



IN SEARCH OF A BRIDE

August 23, 2009

A BIBLICAL STUDY of Genesis 24:1-28



STRONG'S HEBREW/GREEK DEFINITIONS



- 1 OATH (H423) "Alah" - an imprecation: curse, cursing, execration, swearing.
- 2 OATH (H7621) "Shbuwah" - something sworn, i.e. an oath: a curse
- 3 OATH - (G3727) "Opkos" - a fence, a limit, an enclosure, that which restrains a person
- 4 YOKE (G2086) "Heterozugeo" - to yoke up differently, i.e. to associate discordantly: unequally yoke together with.

"The servant took ten camels...for all good things were in his hand..."
- Gen. 24:10



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TEXT OF THE WEEK

"...thou shalt make no covenant with them, nor shew mercy unto them: Neither shalt thou make marriages with them... For they will turn away thy son from following me, that they will serve other gods..."

For thou art a holy people unto the Lord thy God: the Lord thy God hath chosen thee to be a special people unto himself, above all people that are upon the face of the earth.

The Lord did not set his love upon you, nor choose you, because you were more in number than any people; for ye were the fewest of all people: But because the Lord loved you, and because he would keep the oath which he had sworn unto your fathers..." - Deut. 7:2-8

"Peradventure the Woman Will Not Be Willing to Follow Me?"

One of the most significant steps taken in a person's life is the step toward marriage. List (prioritize) the factors people consider are critical before taking this step. Compare the criteria important to a young person to that of an older person.

1. What oath (H423) did Abraham make with the eldest servant in his house? 24:1-4
 - Why was this so important that an oath needed to be made? Deut. 7:2-4
2. What was the concern of the servant? 24:5
 - Why didn't Abraham want Isaac to go to find his own bride? 24:6-7
3. What would release the servant from the oath? 24:8
 - Is there a difference between keeping your word and keeping an oath? Use the following references to help with your answer.
 - A. Our oath to God (H7621) - Deut. 23:21-23; II Chron. 15:15; Ecc. 5:4-6
 - B. God's oath to us (G3727) - Acts 2:29-31; Hebrews 6:13-20
 - C. Our oath to others (G3723) - Matt. 5:33-37; James 5:11-12
4. Read the prayer of the servant once he arrived at his destination (Gen. 24:13-14) What amazing thing happened at that point? 24:15
 - Compare to Isaiah 65:24. When does God seem to give an immediate answer to prayer?
5. Was the servant completely sure this was of God? 24:21 Why did he have to be sure?

DISCUSSION: Does God lead us to that person we should marry or do we lead ourselves? We have agonized over the decision for ourselves and we agonize over it for our children. Once the decision is made, we still sometimes wonder if the right choice was made. What kind of response should we take at this point in our lives?

- A. CONCEPTS of FRIENDSHIPS... The first step is the most important step. With whom do we and/or our children affiliate ourselves? 2 Cor. 6:14-17; I Cor. 5:9-13
 - 1) Many times we like to think that we could reach out and witness to the possibly unequally yoked (the wicked) and therefore give ourselves permission to affiliate with them. What does Psalm 101:3-7 teach concerning our attitude toward the wicked?
 - 2) How can we expect our kids to be equally yoked if we don't help them find a potentially "equally yoked" environment? How close is close enough? Shouldn't we be prepared to witness to those within the universal church? I Peter 3:14-17
- B. CONCEPTS of MARRIAGE.... Is it all that important to marry? What if we don't want to marry or re-marry? What if we are married and become widowed?
 - 1) What does the Bible teach about marriage? Ro. 7:2-4; I Cor. 7:1-16; I Tim. 5:1-14
 - 2) How much is a parent involved with whom their child marries? What happens if it is not one that is equally yoked? Read Gen. 26:34-35; 27:46 for insight.
 - 3) What can we do now as parents concerning this issue? As children?