

THE WILLING BRIDE II **(Genesis 24:1-8; Ruth 1:15-18; 3: 1-8)**

Not until Sarah's death did Abraham concerned himself with a wife for his son, Isaac, who was at the time thirty-seven. Three more years had passed before a bride was presented to him, making him forty years old when he was married (Genesis 25: 20). Isaac is a type of Christ in His death and resurrection on the third day, when his father laid him on the altar, as a sacrificial lamb and was resurrected when the angel of the Lord stop Abraham from killing him, there on the mount, "the Lord will provide", the same place where Yahshua was crucified and risen from the dead four thousand years later.

Chapter twenty-four is an illustrative chapter of God the Father sending His Holy spirit to fetch a bride for His Son. In the case of Isaac, his father sent his eldest servant, Eliezer the one he trusted, to fetch a wife for his son, Isaac. The wife had to be from the place where he was born and from his family; **she had to be willing to come with him.** When Eliezer, Abraham's servant met Rebecca he knew her to be the one, for her not only served him water but also served water to his camels, as a sign he had asked God. "And let it so be that the girl to whom I say, I pray you, let down your jar that I may drink, and she replies, Drink and I will give your camels drink also – let her be the one whom You have selected and appointed and indicated or Your servant Isaac" (vs. 14).

Without any doubt in his mind that she was the one to be the wife for Isaac, Eliezer sealed her with a gold earring and with two bracelets before he followed her to her house. Rebecca was not only willing to serve Eliezer and his camels, but she was also willing to be the bride of Isaac by going with this stranger to meet her bridegroom. At their arrival, Isaac had gone out to pray in an open field in the evening, when he looked up and saw the return of Eliezer with a bride for him. At the same time, when Rebecca also looked up and saw Isaac, she took a veil and concealed herself with it, for her knew him to be her bridegroom. Isaac married Rebecca and only then he was comforted after his mother's death. Only a wife would fill the vacuum left in his life after the death of his mother.

The beauty of the relationship between Christ and His bride is that even before she was born, God had chosen her to be His son's bride. After His Son's death and resurrection, God sent His Spirit to sanctify her, preparing her for the time when she would be presented to Him in glorious splendor, without spot or wrinkle (Ephesians 4:27). His bride must be willing to be sanctified, molded into His image, willing to serve and to be obedient, as Rebecca was, to meet her bridegroom. The bride of Christ was sealed with His Holy Spirit guaranteeing her redemption at the time when she was willing to accept Him. At the sound of the trumpet of God, the bride of Messiah will be ready to respond to His calling to go up to meet Him in air dressed in fine line, dazzling and white- which is her righteousness through the work of the Holy Spirit (Revelation 19:7,8). And then there will be the most beautiful wedding ever taken place anywhere. Its description is beyond the human imagination and words; and since there will be no gender in heaven man will enjoy being a bride and spouse of Yahshua!

We read in the book of Ruth another willing bride, with a prophetic message pointing to Yahshua. Ruth, a Moabitess woman, had married a Jewish man from Bethlehem when she left Moab with Naomi, her mother-in-law back to Bethlehem after the death of Naomi's husband and sons. She had moved to Moab with her family due to the famine in Bethlehem several years back, but now she found herself empty of all her family. A widow should do better in her own country. When she had said good-bye to her daughter-in-laws, Ruth said, urge me not to leave you or to turn back from following you; for where you go I will go, and where you lodge I will lodge. Your people shall be my people and your God my God (Ruth 1:16). This willing bride forsook all to follow her mother-in-law: her family, her god, her traditions, and her country.

For their survival, Ruth took the initiative to go glean in a field since it was barley harvest. By the provision of God, she ended up in Boaz's field, a relative of her deceased father-in-law, who showed compassion toward her and helped them greatly. Naomi, on the other hand, aware of the fact that Boaz was the next of kin to redeem the widow of the family, gave instructions to Ruth on how to present herself to Boaz for her redemption, as the next of kin. Ruth responded to her submissively, "**All that you say to me I will do**". Ruth did exactly what she was instructed by Naomi and she found favor with Boaz, who said, "Blessed be you of the Lord, my daughter. For you have made this last loving-kindness greater than the former, for you have not gone after young men, whether poor or rich. It is true that I am your near kinsman; however, there is a kinsman nearer than I" (vs.10, 12).

Boaz went to town and presented the matter to the next of kin, who refused to redeem Ruth and said, "Take my right of redemption yourself, for I cannot redeem it". So Boaz redeemed Ruth and married her. We have in this story a beautiful connection between Yahshua and His gentile bride. Boaz and Ruth- Jew and Gentile united as one from whose lineage Christ came even though Boaz's mother was the harlot Rahab, the redeemed gentile from Jericho. God, Who does not make exception of person, chose to come from a lineage of mixed races, Jew and Gentile, showing that salvation is for all whosoever will believe in Him – Jew and Gentile. So we learn that Rahab was the mother of Boaz, Ruth the mother of Obed, the father of Jesse, the father of King David, the ancestor of Yahshua Messiah.

Ruth is a perfect example of how a sanctified bride of Yahshua should be in her obedience, submission and in her willingness to forsake all for love of Christ. The bride of Christ should have the attitude of I am crucified with Christ, no longer do I have control of my life, for I am dead to my desires, since the life I live is His life in me; His desires will be my desires, where He leads I will follow Him; I will follow His instructions which will lead me to the completion of my redemption, when I will be presented to Him in glorious splendor without spot or wrinkle, with unveiled face, having been transfigured into His image, dressed in His righteousness through the work of sanctification by His Holy Spirit.

THINK ABOUT IT!

I am Jacinta, for Light from the Word Ministry