:29 being conformed to His image [see Galatians 4:19]

➤ Eph. 1:4 holy and without blame

➤ Eph. 5:26 That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word,

Phil. 1:6 Being confident of this very thing, that He which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:

Col. 1:12 Giving thanks unto the Father, [father's responsibility] which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light:

Acts 20:32 And now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified.

The betrothal contract in ancient Israel was binding and could not be easily broken. Because the proposal and decision were considered contractual, the man and woman were declared to be joined together as if they were already married. The marriage was guaranteed to take place and to be consummated. The only way to end it was through the legal process of divorce.

#### Jewish Customs of Betrothal

During the betrothal time, when the prospective groom left his betrothed bride to prepare a home for her, he would return to his father's house where he would build a house, with his father supervising. It could take quite some time to complete.

When the father determined the work was completed, and the time was right, he would send his son back to where his bride waited for him. The prospective groom would get his betrothed bride and bring her to the house prepared for her.

We are Jesus' betrothed bride. He has returned to Heaven to prepare a home for us.

While Christ has gone to prepare a home for us, we are being prepared for our bridegroom.

[conformed to the image of Christ > sanctification] We await His return.

When the time is right, the Father will send His Son for His Bride.

Jesus will return and take us to be with Him in the heavenly home He has prepared for us.

John 14:3 And if I [Jesus] go and prepare a place for you [His Bride], I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.

I Thess. 4:16-17 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

We will receive glorified bodies and in Heaven we will stand before the Judgment Seat of Christ

II Cor. 5:9-10 Therefore, we labor, that, whether present or absent, we may be accepted of him. <sup>10</sup> For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that everyone may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.

Christ will adorn us with promised rewards of jewels for that which we have done to serve the Lord during our earthly lives.

This fulfills the Jewish custom of adorning and preparing the bride for the wedding.

### The Wedding in Heaven - Consummation

1. The wedding was to take place until the appearance of the bride and groom out of the chamber. In Bible times, it was 7 days.
2. At the end of the week, the bride and groom would make their long-awaited appearance to the cheers of the crowd.
3. There would be a joyous meal; a marriage supper, to honor the bride and groom.
4. The bride would have discarded her veil since she was now married.
5. All would now see exactly who the bridegroom had chosen.
6. The new couple and the guests would enjoy a magnificent feast together.

God the Father elected to provide a bride for His beloved Son. Why?

➤ Not because Jesus needed anything.

The eternal Son of God is self-existent and self-sufficient. He needs nothing.

John 17:2, 6, 9, 11-12, 24 The bride is the Father's love gift to His Son.



In the divine counsel of eternity, the Father elected to save lost sinners by His grace. The Son agreed to die for the sins of the world. The Holy Spirit agreed to apply that work to the lives of all who would believe. This is revealed in Ephesians 1:1-14.

- Eph. 1:3-6                the work of God the Father
- Eph. 1:7-12             the work of God the Son
- Eph. 1:13-14            the work of God the Holy Spirit
- Eph. 1:6, 12, 14        This great plan of salvation is for the Glory of God.
- Eph. 1:18                Those who trust Christ > a special people > His inheritance
- Eph. 5:22-33            His Bride who would bring glory to Christ on earth and all eternity.

One day Jesus Christ will have the joy of presenting His bride in glory to the Father.

[Heb. 12:2; Jude 1:24]

The next time you have the privilege of witnessing for Jesus Christ, remember:

You are inviting people to be part of the bride of Christ.

Application: Are you living with purity as you await the arrival of your Bridegroom?

Yet many believers dash between books and programs, seminars and workshops, desperately searching for what they already have.

Peter's last words before he is crucified upside down.

- The Bible says God has given us everything we need for life and godliness.

II Peter 1:3-9 According as His divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him that hath called us to glory and virtue:

Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

And beside this, giving all diligence,      serious effort; your main objective

Take your faith                                      Gift of God [Eph. 2:8]

add to your faith virtue;                        moral excellence.

David Jeremiah If we will be to Christ what He was to His Father, then Christ will be to us what His Father was to Him."

and to virtue, knowledge;                      Study God's Word.

The more you learn, the hungrier you are to learn more.

and to knowledge, self-control                Say no to the things of the culture and the world.

Perseverance                                        Going beyond where you think you can go. Press On

James 1: My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations;

<sup>3</sup> Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience.

<sup>4</sup> But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.

Godliness    God in flesh, Jesus Christ, showed us how to live.

brotherly kindness                              Eph. 4:22-32

brotherly kindness, love.                      We love others out of the reservoir of God's love for us.

<sup>8</sup> For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. For he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins. II Pet. 1:10-11 Therefore, believers, be all the more diligent to make certain about His calling and choosing you [be sure that your behavior reflects and confirms your relationship with God]; for by doing these things [actively developing these virtues], you will never stumble [in your spiritual growth]; for in this way the entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will be abundantly supplied to you.

II Pet. 1:12-13 Therefore, I will always be ready to remind you of these things, even though you *already* know them and are established in the truth which is held firmly in your grasp. I think it right, as long as I am in this earthly tent, to inspire you by reminding you, knowing that the laying aside of this earthly tent of mine is imminent, as our Lord Jesus Christ has made clear to me.

He believed Jesus' words in John 14:2-3 In my Father's house are many mansions: if *it were not so*, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.

I Cor. 2:9 But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.

Jude 1:24-25 Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy, <sup>25</sup> To the only wise God our Savior, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen.

#### Lesson Takeaways:

1. The Holy Spirit occupies 67 verses to relate procuring a bride for Isaac, the son of promise and a type of Jesus Christ.
2. Just as Isaac was prefigured as dead and raised, BEFORE the unnamed servant was sent to procure his bride, the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ needed to be an accomplished fact BEFORE the Holy Spirit would begin the work of calling out the Church.
3. After the "death and resurrection" [his was a type of Jesus' death & resurrection] of Isaac, he is out of the narrative until his bride is presented to him by the unnamed servant, the Holy Spirit.
4. Abraham's eldest and most trusted servant, Eliezer, is a type of the Holy Spirit who is sent to procure a bride for Isaac.
5. In Genesis 24, we see a picture of the Jewish contract, betrothal and wedding.