

GENESIS 24

1-28 - Read
29-49 Recounts events
to Laban & Bethuel
50-56 Their approval
57-7 - Read

1 WAYS TO LOOK AT CHAPTER CONTEXTUALLY

- what goes before . what comes after
- is part of a narrative

HISTORICALLY, OR FACTUALLY

- what actually happened
- can research eg. customs . journey time/means
- all the facts, as facts

MORALLY

- behaviour worthy of God and faith

PRACTICALLY

- application of 'morally'
- for help in daily living
- help re guidance
- need for fidelity

ILLUSTRATIVELY

- unnamed servant securing bride for a son

DISPENSATIONALLY

- 22, 23, 24
- GOSPELS . ACTS . EPISTLES
- bride for a heir of all things

2 HISTORY OF MARRIAGE

MARRIAGE IS CREATORIAL

- for all people
- not merely a Mosaic ordinance

ITS PURPOSE

Gen 2:18 'It is not good . . . '

2:24 'Therefore shall a man leave his father and mother (a family unit) and shall cleave unto his wife (another family unit); and they shall be one flesh.

1:28 BE fruitful and multiply
· family the building block of society.

PRINCIPLES FROM EDEN

HETEROSEXUALITY

- 'The rib . . . made he a woman'
- utterly distinct sex
 - gender theory
 - no human gender distinct from sex
 - unreality

MONOGAMY

2:24 'Cleave unto his wife . . . '

- one flesh

INDISSOLUBILITY (in intention)

Mt 19:6 what God hath joined together let not man put asunder

SUBORDINATION of women to men

1 Cor 11:8-9 woman made for the man

- man to cleave to his wife
- but wife subordinate
- be subject to your own husbands

DEVELOPMENT

IN PATRIARCHAL TIMES

- simplicity that could not obtain in a developed and ordered society
- 24:67 Isaac brought her into his mother Sarah's tent, and took Rebekah, and she became his wife

• polygamy

- Abraham · Hagar, Gen 16:4 · Keturah, 25:1
- Esau · Mahalath 28:9
- Jacob · Rachel + Leah 29:23-28

- practised at start for progeny
- first wife maintained as chief wife
- always brought conflict

• took relatives as wives

- Gen 11:29 Abram + Sarah - half sister
 - " 28:4 Jacob + R + L - cousins
- Married them as they blvd. in same living God

• there was also divorce

- Gen 21:14 Ab. sent away Hagar

UNDER MOSAIC LAW

MOSES was both civil + religious leader.

- no conflict between these 2 branches ∴

Law given as background of patriarch's practice

- to regulate lives in an ordered society
- contained regulations about conditions and practices which were forbidden
 - consanguinity - relatives
 - non-Israelites
 - re High Priest - no widow, divorcee, whore
 - must marry a virgin
 - heiresses not to marry outside of tribe
- law also gave directions for man with 2 wives
 - Deut 21
 - polygamy not forbidden by law but it was discouraged

BUT ONLY EVER · man + woman

- intended for life

• Xt + ch. - great pattern, Eph 5

3 MORALITY

Behaviour worthy of God + faith

Abraham

- acted in acc. w. divine purpose + promise
 - ✓ 3 Thou shalt not take a wife unto my & son of - daughters of - Canaanites
 - ✓ 6 Bring not my son [to Mesopotamia] again
 - God had given Canaan to Abraham
 - Ab. directions that accorded with the covenant promises re seed and land.
- v. 7 Put his whole trust in God

Our lives should be lived in this way

- trust in God and his word
- actions that agree with it.

Servant

- also acted in dependence upon God
 - prayers in
 - 12-14 all committed into God's hands (not that he did nothing)
 - 26-27 thankfulness for leading 'I being in the way, the Lord led me...
 - 48 happy to tell Laban + Bethuel about his prayers
 - 52 worship when L + B consent

God

- we learn of His providential dealings
 - guiding - servant
 - overruling in Rebekah's day
 - inclining - heart of L + B
 - protection in journeys
 - etc etc

4 PRACTICAL

- Marriage is not a light matter
 - v3 I will make thee swear by the Lord, God of heaven
 - v9 And the servant swore...
- father's purpose vv. 3-4
- conditions set "

Important because of children

- seed is through Isaac
- marriage does not just involve parties to that marriage
 - big consideration in who you marry

For us

- in Christ • in the Lord
 - love not lust
 - long term
- Fidelity of a servant
 - acted wisely, propitiously, spiritually
 - went where he was sent
 - only had interests of his master in his mind and heart
 - his will subsumed in will of his master.
- ensured the Lord was in it all
 - v. 21. 'And [he] held his peace, to wit whether the Lord had made his journey prosperous or not.'
 - it looked right but he desired assurance
 - and he only acted when he got it
- the Lord's guidance was paramount
 - and could be relied upon when he waited on the Lord as he did

5 ILLUSTRATION

Unnamed servant secures bride for the son

The father's purpose

- Eph 1
- Rom 8

The servant's mission

vv 34-35 REVEALED THE WEALTH AND GLORY OF THE FATHER AND SON TO REBEKAH

- father given all HE HAS to the son
- heir of all things

Rebekah believes the servant; her heart is won

- she says she will go with him
- to love a man she had never seen
- in a land of which she had no prior experience
- in accomplishment of divine purpose
 - of which she knew nothing

6 DISPENSATIONAL

Ch. 22 on the altar — and risen

23 Sarah dies — Israel set aside

24 A bride for Isaac

Gospels

Acts

Epistles

Paralleled

- church not Israel, with Israel's promises
 - one pearl • one flock • one body • one new man
- Christ given to church as head over all things
- she is his wife — at the wedding
 - his bride — eternally

Four brides in Genesis

Eve - a bride for Adam - COMPLEMENT

- brought into being by
 - a deep sleep
 - a wounded side

First thought - last thought

- crowned w. g+h.
- word to come

Rachel - a bride for Jacob - COST

- man of toil and suffering
 - to purchase her
- heat/day frost/night
- day time and night season

• same price for Leah

- but Rachel special object of his love
 - Jn 13 - Jn 17 - Eph 5

Asenath - a bride for Joseph - COMPANION

- Joseph received a Gentile bride during rejection by his brothers
 - she was with him when he made himself known to them

suffering and glory

- cast out by Israel
- sold by Gentiles
- exalted in new place of glory

Rebekah - a bride for Isaac - CONSUMMATION

- left view of Isaac on altar - Calvary
now he meets his bride - repture

What a day!