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Gen 24:3 that I may make you swear by Jehovah, the God of heaven and God of the earth, that you will not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, among whom I dwell,

Gen 24:4 but will go to my country and to my kindred, and take a wife for my son Isaac."

Gen 24:5 The servant said to him, "Perhaps the woman may not be willing to follow me to this land. Must I then take your son back to the land from which you came?"

Gen 24:6 Abraham said to him, "See to it that you do not take my son back there.

Gen 24:7 Jehovah, the God of heaven, who took me from my father's house and from the land of my kindred, and who spoke to me and swore to me, 'To your offspring I will give this land,' he will send his angel before you, and you shall take a wife for my son from there.

Gen 24:8 But if the woman is not willing to follow you, then you will be free from this oath of mine; only you must not take my son back there."

Gen 24:9 So the servant put his hand under the thigh of Abraham his master and swore to him concerning this matter.

Gen 24:10 Then the servant took ten of his master's camels and departed, taking all sorts of choice gifts from his master; and he arose and went to Mesopotamia to the city of Nahor.

Gen 24:11 And he made the camels kneel down outside the city by the well of water at the time of evening, the time when women go out to draw water.

Gen 24:12 And he said, "O LORD, God of my master Abraham, please grant me success today and show steadfast love to my master Abraham.

Gen 24:13 Behold, I am standing by the spring of water, and the daughters of the men of the city are coming out to draw water.

Gen 24:14 Let the young woman to whom I shall say, 'Please let down your jar that I may drink,' and who shall say, 'Drink, and I will water your camels'—let her be the one whom you have appointed for your servant Isaac. By this I shall know that you have shown steadfast love to my master."

Gen 25:1 Abraham took another wife, whose name was Keturah.
Gen 25:2 She bore him Zimran, Jokshan, Medan, Midian, Ishbak, and Shuah.
Gen 25:3 Jokshan fathered Sheba and Dedan. The sons of Dedan were Asshurim, Letushim, and Leummim.
Gen 25:4 The sons of Midian were Ephah, Epher, Hanoch, Abida, and Eldaah. All these were the children of Keturah.
Gen 25:5 Abraham gave all he had to Isaac.
Gen 25:6 But to the sons of his concubines Abraham gave gifts, and while he was still living he sent them away from his son Isaac, eastward to the east country.
Gen 25:7 These are the days of the years of Abraham's life, 175 years.
Gen 25:8 Abraham breathed his last and died in a good old age, an old man and full of years, and was gathered to his people.
Gen 25:9 Isaac and Ishmael his sons buried him in the cave of Machpelah, in the field of Ephron the son of Zohar the Hittite, east of Mamre,
Gen 25:10 the field that Abraham purchased from the Hittites. There Abraham was buried, with Sarah his wife.
Gen 25:11 After the death of Abraham, God blessed Isaac his son. And Isaac settled at Beer-lahai-roi.

Gen 25:12 These are the generations of Ishmael, Abraham's son, whom Hagar the Egyptian, Sarah's servant, bore to Abraham.

Gen 25:13 These are the names of the sons of Ishmael, named in the order of their birth: Nebaioth, the firstborn of Ishmael; and Kedar, Adbeel, Mibsam,

Gen 25:14 Mishma, Dumah, Massa,

Gen 25:15 Hadad, Tema, Jetur, Naphish, and Kedemah.

Gen 25:16 These are the sons of Ishmael and these are their names, by their villages and by their encampments, twelve princes according to their tribes.

Gen 25:17 (These are the years of the life of Ishmael: 137 years. He breathed his last and died, and was gathered to his people.)

Gen 25:18 They settled from Havilah to Shur, which is opposite Egypt in the direction of Assyria. He settled over against all his kinsmen.

Gen 22:1 After these things **God tested Abraham** and said to him, “Abraham!” And he said, “**Here I am.**”

Gen 22:2 He said, “Take your son, **your only son Isaac, whom you love**, and go to the land of Moriah, and **offer him there as a burnt offering** on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you.”

God’s test here is to test Abraham, Sarah and Isaac. Praise our Lord, the life level of these three (the whole household) was ready for God’s test and they passed the test. Unfortunately, Hagar and Ishmael somewhat did not pass the test in their living because of the failure of “the church service teams.”

How about our family and church including the 2nd generation?

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Gen 24:4 **but will go to my country and to my kindred, and take a wife for my son Isaac.**"

Gen 24:5 The servant said to him, "Perhaps the woman may not be willing to follow me to this land. Must I then take your son back to the land from which you came?"

Gen 24:6 Abraham said to him, "See to it that **you do not take my son back there.**

The most crucial inspiration to me in chapter 24 is that we need to pay great attention to **our 2nd generation, our children.** That was what Abraham did and asked his servant to do **after Jehovah had blessed him in all things.** Marriage means to be one with someone or something and it is vital to our growth, in particular for our 2nd generation.

What does it mean "my country and my kindred"? Abraham spoke very seriously to the servant not to **"take my son back there."** Abraham wanted his old servant to find a wife for Isaac just like God the Father desired to find a wife for His only beloved Son (Christ). God the Father sent the Holy Spirit to Mary. Mary conceived from the Holy Spirit and gave birth of Jesus **who had the same flesh as any human.** From another angle, God was not satisfied with anything in the world to be His spouse. Thus, He Himself became flesh (**Heb. 2:14**), so that we, the believers, could be His spouse with His very life and nature.

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“Put your hand under my thigh,

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take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, among whom I dwell,

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kindred, and who spoke to me and swore to me, ‘To your offspring I will give this land,’ he will send his
angel before you, and you shall take a wife for my son from there.

Gen 24:8 But if the woman is not willing to follow you, then you will be free from this oath of mine; only you
must not take my son back there.”

Why did Abraham insist that his son Isaac marry a woman from his country and kindred (Ur of the
Chaldees), but that Isaac not return to his country and kindred?

When God called Abraham in Genesis 12:1-3, Acts 7:2-3), Terah and Lot accompanied him. Abraham
must have told his family about the God of glory who had called Him, and what his response was. Right from
the outset, Abraham must have preached the gospel to all his family, including his brother Nahor and his wife
Milcah, and perhaps his son Bethuel (if he had been born yet). We know from Joshua 24:2 that Abraham's
family served other gods. However, when God appeared to Abraham, Abraham not only followed God out of
his country, but testified to all his family concerning the God who had called him. Thus, we may conclude that
Abraham's family, after Abraham's departure, knew God, including Rebekah and her brother Laban who
would have been born later.

In this context, Abraham wanted Isaac to marry a girl from his own family, who knew God, versus a
Canaanite woman who would have still worshipped idols. However, he would not let Isaac return to his own
family and land, in keeping with God's speaking to him to leave everything. There was the possibility that
Isaac may have stayed on if he had returned, just as his family attempted to persuade Abraham's servant and
Rebekah to stay. What about us? We honor every believer in Christ, and even preach the gospel to
whomever we meet. However, we still need to be faithful to God's speaking and the burden he has given us,
and not be kidnapped or distracted from what God has shown us concerning His purpose.

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Gen 24:4 but will go to my country and to my kindred, and take a wife for my son Isaac."

Abraham typifies God the Father, who sends his servant, typifying the Holy Spirit, into the world to seek and gain a bride (Rebekah), typifying the believers (the church) for his son Isaac, typifying God the Son. Thus, the divine Trinity is in complete oneness and harmony in operation to carry out God's purpose.

Why did Abraham tell his servant not to take a wife for Isaac from the daughters of the Canaanites? There is no record in the Bible that God spoke to Abraham concerning this matter. However, by this time, Abraham was so mature, and his level of life so high, that He knew God's heart. That may be why, after chapter 22, there is no record that God spoke to Abraham. This is different from chapter 17, where God did not speak to Abraham for thirteen years. Now, Abraham was living a life of fellowship with God, just like he was living a life of the altar and the tent and sacrifices. Now, when he spoke, he spoke in fellowship with God, living a life of God's speaking.

This also shows that the church must come from Christ's race, that is from humanity, not from angels or any other creatures. Some of the offspring in Genesis 6 was the product of angels and humans, eventually becoming giants who lived in the land of Canaan. God does not want giants. He wants human beings. Christ Himself descended from imperfect humanity. Sometimes, we like to be like angels, perfect. No. God wants us to know Him and depend on Him alone. Only humanity needs God, not angels, and only humanity can depend on Him and live by Him.

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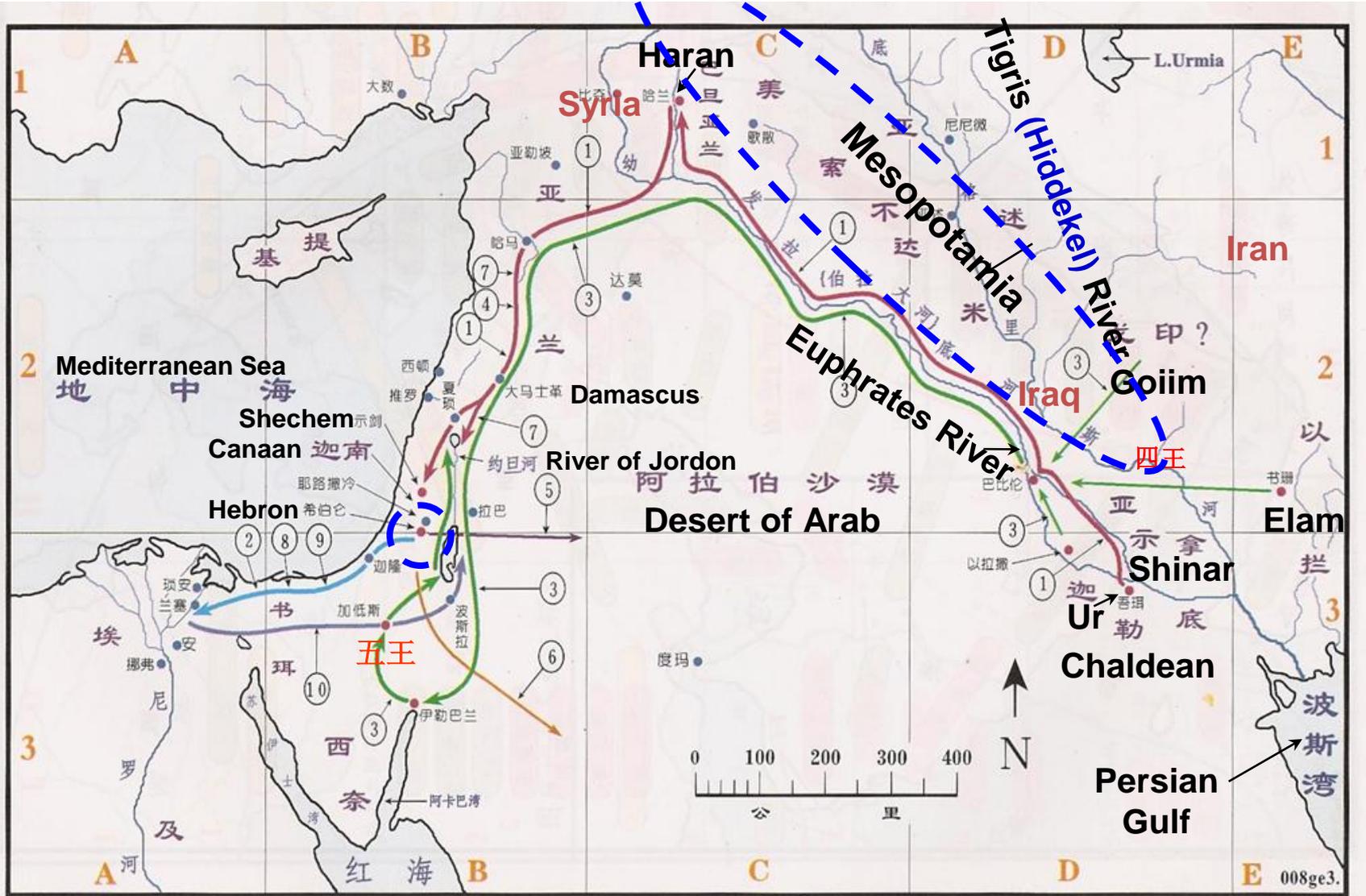
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Abraham's servant (presumably Eleazar), had been raised up by Abraham and was a member of Abraham's service team. Here, we see a close and detailed fellowship between the two. Abraham initiates the fellowship and the servant responds with a question. Abraham in turn responds.

This is a good picture of the church life. Abraham's servant did not leave room for guesswork. He did not blindly follow his master's instructions. Rather, he reflected on what he had been told, which then led to further fellowship and enlightening. What about us? How do we fellowship? Sometimes, we may blindly follow without the Lord's specific speaking to us, in a religious way. By asking questions and coming to the Lord for His specific speaking, usually through brothers and sisters, we may receive further enlightenment and higher vision and revelation, enabling us to pursue the Lord in a specific way.

Once Abraham's servant received and understood Abraham's speaking, he obeyed. However, in his obedience, as we see in the rest of chapter 24, he still had to seek the Lord. He no longer had Abraham with him to guide him. For us also, we may thoroughly fellowship concerning a certain matter in the church life, with service team members. But we still need the Spirit's leading and anointing, depending on Him for our response and utterance.

Gen 24:10 Then the servant took ten of his master's camels and departed, taking all sorts of choice gifts from his master; and he arose and went to Mesopotamia to the city of Nahor.



From Canaan to Haran (~800 km).

Gen 22:20 Now after these things it was told to Abraham, "Behold, Milcah also has borne children to your brother Nahor:

Gen 24:5 The servant said to him, “Perhaps the woman may not be willing to follow me to this land. Must I then take your son back to the land from which you came?”

Gen 24:7 Jehovah, the God of heaven, who took me from my father's house and from the land of my kindred, and who spoke to me and swore to me, ‘To your offspring I will give this land,’ **he will send his angel before you**, and you shall take a wife for my son from there.

Gen 24:8 **But if the woman is not willing to follow you, then you will be free from this oath of mine; only you must not take my son back there.”**

Gen 24:9 So the servant put his hand under the thigh of Abraham his master and swore to him concerning this matter.

Abraham’s servant asked questions when he did not know what he would do under certain situations. We need often to ask questions of God or Christ in the saints who are around us.

Gen 24:7 reveals that Abraham knew God very well and had strong faith in God, but he did not know 100% what God would do. Abraham also demonstrated high humanity to ask his old servant to find a wife for Isaac “But if the woman is not willing to follow you, then you will be free from this oath of mine”. God’s heart is for His church (all the saints). Therefore, even if we have a very close relationship with God (just like Abraham), but we do not know the saints well who are around us, most likely we will not know God’s heart desire 100% at that particular time. Yes, we need to live according to the Lords’ leading every minute of our life, but please avoid saying to other people, “I have the Lord’s leading”.

Since God had called Abraham to leave the area of Ur of the Chaldeans, Abraham knew that his descendants should not return to that area.

Gen 25:1 Abraham took another wife, whose name was Keturah.

Gen 25:2 She bore him Zimran, Jokshan, Medan, **Midian**, Ishbak, and Shuah.

Gen 25:3 Jokshan fathered Sheba and Dedan. The sons of Dedan were Asshurim, Letushim, and Leummim.

Gen 25:4 The sons of Midian were Ephah, Epher, Hanoch, Abida, and Eldaah. All these were the children of Keturah.

Although Abraham was called by God and justified, and lived by having faith in God and also living in close fellowship with God, he did not reach maturity in his spiritual life. This can be seen from the fact that after Sarah died, Abraham took another wife, Keturah, and gave birth to six more sons with his physical strength.

Still God blessed one of Abraham's descendants, Zipporah, to be the wife of Moses. Zipporah was the daughter of Jethro, a priest of Midian (Abraham's son). Certainly the people of Midian, like other Gentiles, tried to curse the Israelites (**Num 22:7**).

Exo 2:15 When Pharaoh heard of it, he sought to kill Moses. **But Moses fled from Pharaoh and stayed in the land of Midian.** And he sat down by a well.

Exo 2:16 Now the priest of Midian had seven daughters, and they came and drew water and filled the troughs to water their father's flock.

Exo 2:20 He said to his daughters, "Then where is he? Why have you left the man? **Call him, that he may eat bread.**"

Exo 2:21 **And Moses was content to dwell with the man, and he gave Moses his daughter Zipporah.**

Exo 4:24 At a lodging place on the way Jehovah met him **and sought to put him to death.**

Exo 4:25 Then Zipporah took a flint and cut off her son's foreskin and **touched Moses' feet with it** and said, "Surely you are **a bridegroom of blood** to me!"

Exo 4:26 So he let him alone. It was then that she said, "**A bridegroom of blood,**" **because of the circumcision.**

Num 22:7 So the elders of Moab and the elders of **Midian** departed with the fees for divination in their hand. And they came to **Balaam** and gave him Balak's message.

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Gen 25:5 **Abraham gave all he had to Isaac. (John 3:35; John 16:15a)**

Gen 25:6 **But to the sons of his concubines Abraham gave gifts**, and while he was still living he sent them away from his son Isaac, eastward to the east country.

In God's view, Isaac was the only son of Abraham, and the only descendant who inherited all the promises God gave to Abraham in order to fulfill God's purpose. Therefore, Isaac typifies Christ as the only-begotten Son of the Father, and the Father gave everything He had to the Son (**John 3:35, John 16:15a**). **Isaac offered himself as the burnt offering, which means that whatever God gave to us, we, like Isaac, have to wholeheartedly offer that back to God as a burnt offering. This testifies that Abraham gave all he had to Isaac.**

If we do not offer back to the Lord the things that He gave us (no matter what including our life, health, time, job, family, house, study...etc), those things, including all the blessings, become gifts to us as mentioned in Gen. 25:6. In our Christian life, do we just receive gifts from God and not offer them back to Him as a burnt offering?

In fact, God so loved the world that He desires to give all things equally to everyone in this world, including Isaac, Ishmael, Hagar, Keturah's children.....), but most of us just like to receive gifts from Him.

John 3:35 **The Father loves the Son and has given all things into his hand.**

John 16:15a **All that the Father has is mine;**

Gen 25:7 **These are the days of the years of Abraham's life, 175 years (Isaac was 75 years; Ishmael was 89 years old).**

Gen 25:8 Abraham breathed his last and died in a good old age, an old man and full of years, and was gathered to his people.

Gen 25:9 **Isaac and Ishmael his sons buried him in the cave of Machpelah**, in the field of Ephron the son of Zohar the Hittite, east of Mamre,

Gen 25:10 the field that Abraham purchased from the Hittites. **There Abraham was buried, with Sarah his wife.**

Gen 25:11 **After the death of Abraham, God blessed Isaac his son. And Isaac settled at Beer-lahai-roi.**

Isaac and Ishmael buried Abraham in the cave of Machpelah. Ishmael would have understood something spiritually from this burial.

Ishmael was circumcised (a picture of true circumcision is given in the next slide) when he was 13 years old, and lived 137 years according to God's promise to bless all of Abraham's descendants. He travelled a long distance back to Hebron to bury with Isaac his father Abraham. **Is our living today closer to God than his (Ishmael's)?**

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Gen 25:18 **They settled from Havilah to Shur, which is opposite Egypt** in the direction of Assyria. He settled over against all his kinsmen.

True circumcision is to bring us to a higher level of the life of Christ.

