

Why you are the new Rebecca #1, Types & shadows

Hi all,

There are many types and shadows in the Old Testament of Jesus and the events past and future, and each has its own beauty that provides revelation and insight into our lives in Christ.

Isaac and Rebecca

Perhaps though, no Old Testament type is as beautiful as the story of Rebecca and Isaac.

The story begins in Genesis 24 where we are told Abraham was very old and sought a wife for his son, Isaac. We are told in v36 that perhaps in anticipation of his death, Abraham had given everything he had to Isaac. Consider that for a moment. Isaac is rich. All that his father had, he had given to Isaac.

The type is set then, the Father is represented by Abraham, and Isaac represents Jesus. The Father has given all things to His Son. Abraham the Father sends Eliezer back to Abraham's home to find a wife for Isaac (Jesus). Eliezer is a type of the Holy Spirit, sent from the Father to 'home' to find a bride for His Son.

Eliezer we are told in v10, loads 10 camels largely with gifts for the bride, which is a type of the Holy Spirit and His gifts, character building grace and fruit of the Spirit given to us.

She kept herself for a future groom

When Eliezer arrives at Abraham's homeland he stops so the camels could have water after the long journey. Sources vary on how much water a thirsty camel can drink, but the most common number I found was 53 US gallons. (200+ liters). Eliezer was asking in prayer that whoever the young woman was at the well, that she would water him and his 10 camels - a big ask!

Of course we know it was Rebecca who not only gave Eliezer water, but volunteered to water all the camels, potentially over 500 gallons or 1000 liters. Next time you are at the store and see all those 2 liter soft drink bottles lined up on the shelf, imagine 500 of them and then imagine taking a jug you carry on your shoulder, lowering it into a well, hauling it up out of the well and over to a trough - if Rebecca had a 2 gallon pot (7.5 liter) that is about 250 trips to the well and back! Lest you think she called for help, the text says several times it was she alone who did that work.

Verse 16 says this: "And the girl was very fair to look upon, a virgin, neither had any man known her..." Some Jewish commentators make note of the apparent double reference to her sexual purity, noting the 2nd mention that 'neither had any man known her' is not sexual in reference, but rather that she didn't have male friends but kept herself for the future 'Mr. Right'. They note her character was circumspect, moral, and that she had boundaries. She was not only a virgin, but she kept that as a treasure for her husband, keeping boundaries around her concerning men.

What a beautiful picture of the way we disciples of Jesus are supposed to be! We are told that friendship with the world's system (cosmos, or world's ways, in the Greek) is enmity with God. We are to keep ourselves for the Lord!

Back to our story

Why do you think Eliezer was looking for a strong woman? Being a type of the church, is it possible the Lord is looking for strong people as well? Strong of character, strong in stamina.

Consider the life of Rebecca for she is known as a woman of strength and action. She watered all 10 camels. She later gave birth to twins Jacob and Esau, with Jacob grabbing Esau's heel in the birth canal - this before the days of C-sections and anesthetic! She came from a dysfunctional family; her brother* Laban would later trick Rebecca's son Jacob into marrying Leah rather than Rachel, and keep them enslaved 20 years**. (*v29) (**31: 38)

She and her husband Isaac weren't the most communicative with each other about their sons, for she took action to be sure the right son got the birthright, even by deceit. She was not a woman of words, but of actions. She was strong. She was a clever. She was a woman of action! So too is the church to

be - wise in the ways of the world, yet keeping our integrity and Christ-like character, and fruit of the spirit/Spirit.

I like to say it this way: The things you think disqualify you from being used or even loved by the Lord, are the very things that have made you strong and qualified you for a life of difficulty in the Lord! It is what Paul told Timothy in II Timothy 2: 3-7 when he told him to work like a farmer, train like an athlete, endure hardship like a soldier that we may please our Enlistment Officer! The things Satan put you through were like a trick on him, for you were like iron in the forge, made fit for the King!

Back to the well...

Genesis 24: 21 tells us Eliezer, the type of the Holy Spirit, stood by to watch her work. We might say it this way - in the presence of the Holy Spirit she went repeatedly back to the well of living water, to water the needs before her. We must continue to go back to the well.

She no doubt would take a drink now and then to keep herself going, but the bulk of her efforts focused on giving living water to thirsty camels - camels are unclean so a picture of us bringing Christ to the unsaved is what we gain from this. We go back to the well how many times? How strong are we encouraged to be, to faint not, to not be weary in well doing? Such is the life of the saint - we are here to serve not be served - just like our Master.

When Rebecca has finished watering the camels, v22 tells us this: "And it came to pass as the camels had done drinking, that the man (Eliezer) took a golden 'earring' of half a shekel weight, and two bracelets for her hands of ten shekels weight of gold; and he said, 'Whose daughter are you?'" The margin of my Bible suggests the 'golden earring' was in Hebrew, a jewel or jewelry for a headdress, one that was worn around the head and over the forehead.

This giving of a small part of jewelry is like the born again experience. These are not all the gifts the Holy Spirit has for us, it is a mere token. We are told in Ephesians 1: 13-14: "...in whom after you believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, which is the pledge (earnest money, less than the down payment) of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession..." Rebecca got the down payment, the rest would come later.

At this point Rebecca has never seen her groom, has no idea how wealthy he is, has no idea she has a home in the groom's Father's house...next week then! Until then, blessings,
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Why you are the new Rebecca #2, preparing Rebecca - 20191017

Hi all,
We left Rebecca having just watered the camels and having received a token of gifts from Eliezer, a type of the Holy Spirit.

The name Rebecca means a coil of rope (used in a trap) or "tie up, snare, join (by trap)." Rebecca in Hebrew is 'Rivka', and some Hassidic writers note the name for 'teams of cattle' is 'Rivkah', which differs only in the 'h' at the end. They suggest her names implies in character and strength she is like a team of oxen.

But she is a type of the church. We are indeed bound, trapped to this fallen world until we go to our groom. The name 'Isaac' means 'laughter', and we can imagine the rejoicing the Lord will do when we who have been snared and bound by this world join Him in our Father's house - but that is yet future, for us and for where we are in our story, for Rebecca.

Enter Laban...greedy from his introduction in Genesis 24: 29-30:

"And Rebecca had a brother, and his name was Laban. And it came to pass when he saw the earring and bracelets upon his sister's hands, and when he heard the words of Rebecca his sister, saying, 'This is how he spoke to me', that he came to the man, who was still standing besides the camels at the well."

There is an interesting play on words here that doesn't come across in any language other than Hebrew.

The word 'laban' is in Hebrew spelled 'LaVan' (la-vahn), and means 'white'. For such a devious fellow that would seem strange on first glance, for white stands for righteousness and purity. Laban was none of those things, in fact he was the opposite. Some rabbinical writers bring out if you read his name in reverse it is 'NaVal', it means 'villain' or 'fool'. That exactly describes him, appearing to be righteous, but is in fact a villain. He is the opposite of what he appears.

This man who deceived Jacob and enslaved him for 20 years, and who prospered because of the blessings on Jacob's life, compares to so many so-called Christians today...we each have our own story with immoral or unethical Christian's who have taken advantage of us, so I'll leave it to you to understand the wisdom and types in the story.

Laban saw Eliezer (the Holy Spirit) as a means to get rich, to use him as a sort of pipeline to wealth for his personal enrichment. He had ulterior motives for receiving Eliezer while saying in the next verse: "Come in you blessed of the Lord. Why are you still standing here? I've prepared room for you and your camels!"

It says Eliezer 'came into the house'. If Eliezer is a type of the Holy Spirit, then entering the house of Laban is like Laban being born again, having the Holy Spirit 'in his house'. But he is not a man of honor or integrity. He is a 'believer' in this parable, but he is using the Lord for his own personal gain and motives.

I find it fascinating that in 24: 34-49 once in the house, Eliezer shares his heart, his purpose, his motives for entering 'the house' - a type of the Holy Spirit in our spirit, sharing His plans, motives, and thoughts for us and our future. Are we like Laban or Rebecca? What do we do with those revealed plans? Try to use God for our personal benefit, or submit to His plan for us, things we know in our 'house', our spirit?

Rebecca's free will involved - it is up to her

After Eliezer shares his story and reason for coming, and after her father and brother agree to let her go, v53 tells us:

"(Abraham's servant Eliezer) brought forth jewels of silver, and jewels of gold, and clothing and gave them to Rebecca; He gave also to her brother and to her mother precious things."

Notice when the Holy Spirit enters your 'house' - literal house or just your spirit - all around you are blessed. In this case it was not only Rebecca, but her brother and mother too. Paul tells us in I Corinthians 7: 14 that an unbelieving spouse and children are 'sanctified' (set aside for the Lord) because the other spouse is a believer.

That is what we see here - because of Rebecca her whole household is blessed.

She is called in v57 by her father and brother to see if she wants to go. It is totally up to her. This is no spineless young lady submitting to others. Her personal boundaries that she has lived by, not only a virgin but not having known any man, keeping them at arm's length until she finds Mr. Right, is well established with her brother and father. They know it is her decision, not theirs.

I would guess being a woman of strong will and action, and with a brother like Laban, much of her boundary keeping was for self preservation and protection. She longs to get out. She wants a husband. And they know it is her choice.

What a picture of a mature believer. Knowing what we want, having boundaries, integrity, but not unwise in the ways of the world and the wiles of the enemy, or the deceit of others. Perhaps it is in part the recognition of her strength that after she agrees to return with Eliezer, they blessed Rebecca saying:

"You are our sister, and may you become a mother of thousands of millions, and let your seed (offspring/descendants) possess the gate of those who hate them."

She was just the woman to make sure the right son received the inheritance, as she looked forward to being that mother of 'thousands of millions' - and she wasn't going to let that divine blessing and 'marching orders' fall by the wayside!

We will conclude next week...as we see the groom came part way to meet her, but she came 'up' to meet him. Types and shadows abound, until then, blessings,

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Why you are the new Rebecca #3, meeting the groom - 20191024

Hi all,

We left Rebecca having agreed to return with Eliezer to marry Isaac, and being blessed by her family to do so.

There are some things to consider about her because she is a type of you and I, as believers and more than that, disciples of Jesus.

The first is that Abraham came from the very area in which she was born and lived. He left because after he came to know the Lord, the Lord appeared to him and told him to leave. He left by command, with a promise of reward.

Abraham and Sarah were the foundation of the faith, the groundbreakers. Isaac and Rebecca were the next generation of believers. They inherited the covenant Isaac's mom and dad had made with God. They had to make their faith their own. They had to establish their own household, their own boundaries as the 2nd generation of the covenant.

Rebecca didn't leave by command, but by her free will. Abraham, Sarah, and Isaac, came into the covenant with God directly. She didn't, she entered the covenant and family through marriage. She is the first person in the Bible to of her own free will became grafted in to the covenant by faith, with the Jewish people.

She was unique for in the ancient world blessings and covenants were passed from father to son, so she was special, having entered into the covenant by marriage, and in a unique position to be sure the right son received the blessing.

The first among women

Rebecca was the first woman in the Bible to receive a blessing. Think about that. We will later read in nearly the whole of Genesis 49 how the aged Jacob blessed his sons, but Rebecca clear back in Genesis 24: 60, received a blessing from her father and family. She truly is remarkable.

Are you the first in your family to receive the blessing of God? Do they perhaps, like the culture of Rebecca's day, not fully recognize the blessing of God on your life?

A picture of the 'rapture'

With Abraham as the Father God, Isaac representing Jesus, and the Holy Spirit represented by Eliezer, we should note that Rebecca is alive and well when she gets on a camel and goes with Eliezer to the Father's home for her.

She is carried off by Eliezer - with the Holy Spirit - to meet the groom. In fact we are told in 24: 63-67 that Isaac had left his father's house to go pray in a field, no doubt thinking about his bride. He was gone from his home, but not yet fully at Rebecca's home.

As she is carried along, one day she sees the groom, standing in the field. She is in between her home with her father and her home with her new father. Isaac is out in a field.

A field in the parables of Jesus is the human heart, or the harvest field of the world. Because he is a type of Jesus, and Rebecca a type of the church, we see the Lord having left His Father's home to go

to the field part way to His bride's home - and she meets him there between the two. They two, standing in the field between homes, meeting face to face for the first time. No doubt laughter truly laughed with joy upon finally seeing his bride face to face! No doubt this young woman once ensnared, once bound, now bound to Laughter, was thrilled with her new life in him!

Verse 67 says Isaac took her into his tent, which was in his father's home, and that he loved her. The fact they are concealed out of view in the tent is a picture as well - for the Jewish Feast of Trumpets tells us the last trumpet will be blown in the time of the new moon, and believers in Messiah will be caught up with Him, hidden from view as the new moon is also concealed.

What a picture of the 'rapture', meeting the Lord 'in the air', part way between His Father's home in heaven and our home on earth!

Rebecca's awareness of the times

We are told in 25: 20 that Isaac was 40 years old when he married Rebecca, which means she was probably about half his age, around 20 when they married. Keep in mind Isaac lived to be 180 years old* so waiting until he was 40 to get married does not seem out of place. (*35: 28-29)

Why is this happening to me? Fast forward in time

What we do see is that 25: 21-22 after Isaac asks the Lord to bless Rebecca with children, He does so, though she senses the twins struggling within her womb. Her response reveals even more about her character:

"And the children struggled together within her; and she said, "If it be that the Lord has answered our prayer, why is this happening to me?" And she went to enquire of the Lord." (Genesis 25: 22)

That is SO much like us today. We seek answers. We pray and ask for something, and then when it happens differently than what we thought it would be, we stop and inquire of the Lord what is going on. "If this is the answered prayer, why is this happening?"

But she was amazing - no doubt the Lord spoke to her, or at least gave her peace - but she seemed to know which son the Lord wanted to receive the birthright. She was delivered of the struggling twins, and goes down in history not only as a matriarch of Israel, but a beautiful type of the church - strong, resourceful, people of action, strong morals and integrity, and walking with God to one day meet the Groom in that half way point to be taken to the Father's home.

Come quickly Lord Jesus! New subject next week, until then, blessings,
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