

A Wife For Isaac – part 1

Purpose: As a “heavenly-minded” man, Abraham made finding a wife for his son a top priority. In part 1, I want to show why this was so important and encourage all of us to follow his example.

As we have been studying the book of Genesis we have seen how Abraham became a man who made a difference in his community, in his family and for us all. As he comes near to the end of his life and his wife dies, his priority now is to see the promise of God fulfilled through his son. Abraham now sets out to find a wife for his son Isaac. Should we do things the same way that he did back then? What can we learn from this?

1 - Now Abraham was old, well advanced in age; and the LORD had blessed Abraham in all things.

2 - So Abraham said to the oldest servant of his house, who ruled over all that he had, "Please, put your hand under my thigh,

3 - and I will make you swear by the LORD, the God of heaven and the God of the earth, that you will not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, among whom I dwell;

4 - but you shall go to my country and to my family, and take a wife for my son Isaac."

The oath – “put your hand under my thigh...”

- This was a way of making a solemn oath, like the way we put our hand on the bible in court in the US
- This was committed to his oldest and most trusted servant
- He swore by the Lord (Jehovah), the God of heaven and the God of the earth

Why was this so important?

- 1) Because the Canaanites were ungodly:
 - a) He knew what had happened when Seth’s sons married the daughters of Cain
 - b) He experienced what had happened to Lot at Sodom
- 2) He knew that his son was the promised one and that he would shape his future generations.
 - a) Genesis 12:3; 15:4,5; 17:16,21

What is wrong with intermarrying unbelievers?

- Light and darkness cannot dwell together

- 2 Corinthians 6:14,15
- You cannot serve two masters
 - Matthew 6:24
- Your heart may turn away from God
 - 1 Kings 11:1,2; Nehemiah 13:23-27

Because Abraham was a “heavenly-minded” man, he knew the importance of finding the right wife for his son, who would be the heir of all that was promised him.

Therefore he made this his top priority. What can we learn from him?

- As a parent:
 - We must make praying for the right spouse for our children a major priority.
 - When possible, we should try to help them to find the right spouse.

Suggestions:

- Develop a relationship with your children when they are young and they will want your opinion when they are old.
 - Our culture is different from biblical times. Don't try to choose for them, but offer to help them make the right choice.
 - Talk to them about how to choose and what to expect before they enter into relationships.
- As an adult seeking marriage:
 - Make a list of what is important to you in a spouse.
 - Determine not to marry an unbeliever, or someone who does not have the same spiritual priorities as you do.
 - Prepare yourself to be married! Ask God to help you with these things:
 - Character – selfishness, pride, and stubbornness in particular.
 - Conflict – what do I do when I'm angry? If you can't forgive or admit mistakes, then you are not ready to be married.
 - Practicalities – Get a job, save some money and prepare to move from home.
 - Take Godly advice from those who love you and have your interest in mind.