

# Shadows of Christ & His Bride

Lesson #5

The Father's Guidelines for Isaac's Bride

Feb. 14, 2024

<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

Gen. 24:1-4 Now Abraham was old, advanced in age; and the LORD had blessed Abraham in every way. 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: <sup>3</sup> 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:

<sup>4</sup> But thou shalt go unto my country, and to my kindred, and take a wife unto my son Isaac.

Eliezer [type of Holy Spirit] had to take an oath to 3 things:

Oath #1: *He would not select a wife for Isaac from among the Canaanite women.*

A. There was a curse on Canaan and his descendants. Genesis 9:25

The curse was pronounced after the flood in reference to the act of Ham toward his father.

Interesting: Noah pronounced blessings on Shem & Japheth, but not Ham.

Not all of Ham's descendants were cursed; only those through Canaan.

The "curse" on Canaan is more of a prophecy. Noah learned of Ham's sin and gave him the bad news that one line of his posterity would suffer. Ham's punishment was to lack a fatherly blessing and to know that he was the ancestor of a doomed people group.

Noah predicted 3x that the descendants of Canaan would become the lowest of servants.

As a prophet of God, Noah foresaw that the Canaanites, in their wickedness, would deserve their fate.

The Canaanites are listed in Genesis 10:15-19 and are the very nations the Israelites conquered and whose land they inhabited [15:18-21; Ex. 3:8, 17; Num. 13:29; Josh. 3:10; I Kings 9:20].

It's difficult to describe the moral decay of the Canaanite society, especially their religious practices, but the laws given in Leviticus 18 will give you some idea of how they lived.

The Israelites were commanded not to walk in the Canaanites ordinances, but instead, walk in God's ordinances and ways. He refers to incestuous relationships, homosexual relationships bestiality, do not let your children pass through the fire to Molech and more.

God warned the Jews: Do not compromise with the Canaanite way of life.

Destroy everything that would tempt them in that direction [Ex. 34:10-17; Deut. 7].

Noah lived 350 years after the flood. Why is this episode with Ham the only one recorded?

The answer lies in the events surrounding the writing of *Genesis*. Moses, the author of *Genesis*, was leading the Israelites toward the land of Canaan to take possession of it.

The story of how Canaan came to be cursed was one justification of the conquest.

God had pronounced doom on these people.

Consider: If Isaac were to marry someone in that land, a Canaanite, it would become a hindrance to the work of driving out its inhabitants.

## B. The Iniquity of the Amorites

In Genesis 15, God confirms His unconditional covenant with Abram. God promises Abram a multitude of descendants who will inherit the land in which Abram sojourns.

God then gives Abram a brief timeline of future events:

Gen. 15:13-14, 16 Then He said to Abram: "Know certainly that your descendants will be strangers in a land *that is not theirs*, and will serve them, and they will afflict them 400 years. And also that nation, whom they shall serve, will I judge: and afterward shall they come out with great substance. But in the 4<sup>th</sup> generation they shall return here, for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete." [The return of Israel to the promised land from Egypt would correspond with the "completion" of the iniquity of the Amorites.]

The wickedness of the Amorites increased from generation to generation.

Can you imagine the presence and power of Satan imbedded and contagiously spreading through the doorway nations of Canaan? Can you imagine darkness so expansive through a culture that the people who carry God's plan of redemption were at risk of being overwhelmed and destroyed? These Canaanite nations were offering up their live babies as burnt offerings to the demonic false gods they worshipped. After 400 years, the evil was complete; the dominance of darkness deep-rooted, wide-spread, and in control. God's judgment was also full and complete. God gave the Canaanites 400 years to repent as Israel was held bondage in Egypt and then an extra forty years to repent when Israel wandered through the wilderness.

The Canaanites had ample opportunity to recognize that Israel was God's chosen people, but they ignored what they knew to be true. They heard how Egypt had withered under God's terrifying acts of judgment. They knew the drama of how the Red Sea opened and made a highway for Israel's exodus. They had personally watched the heavenly cloud shepherd Israel through the desert. The Canaanites saw the miracles and knew Israel was coming for their land, but they ignored it and remained stubborn.

How do we know that they knew all that God had done for the Israelites?

Joshua 2:9-11 "I know that the LORD has given you the land, that the terror of you has fallen on us, and that all the inhabitants of the land are fainthearted because of you. <sup>10</sup> For we have heard how the LORD dried up the water of the Red Sea for you when you came out of Egypt, and what you did to the two kings of the Amorites who *were* on the other side of the Jordan, Sihon and Og, whom you utterly destroyed. <sup>11</sup> And as soon as we heard *these things*, our hearts melted; neither did there remain any more courage in anyone because of you, for the LORD your God, He is God in heaven above and on earth beneath.

- The Canaanites were degenerating into great wickedness. Therefore, he would not marry his son among them, lest they should be either a snare to his soul, or a blot to his name.
- It would have been utterly inconsistent with the design of God to have united the child and heir of the promise with one who was under a curse. [curse of Canaan Gen. 9:25]
- In time, they would be dispossessed of the land and destroyed.

These prophecies were fulfilled when, after Joseph's death, Pharaoh enslaved the Israelites, who were living in Egypt at the time. Four hundred years after Joseph, Moses brought the children of Israel out of Egypt to the borders of Canaan; Joshua then led the people into Canaan and conquered the land. Joshua's conquest took place only after the sin, the iniquity, of the Canaanites had "reached its full measure" [Genesis 15:16].

Oath #2: But you will go to my country and to my relatives and take a wife for my son Isaac. He would choose her from Abraham's [father's] relatives who lived away from them.

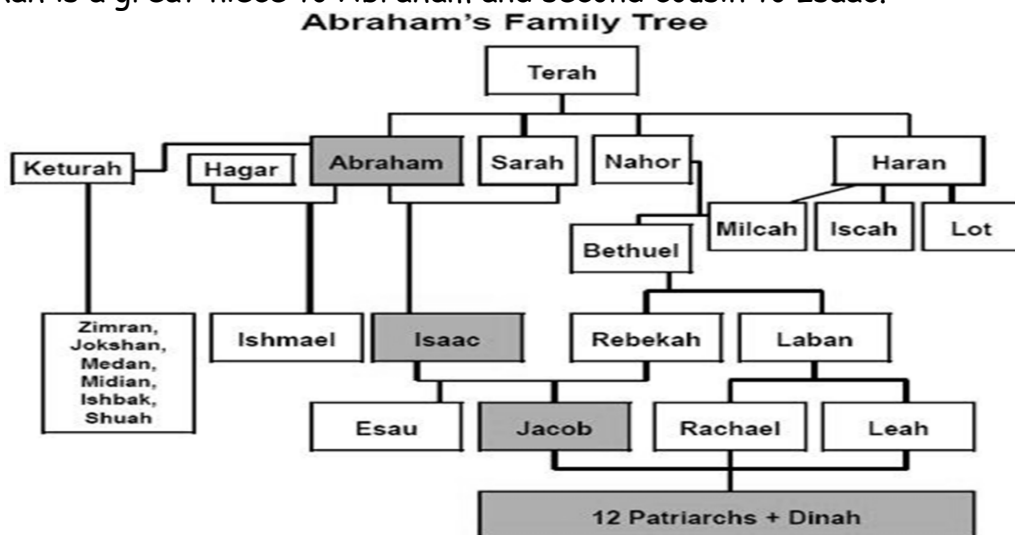
Question: Why did Abraham insist she must be from his kindred? [family of the father]

- 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.

Note: Isaac's bride must be of the same stock as himself and among his kindred.

Abraham's Family: We first meet Rebekah in Genesis 24:15, where she is identified as "the daughter of Bethuel son of Milcah, who was the wife of Abraham's brother Nahor."

- Rebekah is a great-niece to Abraham and second cousin to Isaac.



It appears Nahor, Abraham's brother and Rebekah's grandfather, left Ur to join Abraham & Terah in Haran. His family would have known of the God of Abraham. This explains why Laban's [Rebekah's brother] first word remarkably addressed Abraham's servant as:

Gen. 24:31 "one who is blessed by Yahweh."

Gen. 24:50 Laban attributed it to Yahweh who divinely directed the servant to find Rebekah as Isaac's chosen wife.

He did appear to know or believe in Yahweh.

Consider: The Chaldeans were not free of superstition and idolatry, yet they worshipped the true God with their "idols." The Chaldean seems to represent the man who does not possess the truth but who may submit to the truth when he hears it.

Abraham himself was an example of such a man.

This family line had sprung from Shem, who was blessed of God.

At this time, nearness of kin was not an objection to marriage.

A woman taken from here and removed from the Chaldeans might adhere to the pure and undefiled religion of Abraham and Isaac.

Abraham's Country: Abraham and his family were from the land of Chaldea.

Raised in Ur of the Chaldees

Key: Abraham's ancestors were clearly attested as worshipers of idols. How do I know?

Joshua 24:2 Joshua said to all the people, "This is what the Lord, the God of Israel says:

'From ancient times your fathers lived beyond the Euphrates River, namely, Terah, the father of Abraham and the father of Nahor, and they served other gods.

Learn about their religion by looking at the history and religious artifacts from that period.

Ur of the Chaldees was an ancient city that flourished until about 300 BC. The great ziggurat of Ur was built by Ur-Nammu around 2100 BC and was dedicated to Nanna, the moon god.

Ziggurats were raised in every city in honor of that community's patron deity. The ziggurat/temple was not a public house of worship, but the earthly home of the god of the city, who was attended by the high priest and lesser priests of the temple complex.

The moon was worshiped as the power that controlled the heavens and the life cycle on earth.

To the Chaldeans, the phases of the moon represented the natural cycle of birth, growth, decay, and death and also set the measurement of their yearly calendar. Among the pantheon of Mesopotamian gods, Nanna was supreme, because he was the source of fertility for crops, herds, and families. Prayers and offerings were offered to the moon to invoke its blessing. Despite being idolater pagans, the people of Sumerian kingdom were far more civilized and cultured than the demonic wild tribes like Amorites, Canaanites, Sodom and Gomorrah.

Key: Abraham's ancestors were clearly attested as worshipers of idols.

God had removed Abraham from his kinfolds in order to deal with idolatry.

When God called Abraham [Abram] in Genesis 12:1, He told Abraham to leave his country, his kindred, and his father's house. Everything familiar was to be left behind, and that included his religion. As a worshiper of other gods, Abraham must have been surprised to receive a direct revelation from Yahweh. The moon god and other deities were distant objects of worship. They did not personally interact with men.

Gen. 12:7 And the LORD appeared to Abram and said, "To your descendants I will give this land."

So he built an altar there to the LORD who had appeared to him.

Hebrews 11:8 By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went.

Abraham continued to learn about this God he now worshiped.

Gen. 14:22 He calls Yahweh "the LORD, God Most High, Creator of heaven and earth."

Gen. 17:1 And when Abram was ninety years old and nine, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said unto him, I am the Almighty God; walk before me, and be thou perfect.

Gen. 17:7 And I will establish my covenant between me and thee and thy seed after thee in their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be a God unto thee, and to thy seed after thee.

Abraham demonstrated his commitment by circumcising every male in his household.

Though Abraham forsook moon worship, the worship of heavenly objects became a continual problem with his descendants.

Note: During the time of Rachel [her father is Laban], they still worshiped idols.

In Genesis 30, we learn that Laban practiced divination & possessed "household" gods while still acknowledging the power of Abraham's God. It seems his monotheism was by no means pure. Looks like a human tendency to collect "gods" for more securities, believe in superstitions, fashioning for himself idols to protect his household.

Gen. 31:30-32 Now you have indeed gone away because you longed greatly for your father's house; *but why did you steal my gods?*" Then Jacob replied to Laban, "Because I was afraid, for I thought that you would take your daughters from me by force. <sup>32</sup> The one with whom you find your gods shall not live; in the presence of our relatives point out what is yours among my belongings and take *it* for yourself." Now Jacob did not know that Rachel had stolen them.

Gen. 34: Simeon & Levi acted in rage because of the defilement of their sister, Dinah.

Gen. 34:30 And Jacob said to Simeon and Levi,

Ye have troubled me to make me to stink among the inhabitants of the land,

Gen. 35:1-4 And God said unto Jacob,

Arise, go up to Bethel, and dwell there: and make there an altar unto God, that appeared unto thee when you fled from the face of Esau thy brother.

<sup>2</sup> Then Jacob said unto his household, and to all that were with him,

Put away the strange gods that are among you, and be clean, and change your garments:

<sup>3</sup> And let us arise and go up to Bethel; and I will make there an altar unto God, who answered me in the day of my distress, and was with me in the way which I went.

<sup>4</sup> And they gave unto Jacob all the strange gods which were in their hand, and all their earrings which were in their ears; and Jacob hid them under the oak which was by Shechem.

Getting Back To Bethel: Wiersbe: Moving from Gen. 34 to Gen. 35 is like going from a desert to a garden or from an emergency room to a wedding reception.

In Gen. 35, we encounter faith and obedience, cleansing and renewal. God is mentioned 10 times. Jacob makes spiritual progress and arrives at the place of God's appointment.

Deut. 4:19 God warned against moon worship. And when you look up into the sky and see the sun, moon, and stars—all the forces of heaven—don't be seduced into worshipping them.

The LORD your God gave them to all the peoples of the earth.

God frequently rebuked the children of Abraham for their idolatry and renewed His call to worship Him alone.

Deut. 17:2-5 If there be found among you, within any of thy gates which the LORD thy God giveth thee, man or woman, that hath wrought wickedness in the sight of the LORD thy God, in transgressing [intentional] his covenant, <sup>3</sup> And hath gone and served other gods, and worshipped them, either the sun, or moon, or any of the host of heaven, which I have not commanded;

<sup>4</sup>And it be told thee, and thou hast heard of it, and enquired diligently, and, behold, it be true, and the thing certain, that such abomination is wrought in Israel:

<sup>5</sup>Then shalt thou bring forth that man or that woman, which have committed that wicked thing, unto thy gates, even that man or that woman, and shalt stone them with stones, till they die.

Joshua 24:14-15 Now, therefore, fear the LORD and serve Him in sincerity and truth; and do away with the gods which your fathers served beyond the *Euphrates* River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. <sup>15</sup> But if it is disagreeable in your sight to serve the LORD, choose for yourselves today whom you will serve: whether the gods which your fathers served, which were beyond the *Euphrates* River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD."

It seems idolatry had not stopped with their ancestors but had continued with the other generations.

II Kings 17:16 King Hoshea of Israel was defeated, and the people taken captive. Why? Says the defeat happened because the people "bowed down to all the starry hosts."

II Kings 23:4-5 And king Josiah commanded Hilkiah the high priest, and the priests of the second order, and the keepers of the door, to bring forth out of the temple of the LORD all the vessels that were made for Baal, and for the grove, and for all the host of heaven: and he burned them without Jerusalem in the fields of Kidron, and carried the ashes of them unto Bethel. <sup>5</sup> And he put down the idolatrous priests, whom the kings of Judah had ordained to burn incense in the high places in the cities of Judah, and in the places round about Jerusalem; them also that burned incense unto Baal, to the sun, and to the moon, and to the planets, and to all the host of heaven.

Consider: Abraham insisted: The bride must be found in his former country.

Babylonian or Chaldean? The Chaldeans were people who lived in southern Babylonia.

The Chaldeans are mentioned multiple times in the Bible in both contexts.

Babylonia, sometimes called Shinar, is also called Chaldea and the Chaldeans in the Bible.

Babylon is the literal and symbolic opponent of God.

It symbolizes evil and wickedness. stereotypical enemies of God and His people.

Habakkuk 1:6 For, lo, I [God] raise up the Chaldeans, that bitter and hasty nation, which shall march through the breadth of the land, to possess the dwelling places that are not theirs.

- Chaldea = #3778 = a region of southern Babylon and its inhabitants

God was planning to punish the Jews by using the godless Babylonians!

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.

In a foreshadowing of the New Testament command to "come out of her," Moses commanded the Israelites to separate themselves from the family of Korah. Just before God's judgment of the rebels, Moses warned the assembly, 'Move back from the tents of these wicked men! Do not touch anything belonging to them, or you will be swept away because of all their sins.' So they moved away from the tents of Korah, Dathan and Abiram. Immediately following, the earth opened up and swallowed Korah and the other rebels alive. [Num. 16:26-33]

In times of judgment, *God separates His people from those being judged*. Abraham pointed out this truth in his conversation with the Lord before the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah: "Far be it from you to do such a thing—to kill the righteous with the wicked, treating the righteous and the wicked alike. Far be it from you!" [Gen. 18:25]

When God judged the Egyptians with the plagues, He made a distinction between His people and those being judged [Exodus 8:22-23; 9:4-6, 26; 10:23; 11:7].

- God's people in Babylon for 70 years were told to separate from physical Babylon and return home to Jerusalem.

"Flee from Babylon! Run for your lives! Do not be destroyed because of her sins. It is time for the LORD'S vengeance. He will repay her what she deserves. She cannot be healed; let us leave her and each go to our own land, for her judgment reaches to the skies, it rises as high as the heavens. Come out of her, my people! Run for your lives! Run from the fierce anger of the LORD.

- Jer. 51:6, 9, 45; Isa. 52:11; Jer. 50:8

Why were the majority not willing to return to Jerusalem and come out of Babylon?

After 70 years and a couple of generations of children, the majority of adults confronted with the prospect of a long walk [hundreds of miles], the rebuilding of a city and temple, years of hard labor, and few of the nice things of life, Why go back? In Babylon they had become culturally acclimated both in culture and language. Business was good in the largest and only empire of the time & they weren't fighting with their Arab and Canaanite pagan neighbors. Only those who believed in the uniqueness of the call of God on the Jewish people and retained in their hearts, faith in the promises of their written inspired Scriptures, are the ones who returned.



God calls His people during the tribulation to disassociate from Babylon the Great. They must "come out of her." Have nothing to do with the false religion of the Antichrist. Separate from that system and its sinfulness; have no fellowship with her. This evil world system, associated with the Antichrist of the end times, is pictured as a prostitute committing fornication with the kings of the earth [Rev. 17:1-2]. The "whore of Babylon" or "mystery Babylon" makes war against the true saints of God. [17: 6] It is best interpreted as an ungodly, end-times religious system.

Rev. 18:2, 4-5 "And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird ...

<sup>4</sup>And I heard another voice from heaven saying, Come out of her, my people, that you be not partakers of her sins, and that you receive not of her plagues."

<sup>5</sup> For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities.

Consider: To share in the sin is to share in the guilt.

God wants His people to maintain their purity and to be free from judgment.

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.

What will the journey entail before she meets her bridegroom face to face?

Gen. 24:5 And the servant said unto him,

Peradventure [suppose] the woman will not be willing to follow me unto this land: must I needs bring thy son again unto the land from whence you came?