Sunday Morning Message
January 18, 2026
Preaching Christ – Painting Pictures of Christ in the Book of Genesis
Theme – Vision for 2026 – Preach Christ
Text – Genesis 24

Congregational Reading – Genesis 24

Introduction

Good morning, church. Genesis is one of the richest books in the Bible—not just for its history, but because it is filled with portraits of our Lord Jesus Christ woven into real events and real people.

We have been discussing pictures, or types, of Christ in our daily devotional blog posts on pastorerickson.com and in our noon Zoom prayer meetings. The paintings of Christ given to us by God in these Old Testament passages are so clear and vivid that I thought it would be a blessing to develop one of the chapters into a full sermon so that more of our church could be blessed by the beautiful portrait painted of the Son of God and His Bride – the Church.

Before we dive into Genesis 24, let me remind you of just a few of these pictures:

- In the birth of Isaac (Genesis 17–21), we see a beautiful type of Christ's incarnation. Isaac was the child of promise, born miraculously when Abraham was 100 and Sarah was 90—humanly impossible, "as good as dead" (Hebrews 11:11-12; Romans 4:19). God supernaturally opened Sarah's barren womb at His appointed time, and the child's name "Isaac" (laughter) turned Sarah's initial unbelieving laughter into joy (Genesis 18:12; 21:6). This points forward to the supernatural birth of Jesus Christ, the true promised Seed (Galatians 3:16), conceived by the Holy Spirit in the virgin Mary—born not by human will or power, but by the sovereign promise and power of God.
- In **Genesis 22**, we see Abraham offering his only son Isaac on the altar—a clear foreshadowing of God the Father offering His only Son, Jesus, on the cross for our sins. The ram provided in the thicket points to the substitute that God Himself supplied.
- In the life of **Joseph** (Genesis 37–50), we see a beloved son rejected by his brothers, sold for pieces of silver, cast into the pit, exalted to the right hand of power, and ultimately becoming the savior of his people and the world during famine. What a portrait of Christ!

- Even in Judah (Genesis 38, 44, 49), we see glimpses: the one from whom the scepter will not depart (Genesis 49:10), the lion of the tribe of Judah who prevails (Revelation 5:5), and the one who willingly offers himself as surety for his brother.

Today, in Genesis 24—the longest chapter in Genesis—we have another breathtaking picture: God the Father sending the Holy Spirit to call out a bride for His resurrected and exalted Son. Notice the beautiful progression in Isaac's life as a type: miraculously born through the incarnation, offered in sacrifice and received back through His death and resurrection, and now exalted while his bride is sought and brought to him. This chapter is not just an ancient love story; it is a divine romance that points us to Christ and His Church. And along the way, it gives us priceless practical wisdom for marriage, guidance, and walking with God.

I. The Story in Genesis 24: A Faithful Servant on a Sacred Mission

Let's walk briefly through the narrative (please follow along in your Bibles or look up at the screens):

1. The Father's Commission (vv. 1-9) Abraham, now old, charges his trusted servant: "Go to my country and my kindred—do not take a wife for Isaac from the Canaanites. And if the woman is not willing, you are free from this oath—but do not take my son back there."
2. The Servant's Prayer and God's Guidance (vv. 10-27) The servant travels to Mesopotamia, prays a specific prayer for success. In v. 14, he prays:

"And let it come to pass, that the damsel to whom I shall say, Let down thy pitcher, I pray thee, that I may drink; and she shall say, Drink, and I will give thy camels drink also: let the same be she that thou hast appointed for thy servant Isaac;"

Before he finishes speaking, Rebekah appears and does exactly that—going above and beyond by watering all ten camels.

3. The Family's Response and Gifts (vv. 28-60) The servant explains his mission, gives costly gifts to Rebekah and her family, and they acknowledge, "*The thing proceedeth from the Lord"* (v. 50). Yet Laban and her mother try to delay. The servant insists: "*Hinder me not, seeing the Lord hath prospered my way*" (v. 55). They ask Rebekah, "Will thou go with this man?" She answers, "I will go" (v. 58).
4. The Meeting and Marriage (vv. 61-67) Rebekah travels with the servant, meets Isaac in the field as he is meditating, covers herself with a veil, and becomes his wife. Isaac loves her, brings her into his mother Sarah's tent, and is comforted after his mother's death.

II. The Spiritual Picture: Christ Seeking His Bride (The Treasury of Types)

This story is a masterpiece of typology—every major character and detail points to eternal truths:

- Abraham → God the Father - The loving Father who plans and provides a bride for His Son.
- Isaac → The Lord Jesus Christ - The promised son, offered on the altar in chapter 22 (redemption accomplished), now exalted and waiting for his bride. The bride is secured **after** the sacrifice—just as the Church is called out after the crucifixion and resurrection.
- The Unnamed Servant → The Holy Spirit
    - He is unnamed (just as the Spirit never glorifies Himself—John 16:13-14).
    - Sent by the Father to seek the bride.
    - Prays faithfully and receives immediate guidance.
    - Speaks only of the Son and makes him glorious to the bride on the journey.
    - Gives gifts to the bride (earnest of the inheritance—Ephesians 1:13-14; spiritual gifts—1 Corinthians 12):
        1. The individual members of the Bride – each believer – receives the indwelling Holy Spirit, which is the earnest of our inheritance who will guide, instruct, and direct us in this life until we arrive safely at the Father's house, which is Heaven:

"13 In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise, 14 Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory." (Eph 1:13–14)

        2. And then the Holy Spirit gives us spiritual gifts that can be used to bless the rest of the church. These gifts are listed for us 1 Corinthians 12 and in Romans 12. Gifts such as the ability to teach, lead, administrate, encourage, serve, or give. Not every member of the church is gifted in the same way, but all receive gifts. Every believer receives at least one gift (1 Cor 12:7, 11), and we are to use them wisely and diligently to build up the Body until we all come to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ (Eph 4:13).
        3. The church today also receives the gift of guidance. Ephesians 4 tells us that God gives us evangelists, pastors and teachers today who will help

to perfect us spiritually, helping to mold us into the image of the Bridegroom - Christ

- Bestows riches on the world to win the bride (v. 53).
- Will not be hindered in completing his mission.

- Rebekah → The Church, the Bride of Christ
  - Sovereignly chosen and directed by God, yet she must willingly say, "I will go."
  - Leaves all to follow the Servant to a Bridegroom she has never seen.
  - Receives gifts and learns more of Isaac on the journey.
  - Meets him in the field and becomes his beloved.
- Other Beautiful Details
  - Sarah → Israel (God's earthly wife); the new bride enters her tent only after Sarah's departure—picturing the Church age and Israel's future restoration.
  - Laban → The world, attracted to the gifts but delaying and hindering the bride.
  - The Camels → The grace of God, carrying the bride through the desert wilderness to the Son.

This chapter beautifully illustrates soul-winning: the Spirit convicts the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment (John 16:8) and calls sinners to trust Christ.

III. Practical Teaching: Principles for Our Lives Today

Genesis 24 is not just doctrine—it is intensely practical:

1. Guidance in Major Decisions Like the servant, we can pray specific prayers and trust God to answer (v. 15). God said through Isaiah:

"And it shall come to pass, that before they call, I will answer; and while they are yet speaking, I will hear." (Isa 65:24)

And also through Jeremiah:

"3 Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not." (Jer 33:3)

And through the Lord Jesus:

"9 And I say unto you, Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you." (Luke 11:9)

Seek clear leading from the Lord in marriage, career, ministry. Let him guide and direct you in His will.

2. Godly Marriage
    - Parents have a biblical role in helping and approving their children's spouses (Abraham's involvement). Young people: seek your parents' and pastor's counsel before engagement.
    - Do not marry outside the will of God: Isaac was not to marry a Canaanite. "Be ye not unequally yoked" (2 Corinthians 6:14). Marry only in the Lord.
    - Wait on God's timing and choice—He will direct the right person. Proverbs 3:5-6 says:

"5 Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. 6 In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths." (Prov 3:5–6)

3. Service and Character Rebekah's willingness to water ten camels (hundreds of gallons!) shows inner beauty and a servant's heart. Go beyond the minimum in serving others.
4. Comfort in Loss Isaac was comforted in his grief by Rebekah. God provides comfort through Christ and sometimes through godly relationships (v. 67).

Conclusion and Application

Church, this is our story. The Father has sent the Holy Spirit into the world to call out a Bride for His exalted Son. If you have never trusted Christ, the Spirit is speaking to you today—will you say, "I will go"?

For those of us who already belong to Christ, let us live as a pure and prepared Bride—yielding to the Spirit's guidance, treasuring the gifts He has given, and longing for the day we meet our Bridegroom face to face.

Isaac was comforted by his bride. One day, Christ will present His Church to Himself "without spot or wrinkle" (Ephesians 5:27), and we will be forever with the Lord.