

Sarah was gone, her fondest dream fulfilled in the birth and rearing of her own son, Isaac. She saw him reach maturity, a thirty seven year old man before Jehovah took her home through the avenue of death common to all. After purchasing a permanent burial site in the foreign land God had promised to give Abraham, and arranging a respectful burial, he moved on to seek an appropriate wife for his son. The Spirit fondly tells this wonderful romantic story in great detail assuring the reader absorbs the delightful portrayal of the God the Father seeking a Bride for His only begotten Son. The Father's heart is revealed here in ways beyond what just words about His love for His Son and His purposes regarding the Church can convey. And in this story we have the love of the Bridegroom for the Bride. A love enabled by the intervening love of the Father for the Son. The story also grants us deep insights into some relationships between the Persons of the Trinity portrayed to us in Abraham, Isaac and the servant (Eliezer of Damascus, Genesis 15:2).

The characters of the story depict real persons, divine and human, interacting in unfolding and carrying out God's Plan from before the foundation of the world. Read Ephesians 3:1-12.

Ephesians 3:8 Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ; 9 And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ: 10 To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God, 11 According to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord: 12 In whom we have boldness and access with confidence by the faith of him.

The Cast

Who.	Represented by
God the Father	Abraham
God the Son, the Man Christ Jesus	Isaac
God the Spirit	Eliezer
The Church, Pilgrim Bride of Christ	Rebekah
The Nation of Israel	Sarah

Israel has forsaken the Son, Jesus Christ, but God has a bigger plan and has opened the way for the Father to send the Spirit to call out a Bride from the Gentiles. She is the

Church. He is now escorting her home to her Bridegroom awaiting her at the right hand of the Father. By faith she has seen the tokens of His glory and gladly has left her roots to go to Him accompanied by the Holy Spirit. He is committed to her protection, instruction and encouragement along the way to her new home. After the Marriage Supper of the Lamb, Revelation 19, she will occupy the loving arms of her husband for eternity. She is given Israel's place as the chosen people of God. She is the "comfort" of the Son in the temporary loss of His "mother" Israel—the nation that was (and is) to be His.

As Rebekah journeyed in the company of Abraham's servant to meet Isaac for the first time, she would have asked any questions about him. And he would have been delighted to answer them and to volunteer much more about his master's son. How her heart would have thrilled and trembled in anticipation as she came to know her Isaac well, even before she saw him. **So we?!** We wait to see our "Isaac" in the air, coming to meet us as we come to meet him. What joyous laughter!! What delight lights His face, and ours'. — Read Ephesians 5:22-28.

Ephesians 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; 26 That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, 27 That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.

The story of the call of Rebekah has a deeper prequel. A story the servant could hardly wait to tell. Isaac had voluntarily allowed his father to offer him upon the mountain top anticipating God would raise him from the dead. How he shared his father's loving trust in the Almighty loving God. God Who might demand costly dangerous things but with immense rewards. Rebekah dared participate in some of that blessed adventure when she decided to go with the servant to marry Isaac. She only saw a few tokens of his wealth and glory and heard a little of him and his father. Once underway the servant filled her heart daily with him. So it is today. We did not know much of the Father, or of the Lord upon whom we have trusted our all, based upon the witness of the Spirit and the scriptures. But we know that:

Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; and that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures: 1Cor. 15:3,4.

We lost sinners heeded the offered salvation. Now saints we are on our way to our Savior, His Spirit within us. We're traveling home to heaven above. Will you go?

By Ronald Canner, August 25, 2010.

Jesus, O Head in glory,
Joy of Thy pilgrim bride!
Thine be the song she singeth,
Journeying to Thy side.
Here in this barren desert
Sweetly Thy grace we prove-
Here where our souls have tasted
Springs of Thy tender love.

Jesus, O Head in glory,
Ravished by all Thou art-
Glories that grace Thy person,
Graces that fill Thy heart-
Soon shall Thy bride in rapture,
Bearing Thy image, meet, Gaze on
Thy wondrous beauty,
Worshiping at Thy feet!

Jesus, O Head in glory,
Pilgrim Thyself below,
Knew not thy soul deep sorrows,
More than our souls can know?
Cheer with the fragrant manna,
Found where Thy feet have trod,
Till the full heart outpoureth,
Carols of praise to God!