

WOMEN IN THE BIBLE

Pattern Three

Rebekah – An Excellent Type of the Bride of Christ

Sisters Fellowship in Chicago – September 13, 2025

- I. Positive patterns show us how God's people lived in oneness with God for the accomplishing of His eternal purpose.
 - A. The marriage of Isaac and Rebekah was not merely for their human living; more importantly, it was for the producing of a people for the fulfillment of God's purpose (Gen. 22:17).
 - B. In the gaining of Rebekah as a wife for Isaac, everything was done according to God's economy to bring forth Christ for the producing of the kingdom of God.
- II. How the church is seen in the Old Testament:
 - A. The church was not mentioned in the Old Testament in plain words; it remained a hidden mystery during the Old Testament times (Eph. 3:3-6).
 - B. The Old Testament predicts the church, not in plain words, but in types, figures, and shadows.
 - C. Some wives of the men who typified Christ in the Old Testament are types and shadows of the church.
 - D. Both Eve and Rebekah are types of the church.
- III. Four main characters in Genesis 24:
 - A. Abraham typifies God the Father.
 - 1. Abraham typifies God the Father's seeking a counterpart for His Son.
 - 2. In eternity past God the Father had an eternal purpose and made an eternal plan to gain the church as a bride for His Son out of the human race (Eph. 3:9-11).
 - 3. In time, God the Father sent God the Spirit to carry out His plan.
 - B. Eliezer, Abraham's servant, typifies the Holy Spirit.
 - 1. The Spirit testifies that everything of the Father has been given to the Son (John 15:26; 16:13-15).
 - 2. The Holy Spirit testifies concerning Christ and of His

riches in order that we would be drawn and gained by Him as His counterpart, His bride.

- C. Isaac typifies God's Son in His need for a counterpart.
 - 1. Isaac was born of grace and became the unique heir of Abraham (Gal. 4:30).
 - 2. He was born according to God's promise and became the legal heir of his father's possessions.
 - 3. The record of Isaac's life shows that his life was a life of rest and enjoyment (Genesis 25:11; 26:18-33).
 - 4. He secured a bride without doing anything (24:61-67).
- D. Rebekah typifies the chosen people of God, who will marry the Son and become His counterpart.
 - 1. Rebecca typifies the bride gained by Christ—the church.
 - 2. As a chaste, kind, and diligent one, she was absolute in her decision to take Isaac as her husband (vv. 57-58, 61).
- E. The entire New Testament is a record of the Triune God working to gain a part of the human race to be the bride, the counterpart, of the Son (John 3:29; 2 Cor. 11:2; Eph. 5:25-32; Rev. 19:7-9; 21:2).

IV. The church, symbolized by Rebekah, has the following characteristics:

- A. Chosen by the Holy Spirit – Rebekah was chosen to be the wife of Isaac by the old servant, who was sent forth by Isaac's father Abraham to the land where Abraham was called by God (Gen. 24:1-4).
 - 1. Abraham's country and kindred indicate the place of fallen men and the fallen human race, respectively.
 - 2. Abraham's finding a wife for his son signifies that the church is chosen for Christ out of the fallen people by the Holy Spirit.
 - 3. The fact that Rebekah and Isaac were relatives signifies that the church and Christ are of the same source – all of One (Hebrews 2:11).
- B. Attracted and called:
 - 1. When Abraham sent his servant to find a wife for his son Isaac, the servant gave Rebecca many gifts for the purpose of leading Rebecca to Isaac.
 - 2. These gifts were tokens for Rebecca, indicating that she would eventually share all of Isaac's possessions.

3. Rebekah's receiving gifts signifies the church's receiving the Holy Spirit and the riches of Christ for enjoyment.
 4. The Lord's gifts should bring us to the Giver, cf. *Hymns*, 513, by A. B. Simpson, "Once His gift I wanted, / Now, the Giver own."
- C. Responding in absoluteness:
1. After Rebekah received and enjoyed the riches, Eliezer wanted to immediately go back to his master.
 2. Rebekah's brother and mother wanted her to stay longer, but Rebekah was willing to immediately leave her father's house and her country and go to the land of God's promise to be Isaac's wife.
 3. Rebekah's willingness to leave her kinsmen and everything to follow Isaac typifies the church's willingness to leave all the earthly things and entanglements to follow Christ.
- D. Being led by the Spirit:
1. Rebekah was led by the old servant and passed through a long journey in order to be brought to Isaac.
 2. This typifies the church following the leading of the Spirit and passing through the world in order to meet Christ.
- E. Becoming one with her husband:
1. Rebekah met Isaac in the evening, and the two were married.
 2. The time of their meeting and marriage typify the marriage of the church to Christ at the end of the age (Rev. 19:7-9).
 3. Rebecca was given to Isaac and became one flesh with him (cf. Gen. 2:24). Isaac loved Rebekah and was comforted after the death of his mother (Gen. 24:67).
 4. This signifies that the church is given to Christ, becomes one with Christ to be His counterpart, satisfies Christ, and enjoys all the riches Christ has inherited from God the Father (John 16:15).

V. Learnings from Rebekah:

A. Marriage versus a marriage system:

1. The marriage of Isaac and Rebekah was simple and not under the influence of the world as a satanic system.
2. Marriage, being ordained by God, is not wrong but has been utilized by the enemy in a systematized way.
3. Although we need to get married, we should not be systematized.
4. Isaac married Rebecca; that was all. It was so simple.

B. God's selection:

1. After Isaac's entreating Jehovah for his wife to have children because she was barren, Rebekah conceived twins in her womb. Jehovah told Rebekah that the older would serve the younger (Gen. 25:23).
2. Jacob was chosen before his birth, even before the foundation of the world (25:22-23; Rom. 9:11; Eph. 1:4), according to God's foreknowledge (1 Pet. 1:2; Rom. 8:29).
3. Romans 9:11 says, "The children not yet being born, nor having done anything good or bad (that the purpose of God according to selection might remain, not of works, but of Him who calls)."

C. An example on the negative side:

1. Rebekah gave birth to twins. Esau, the older, was a skillful hunter, a man of the field. Jacob, the younger one, was a quiet man who dwelt in tents (Gen. 25:27).
2. Rebekah was partial toward Jacob (Gen. 25:28).
 - a. This sowed the seed of hatred between Esau and Jacob.
 - b. Eventually, Rebekah had to send Jacob away so he might flee to her brother's place (Gen. 27:41-45).
 - c. She probably never saw her beloved son again.
 - d. This shows that mothers should not show partiality in their love toward their children.