**Walk Through the Bible**

**Lesson Number Nineteen**

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**Abraham sends his servant to find a wife for Isaac – God leads Eliezer to Rebekah – Rebekah returns with Eliezer – Isaac and Rebekah are married – Sarah and Abraham die**

When we left off a couple of weeks ago, Abraham made his senior servant (probably Eliezar of Damascus Gen. 15:2) take an oath that he would go back to where Abraham had come from to find a wife for Isaac. He also made his servant swear that he would never take Isaac back to that land because God had sworn to give the land of Canaan to him and his descendants through Isaac.

Abraham wanted to make sure there was **absolutely no reason** for Isaac to leave Canaan and maybe never return. Abraham also made it extremely clear that Isaac was to marry within Abraham’s family and not outside of it.

This was the start of miscegenation among the Hebrew or Israelite race.

In other words, the Hebrews were forbidden to marry outside of the Israelite race. It was God’s plan to keep the Hebrew race pure. One of the problems of marrying outside of the Hebrew race is that false religions would be brought to the Israelites which we eventually see happen throughout history. In fact, Esau, Jacob’s brother, Isaac’s son, married a Canaanite woman which was an abomination.

This is a very important thing to know: **The Jewish race did NOT start with Abraham.** Abraham is the father of the **Israelite or HEBREW race**. The Jew are descendants of the tribes of Judah. Then when Israel was split into two nations, Israel and Judah, Judah was comprised of the tribe of Judah and the tribe of Benjamin and some of the tribe of Levi which were the priests. Only two tribes were “Jews”. **The other ten tribes, sometimes called “the Lost Tribes of Israel” were never called Jews.** They were never lost either. We know plainly where they went when they were first carried off into captivity a few centuries before Christ came. **Rather than being “lost”, they were dispersed.** There are some very strong arguments that most of their descendants settled in Western Europe and the British Isles and later migrated across the Pacific ocean to North America.

NOTE: We live in a world where everyone has to be “PC” or politically correct. I believe we should be able to talk about controversial subjects without the fear of “offending” people. On the next few pages, I am going to talk about segregation of the races. The purpose of this is NOT to offend but rather, to talk about the way people have believed for years. In no way do I think any one race is superior to any other or that any race is less than any other. I leave it up to you to believe how you think the Bible teaches you to believe. You can believe that the races should remain separated in marriage, in child bearing, etc., and NOT be a racist. I know people of all races who believe in segregation and I also know people of all races who believe in integration. **Jesus’ blood was shed for every one of us, regardless of what color our skin is!** If mixing of the races had gone on since the beginning of time, there would only be one people with one color of skin. If you have questions about all of this, feel free to contact me at jay@jaymc.com.

For millennia and even now, many people believe that people should not marry outside of their race. There are people of all races who believe this and just because they do not believe in marrying outside of their race, it does NOT make them a racist!

Interracial marriage was illegal in most states in the United States until 1967 when the Supreme Court ruled it unconstitutional in a landmark case, “Loving vs. Virginia.”

In 1954 in the United States, schools were forced to “integrate” after the Supreme Court ruling of Brown v. Board of Education. There were people of all races who did not believe segregation was right. I met a black Christian brother, who lived during that time and experienced segregation himself, he told me he believed black children received a better education before segregation.

For centuries Christian churches taught that interracial marriage violated God’s laws. The same is true for homosexual marriage but in 2015, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled, in an extremely controversial ruling, that homosexual marriage is legal in this country and cannot be stopped.

Marriage has always been held to be between one man and one woman. Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia, in his dissenting remarks over homosexual marriage, said that it would be easier to argue a case for polygamy rather than for homosexual marriages.

Polygamy was practiced by most of our patriarchs in the Bible. It is not a sin to do so but I do NOT believe it is God’s best! And, I do not believe it is what God intended marriage to be.

Christians have used some of the following passages on which to base their beliefs against interracial marriage.

**Genesis 1:11 (KJV)**
11  And God said, Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb yielding seed, *and* the fruit tree yielding fruit after his kind, whose seed *is* in itself, upon the earth: and it was so.

**Genesis 1:24-25 (KJV)**
**24**And God said, “Let the earth bring forth living creatures **according to their kinds**—livestock and creeping things and beasts of the earth **according to their kinds**.” And it was so. **25**And God made the beasts of the earth **according to their kinds** and the livestock **according to their kinds**, and everything that creeps on the ground **according to its kind**. And God saw that it was good.

In nature, cardinals reproduce with cardinals, bluejays reproduce with bluejays and so on. If all kinds of animals, let’s take birds as our example, were to intermingle in their reproduction, then there would ultimately, be only one kind of bird. It would not be a pure race but rather, a hybrid, some say a mongrel. Throughout history, interracial marriage has typically been rejected. It was not legal in the United States until 1967.

Generally, children of interracial marriage are not accepted by the races of either parent.

The term “after his kind” or “after their kind” appears no less than twenty-eight times in the first three books of the Bible. It always refers to some kind of plant or living being.

Moses married an Ethiopian woman according to Numbers 12:1. Many people **assume** she was black because she was from Ethiopia.

**Numbers 12:1 (KJV)**
1  And Miriam and Aaron spake against Moses because of the Ethiopian woman whom he had married: for he had married an Ethiopian woman.

Look at Dake’s comments on this.

Moses married a Midianite, a daughter of the priest of Midian (Ex. 2:15-25; 3:1; 4:18-26; 18:1-27; Num. 10:29-36; Judg. 1:16; 4:11; 1Sam. 15:6). The land of Midian in Arabia was the land of Cush as well as Ethiopia because one branch of Cush settled there in ancient times. Midian was a son of Abraham through Keturah (Gen. 25:1-4). Therefore, Moses married a descendant of the son of Abraham, not an African as some think. She was simply a Cushite because she dwelt in the land of Cush, in the same sense that a German or an Italian immigrant becomes an American because of citizenship. Just as being American has no reference to race, so being a Cushite did not identify Zipporah in this way. Some say she was a second wife of Moses, but we have no grounds for this supposition.
Dake's Annotated Reference Bible: Containing the Old and New Testaments of the Authorized or King James Version Text.

Not only was there a land called “Cush” in the area of Ethiopia but there was also a land called “Cush” in Babylonia, or present day Iraq.

When I began to date Barbara, when I told people she was African (she was born in Tanganyika or present day Tanzania), they automatically **assumed** she was black. There are many, many white people in Africa.

Every now and again someone asks how it could be that Moses, the champion of the Lord for the chosen people, could have married an Ethiopian who was therefore of the descendants of Ham, youngest son of Noah. There was strong objection in Israel to such marriages although the assumption that Moses had married before he left Egypt only raises the second question how he later came to marry Zipporah the Midianite when he apparently had left one wife back in Egypt. The word "Ethiopian" is the Greek equivalent of the Hebrew word "Cush" who in Genesis 10.8 is recorded as one of the sons of Ham. The Cushites became the people known to history as the Sumerians. Eventually many of their tribes migrated, some down the eastern side of the Persian Gulf and into India, where they established the Indus civilization which endured from about 2000 BC to 1500 BC. Others moved down the western side and across Arabia and over the Red Sea into Africa where they became the people known to the Egyptians as Cush, living mainly in what is now the Sudan. Jewish legend has it that Moses when at the court of Pharaoh led an invading army into Cush and returned in triumph but there is probably no truth in that.

"Ethiopia" in the American Version is taken from old Anglo-Saxon versions that were based largely on the Greek Septuagint. It used this word to translate the Hebrew "Cush", but to the Greeks the whole of the southern world from Africa to India was denoted by the word Ethiopia (English travellers as late as the 17th Century still used the name in that sense). The Egyptians despised the Cushites and called them "vile Cush" and lost no opportunity of waging war on them. It would have been social suicide for Moses to marry into that nation while still at the Egyptian court and most unlikely. Another factor is that by deduction from Scripture records, at that time in history a man was rarely below the age of fifty at marriage, and since Moses fled to Midian at age forty, his marriage whilst there and return forty years later with two sons is perfectly logical. There is no evidence aside from this questionable statement in Num. 12.1 that he had been married before.

**Zipporah, his Midianite wife (Exodus 2.15-22) was a descendant of Abraham through his wife Keturah. She was therefore of Semitic race and there would be no valid objection on that score against the union.** (Emphasis mine). Midianites were scattered all over the lands south of Canaan and the tribal name of the Sinai Midianites was Cushan (referred to only once in the O.T. in Habakkuk 3.7 *"I saw the tents of Cushan in affliction and the curtains of the land of Midian did tremble".* The almost certain explanation of Num. 12.1 is that by an early copyist's mistake Cushan was turned into Cush by the omission of the final N. The archaic Hebrew N in the days before Ezra was a very insignificant little "squiggle" and could easily have been missed. On this basis the text tells us that Moses had married a Cushan Midianite, which is what Exodus 2 says anyway. The objection raised by Aaron and Miriam to the nationality of his wife was probably evoked by jealousy. They feared that one of Moses' own sons by Zipporah would be appointed by him to succeed him as Israel's leader when the time came. They, and probably most of their fellows, would much prefer a full blooded son of Israel. They need not have worried; when the time did come, the Lord brought forth His own choice for leader, the stalwart Joshua. This is one of the lessons we all find hard to learn, that the Lord is perfectly able to raise up His own instrument to carry on any section of His work when the torch begins to fall from failing hands. We need not plan and devise and agonize for the continuance of that which He has left in our charge for a space of time.

One has to realise that many of the women of the Old Testament history were not of Israel, although of Semitic race Isaac married Rebecca who was of Nahor, brother to Abraham. Jacob married Rachel and Leah of the same stock. Salmon prince of Judah at the entry to the Land married Rahab of Jericho whose name shows she was Semitic, either of Abraham through Esau, Ishmael or Keturah, or of Nahor. Tamar who carried on the Messianic line from Judah was not of Jacob but her name too reveals that she was Semitic. Ruth who married Boaz was a Moabite, from Lot the son of Haran another brother of Abraham. There was no inconsistency therefore in the case of Moses.

There are theories that assert that the name "Cush" means black and that he was a black man, the ancestor of the African races. While it is true that purely Hebrew names often have a meaning which can be traced by the construction of the word as for example Jesus in Greek is the Hebrew Joshua, or more properly Jehoshua, which means God is Saviour, the same practice cannot be applied to non-Hebrew names. There is no Hebrew word closely resembling Cush that means black. Cush was given his name long before there were any Hebrews or any Hebrew language. He was certainly the ancestor of the Sumerians and that language is the oldest one that is now known, but the Sumerian word for black is "gig" - not very similar. No one knows what the nature of the language spoken by Noah and his sons was and only that later languages were derived from it. It is probably true that many of the black peoples of Africa are descended from Cush but their black colour developed after they had settled in Africa and not before. The various, colours of men in different climes are the result of long habitation under specialised conditions of climate and food, and probably other factors not yet completely understood. There is no reason for thinking that Noah had grandsons in a variety of colours,. In fact there is evidence to the contrary. According to Genesis 10, Cush had a brother named Phut. The Phutites in later generations also crossed into Africa and colonised the north, right across the continent to the Atlantic in days when the present Sahara desert was a fertile well-watered country abounding in forests and animal life. Today there are cave-paintings still existing in that barren and uninhabited waste executed by, and depicting, those Phutites of four thousand years ago but they are not shown as black. They are painted with red and yellow skins; their descendants today are deep brown.

There is no means of determining the colour of the first men, nor yet that of Noah and his sons. The white races tend to think that they must have been white; but the Chinese insist, quite as logically, that they were yellow. We just do not know. What we do know is that God "hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on the face of the earth. (Acts 17.16) and that all men everywhere, of whatever colour, are able to propagate their own kind with each other.. Perhaps the Lord, who is the supreme Artist in creation, sees some advantage in having men ultimately develop five outward colours, whilst still being men inside, just as He has ordained variety in the rest of His Creation.

Coming back to the main point, there is not much doubt that the only woman Moses married, the mother of his children was the daughter of the Midianite Chieftain. Jethro gave him hospitality during his term of exile and proved to be as much a reverential worshipper of the true God as was Moses himself.

<http://www.biblefellowshipunion.co.uk/2004/sep_oct/moseseth.htm>

I find it very hard to believe that Moses, the man of God that he was, would marry someone from a forbidden genetic line. The Hebrews were very strict about who they married.

**That was a type and a shadow for us as believers today. Christians are not supposed to marry unbelievers!** Marriage has enough problems and enough obstacles without mixing a believer with an unbeliever!

**2 Corinthians 6:14 (KJV)**
14  Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?

**I would much rather see a believer marry someone from a different race than to see them marry someone who is not also a believer!**

The question of interracial marriage is an issue you will need to make up your own mind about. Remember the old saying I have been repeating since I began teaching this life group;

“In the essentials, unity; in the non-essentials, liberty.”

A person that believes in segregation of the races is not a better Christian than someone who does not believe in segregation of the races and vice versa.

In my opinion, one of the greatest study Bibles ever put together is the Dake’s Annotated Reference Bible. In the Dake’s Bible, there is a study on “Segregation of the Races.” For years, no one ever brought up any opposition to what Dake wrote. Finally, after Dake passed away, there were a few people who objected to his teaching so his family changed the wording in newer publications of Dake’s Bibles. Below is what Dake taught:

**30 Reasons for Segregation of Races**

**by Finis Dake**

[**Acts 17:26**](http://studybible.info/interlinear/Acts%2017%3A26)

*And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation; (KJV)*

1. God wills all races to be as He made them. Any violation of God’s original purpose manifests insubordination to Him(Acts 17:26; Romans 9:19-24)
2. God made everything to reproduce “After his own kind” (Genesis 1:11-12, 21-25; 6:20; 7:14). Kind means type and color or He would have kept them all alike to begin with.
3. God originally determined the bounds of the habitations of nations(Acts 17:26; Genesis 10:5, 32; 11:8; Deuteronomy 32:8)
4. Miscegenation means the mixture of races, especially the black and white races, or those of outstanding type or color. The Bible even goes farther than opposing this. It is against different branches of the same stock intermarrying such as Jews marrying other descendants of Abraham(Ezra 9-10; Nehemiah 9-13; Jeremiah 50:37; Ezekiel 30:5).
5. Abraham forbad Eliezer to take a wife for Isaac of Canaanites (Genesis 24:1-4). God was so pleased with this that He directed whom to get (Genesis 24:7, 12-27).
6. Isaac forbad Jacob to take a wife of the Canaanites (Genesis 27:46-28:7).
7. Abraham sent all his sons of the concubines, and even of his second wife, far away from Isaac so their descendants would not mix (Genesis 25:1-6)
8. Esau disobeying this law brought the final break between him and his father after lifelong companionship with him(Genesis 25:28; 26:34-35, 27:46; 28:8-9).
9. The two branches of Isaac remained segregated forever (Genesis 30; 46:8-26).
10. Ishmael and Isaac’s descendants remained segregated forever (Genesis 25:12-23; 1 Chronicles 1:29)
11. Jacob’s sons destroyed a whole city to maintain segregation (Genesis 34)
12. God forbad intermarriage between Israel and all other nations (Exodus 34:12-16; Deuteronomy 7:5-6)
13. Joshua forbad the same thing on sentence of death (Joshua 22:12-13)
14. God cursed angels for leaving their own “first estate” and “their own habitation” to marry the daughters of men (Genesis 6:1-4; 2 Peter 2:4; Jude 6-7)
15. Miscegenation caused Israel to be cursed (Judges 3:6-7; Numbers 25:1-8)
16. This was Solomon’s sin (I Kings 11)
17. This was the sin of Jews returning from Babylon (Ezra 9:1-10:2,10-18,44; 13:1-30)
18. God commanded Israel to be segregated (Leviticus 20:24; Numbers 23:9; 1 Kings 8:53)
19. Jews recognized as a separate people in all ages because of Gods choice and command (Matthew 10:6; John 1:11). Equal rights in the gospel gives no right to break this eternal law.
20. Segregation between Jews and all other nations to remain in all eternity (Isaiah 2:2-4; Ezekiel 37; 47:13-48,55; Zechariah 14:16-21; Matthew 19:28; Luke 1:32-33; Revelation 7:1-8; 14:1-5)
21. All nations will remain segregated from one another in their own parts of the earth forever (Acts 17:26; Genesis 10:5,32; 11:8-9; Deuteronomy 32:8; Daniel 7:13-14; Zechariah 14; Revelation 11:15; 21:24)
22. Certain people in Israel were not even to worship with others (Deuteronomy 23:1-5; Ezra 10:8;Nehemiah 9:2 10:28; 13:3)
23. Even in heaven certain groups will not be allowed to worship together (Revelation 7:7-17; 14:1-5; 15:2-5)
24. Segregation was so strong in the O.T. that an ox and an ass could not work together (Deuteronomy 22:10).
25. Miscegenation caused disunity among God’s people (Numbers 12).
26. Stock was forbidden to be bred with other kinds (Leviticus 19:19).
27. Sowing mixed seed in the same field was unlawful (Leviticus 19:19)
28. Different seeds were forbidden to be planted in vineyards (Deuteronomy 22:9)
29. Wearing garments of mixed fabrics forbidden (Deuteronomy 22:11; Leviticus 19:19)
30. Christians and certain other people of a like race are to be segregated (Matthew 18:15-17; 1 Corinthians 5:9-13; 6:15; 2 Corinthians 6:14-15; Ephesians 5:11; 2 Thessalonians 3:6-16; 1 Timothy 6:5; 2 Timothy 3:5).

**Now, let me be very clear. If a mixed race couple comes into our Life Group, I am not going to treat them any differently than any other couple!** Also, I am not going to tell you how you should believe concerning mixed race marriage. Before making a decision, search out the scriptures to see what they have to say! Too many Christians make up their minds through the wrong things. They will make up their minds and believe something because society (Hollywood, the media, etc.) tells them what to believe. They may make up their mind through their emotions. **As Christians, we should always make up our minds according to what God’s Word says!**

**Abrahams Servant Makes the Trip to Mesopotamia**

Abraham’s servant was afraid that if he went to Abraham’s home land that he may not be able to convince any woman to return with him to marry Isaac. In Gen. 24:7, Abraham told him that the “angel” of the Lord would go before him to make everything work out.

**Genesis 24:7 (GW)**
7  “The LORD God of heaven took me from my father's home and the land of my family. He spoke to me and swore this oath: ‘I will give this land to your descendants.' “God will send his angel ahead of you, and you will get my son a wife from there.

**I love Abraham’s faith! He knew that God would provide just like He did when he was told to sacrifice Isaac!**

We should always remember that **the Holy Spirit dwells inside of us and He is our assurance that things are going to work out in our lives!**

There is a book that I would highly recommend that every one of you should read. It is called **“The Believer’s Authority”** by Kenneth E. Hagin. It is available on my website. [Click Here](http://www.jaymc.com/books) and then scroll down until you find the link.

God will do SO MUCH MORE than we can even believe. He loves us THAT much!

**Ephesians 3:20-21 (NKJV)**

**20**Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, **21**to Him *be* glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

**Genesis 24:9-14 (NLT)**

**9**So the servant took an oath by putting his hand under the thigh of his master, Abraham. He swore to follow Abraham’s instructions. **10Then he loaded ten of Abraham’s camels with all kinds of expensive gifts from his master, and he traveled to distant Aram-naharaim (the city of Nahor in Mesopotamia).** There he went to the town where Abraham’s brother Nahor had settled. **11**He made the camels kneel beside a well just outside the town. It was evening, and the women were coming out to draw water.

Aram-Naharaim was the region near Haran where Abraham, his father Terah and Lot lived for a while before traveling on down to Canaan.

**12**“O Lord, God of my master, Abraham,” he prayed. “Please give me success today, and show unfailing love to my master, Abraham.

This is the attitude we should have toward our employers! Even when we feel like they aren’t doing the things they should or if we feel they are mistreating us, we should always pray for them.

In Matthew 5:44 and Luke 6:28 we are told to pray for those who curse us and to pray for those who despitefully use us.

**13**See, I am standing here beside this spring, and the young women of the town are coming out to draw water. **14**This is my request. I will ask one of them, ‘Please give me a drink from your jug.’ If she says, ‘Yes, have a drink, and I will water your camels, too!’—**let her be the one you have selected as Isaac’s wife.** This is how I will know that you have shown unfailing love to my master.”

**Too many times we are concerned about the things we want when we pray rather than what God wants! Eliezer wanted to know which woman God chose to be Isaac’s wife!**

**15**Before he had finished praying, he saw a young woman named Rebekah coming out with her water jug on her shoulder. She was the daughter of Bethuel, who was the son of Abraham’s brother Nahor and his wife, Milcah.**16**Rebekah was very beautiful and old enough to be married, but she was still a virgin. She went down to the spring, filled her jug, and came up again.**17**Running over to her, the servant said, “Please give me a little drink of water from your jug.”

**18**“Yes, my lord,” she answered, “have a drink.” And she quickly lowered her jug from her shoulder and gave him a drink. **19**When she had given him a drink, she said, “I’ll draw water for your camels, too, until they have had enough to drink.” **20**So she quickly emptied her jug into the watering trough and ran back to the well to draw water for all his camels.

**Camels drink a LOT OF WATER so this was to be no easy task!** “a thirsty camel can drink as many as **30 gallons** (**135 liters**) of water in about 13 minutes.” <http://www.nationalgeographic.com/weepingcamel/thecamels.html>

Water weighs approximately 8 pounds per gallon so for just one camel, this could have been as much as 240 pounds of water that Rebekah may have carried to the watering trough!

**21**The servant watched her in silence, **wondering whether or not the Lord had given him success in his mission.**

**God had just answered Eliezer’s prayer and yet, he still wondered if God had given him success. This does not make much sense to me but we do it all the time as Christians. We see God move miraculously on our behalf and then we still wonder if God is with us! It is insanity at its best!**

**22**Then at last, when the camels had finished drinking, he took out a gold ring for her nose and two large gold bracelets for her wrists.

**23**“Whose daughter are you?” he asked. “And please tell me, would your father have any room to put us up for the night?”

**24**“I am the daughter of Bethuel,” she replied. “My grandparents are Nahor and Milcah. **25**Yes, we have plenty of straw and feed for the camels, and we have room for guests.”

**26**The man bowed low and worshiped the Lord. **27**“Praise the Lord, the God of my master, Abraham,” he said. “The Lord has shown unfailing love and faithfulness to my master, for he has led me straight to my master’s relatives.”

**28**The young woman ran home to tell her family everything that had happened.**29**Now Rebekah had a brother named Laban, who ran out to meet the man at the spring. **30**He had seen the nose-ring and the bracelets on his sister’s wrists, and had heard Rebekah tell what the man had said. So he rushed out to the spring, where the man was still standing beside his camels. **31**Laban said to him, “Come and stay with us, you who are blessed by the Lord! Why are you standing here outside the town when I have a room all ready for you and a place prepared for the camels?”

Laban was a shady character. We will see later on in Genesis just how shady he is when Isaac’s son, Jacob takes a wife. **AFTER** Laban had seen the golden nose ring and the golden bracelets that Eliezer had given Rebekah, he came running out and invited him to stay with them. Rebekah showed Eliezer kindness **BEFORE** he had given her any gold or told him who he was.

**32**So the man went home with Laban, and Laban unloaded the camels, gave him straw for their bedding, fed them, and provided water for the man and the camel drivers to wash their feet. **33**Then food was served. But Abraham’s servant said, “I don’t want to eat until I have told you why I have come.”

“All right,” Laban said, “tell us.”

**34**“I am Abraham’s servant,” he explained. **35**“And the Lord has greatly blessed my master; he has become a wealthy man. The Lord has given him flocks of sheep and goats, herds of cattle, a fortune in silver and gold, and many male and female servants and camels and donkeys.

**36**“When Sarah, my master’s wife, was very old, she gave birth to my master’s son, and my master has given him everything he owns. **37**And my master made me take an oath. He said, ‘Do not allow my son to marry one of these local Canaanite women. **38**Go instead to my father’s house, to my relatives, and find a wife there for my son.’

**39**“But I said to my master, ‘What if I can’t find a young woman who is willing to go back with me?’ **40**He responded, ‘The Lord, in whose presence I have lived, will send his angel with you and will make your mission successful. Yes, you must find a wife for my son from among my relatives, from my father’s family. **41**Then you will have fulfilled your obligation. But if you go to my relatives and they refuse to let her go with you, you will be free from my oath.’

**42**“So today when I came to the spring, I prayed this prayer: ‘O Lord, God of my master, Abraham, please give me success on this mission. **43**See, I am standing here beside this spring. This is my request. When a young woman comes to draw water, I will say to her, “Please give me a little drink of water from your jug.” **44**If she says, “Yes, have a drink, and I will draw water for your camels, too,” let her be the one you have selected to be the wife of my master’s son.’

**45**“Before I had finished praying in my heart, I saw Rebekah coming out with her water jug on her shoulder. She went down to the spring and drew water. So I said to her, ‘Please give me a drink.’ **46**She quickly lowered her jug from her shoulder and said, ‘Yes, have a drink, and I will water your camels, too!’ So I drank, and then she watered the camels.

**47**“Then I asked, ‘Whose daughter are you?’ She replied, ‘I am the daughter of Bethuel, and my grandparents are Nahor and Milcah.’ So I put the ring on her nose, and the bracelets on her wrists.

**48**“Then I bowed low and worshiped the Lord. I praised the Lord, the God of my master, Abraham, because he had led me straight to my master’s niece to be his son’s wife. **49**So tell me—will you or won’t you show unfailing love and faithfulness to my master? Please tell me yes or no, and then I’ll know what to do next.”

**50**Then Laban and Bethuel replied, “The Lord has obviously brought you here, so there is nothing we can say. **51**Here is Rebekah; take her and go. Yes, let her be the wife of your master’s son, as the Lord has directed.”

**52**When Abraham’s servant heard their answer, he bowed down to the ground and worshiped the Lord. **53**Then he brought out silver and gold jewelry and clothing and presented them to Rebekah. He also gave expensive presents to her brother and mother. **54**Then they ate their meal, and the servant and the men with him stayed there overnight.

But early the next morning, Abraham’s servant said, “Send me back to my master.”

**55**“But we want Rebekah to stay with us at least ten days,” her brother and mother said. “Then she can go.”

**56**But he said, “Don’t delay me. The Lord has made my mission successful; now send me back so I can return to my master.”

**57**“Well,” they said, “we’ll call Rebekah and ask her what she thinks.” **58**So they called Rebekah. “Are you willing to go with this man?” they asked her.

And she replied, “Yes, I will go.”

**59**So they said good-bye to Rebekah and sent her away with Abraham’s servant and his men. The woman who had been Rebekah’s childhood nurse went along with her. **60**They gave her this blessing as she parted:

**“Our sister, may you become
    the mother of many millions!
May your descendants be strong
    and conquer the cities of their enemies.”**

**61**Then Rebekah and her servant girls mounted the camels and followed the man. So Abraham’s servant took Rebekah and went on his way.

**62**Meanwhile, Isaac, whose home was in the Negev, had returned from Beer-lahai-roi. **63**One evening as he was walking and meditating in the fields, he looked up and saw the camels coming. **64**When Rebekah looked up and saw Isaac, she quickly dismounted from her camel. **65**“Who is that man walking through the fields to meet us?” she asked the servant.

And he replied, “It is my master.” So Rebekah covered her face with her veil.**66**Then the servant told Isaac everything he had done.

67And Isaac brought Rebekah into his mother Sarah’s tent, and she became his wife. **He loved her deeply** **(other versions say “Isaac loved Rebekah”)**, and she was a special comfort to him after the death of his mother.

In that day and age, there were no wedding ceremonies. To remove a girl from her parents was enough to signify a marriage. Marriage has been performed in many different ways over the centuries. In pioneer times in Kansas, there were many places that did not have ministers or judges who could marry a couple. To recognize a marriage, there was a celebration and at that time, the couple was considered to be married. When the married couple returned to their home, they would put their shoes outside the door at night until a circuit preacher or circuit judge came along to make the wedding “official.”

God is the one who ordains marriage. Just because someone has a piece of paper from a government office does not necessarily mean that God ordains that marriage. The United States Supreme Court just ruled that marriage between people of the same sex is legal and cannot be stopped. **This does not mean God accepts gay marriage!** The same goes for divorce. Just because a couple gets a piece of paper saying they are divorced. They may not be divorced in God’s eyes.

**Isaac LOVED Rebekah!** I think that is one of the most beautiful passages in the Bible. Rebekah loved Isaac and she was a great comfort to him when his mother, Sarah, died. Isaac had a special love for his mother and his son, Jacob, had a special love for his mother Rebekah.

**Husbands and Wives Need to Learn How to Love Each Other!**

**Ephesians 5:21-33 (NLT)**

**21**And further, submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.

**22**For wives, this means submit to your husbands as to the Lord. **23**For a husband is the head of his wife as Christ is the head of the church. He is the Savior of his body, the church. **24**As the church submits to Christ, so you wives should submit to your husbands in everything.

**25**For husbands, this means love your wives, just as Christ loved the church. He gave up his life for her **26**to make her holy and clean, washed by the cleansing of God’s word.[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Ephesians+5&version=NLT" \l "fen-NLT-29291b" \o "See footnote b)] **27**He did this to present her to himself as a glorious church without a spot or wrinkle or any other blemish. Instead, she will be holy and without fault. **28**In the same way, husbands ought to love their wives as they love their own bodies. For a man who loves his wife actually shows love for himself. **29**No one hates his own body but feeds and cares for it, just as Christ cares for the church. **30**And we are members of his body.

**31**As the Scriptures say, “A man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united into one.”[[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Ephesians+5&version=NLT#fen-NLT-29296c)] **32**This is a great mystery, but it is an illustration of the way Christ and the church are one. **33**So again I say, each man must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.

**Titus Chapter 2 (NLT)**

As for you, Titus, promote the kind of living that reflects wholesome teaching. **2**Teach the older men to exercise self-control, to be worthy of respect, and to live wisely. They must have sound faith and be filled with love and patience.

**3**Similarly, teach the older women to live in a way that honors God. They must not slander others or be heavy drinkers. Instead, they should teach others what is good. **4These older women must train the younger women to love their husbands and their children, 5to live wisely and be pure, to work in their homes, to do good, and to be submissive to their husbands.** Then they will not bring shame on the word of God.

**6**In the same way, encourage the young men to live wisely. **7**And you yourself must be an example to them by **doing good works of every kind.** **Let everything you do reflect the integrity and seriousness of your teaching. 8Teach the truth so that your teaching can’t be criticized.**

**Make sure everything you teach is based upon the Word of God! Use scriptures that will back up your doctrine. Be a STICKLER for the Word of God. Dake and Hagin have been criticized widely but both were serious about basing all their doctrines on the Word of God even though other Christian leaders oppose them. Don’t worry about what others think of you if you are doing God’s work and you have based all your doctrine on His Word!**

Then those who oppose us will be ashamed and have nothing bad to say about us.

**9**Slaves must always obey their masters (the Bible does not condemn slavery. It does, however, teach how a slave should respond to his master and how a master should treat his slaves) and do their best to please them. They must not talk back **10**or steal (pilfer), but must show themselves to be entirely trustworthy and good. Then they will make the teaching about God our Savior attractive in every way.

**11**For the grace of God has been revealed, **bringing salvation to all people(People of all races and nationalities). 12**And we are instructed to turn from godless living and sinful pleasures. **We should live in this evil world with wisdom, righteousness, and devotion to God,13while we look forward with hope to that wonderful day when the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, will be revealed.** **14**He gave his life **to free us from every kind of sin,** to cleanse us, and to make us his very own people, totally committed to doing good deeds.

**15**You must teach these things and encourage the believers to do them. You have the authority to correct them when necessary, so don’t let anyone disregard what you say.

**Genesis 25:1-11 (NLT)**

Abraham married another wife, **whose name was Keturah**. **2**She gave birth to **Zimran, Jokshan, Medan, Midian, Ishbak, and Shuah**. **3**Jokshan was the father of Sheba and Dedan. Dedan’s descendants were the Asshurites, Letushites, and Leummites. **4**Midian’s sons were Ephah, Epher, Hanoch, Abida, and Eldaah. These were all descendants of Abraham through Keturah.

Why does the Bible give all the names of the descendants of people? It is so we know who these people are and how they are related to God’s people. God has a REASON for all of this being there.

**Are the Jews in Israel Really the True Jews or People of God?**

Within the last decade, two scientists, one from Australia and one from the University of Oregon both proved beyond a shadow of a doubt that the Book of Mormon isn’t true.

The Book of Mormon tells a story of righteous people from Israel coming to the Americas in small tubes. The tubes had a plug on the top and the bottom so that they could always have one out for light and fresh air as they floated to Central America. Once the people got here, they began to spread throughout South and North America.

These two scientists used DNA to prove that the people here in the Americas came from the land bridge across the Bering Strait! This proves that the story contained in the Book of Mormon is not true. I personally spoke to the man at the University of Oregon. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (Mormons) responded by excommunicating both men.

**DNA has now been used to determine who the Jews are in Israel.**

As I talked about earlier, many people talk about the “lost tribes of Israel.” They aren’t lost at all. We know there were ten tribes who were taken into captivity to Assyria a few centuries before Jesus was born into the flesh. These tribes of people can easily be traced to different parts of the world through the Bible and through history. They were not lost but rather, dispersed.

**The people who are considered to be “Jews” now are not Jews by blood.** They were Khazars who converted to Judaism in the 8th century BCE. A report was written in 2012 about DNA testing that was done on people who claim to be Jews in Israel and others who claim to be Jews around the world. The DNA testing proves beyond a shadow of doubt that the majority of people in Israel and around the world who call themselves “Jews” are not from the seed of Abraham! They come from the area of the Caucasus in eastern Russia. This is around the countries of Kazakhstan and Georgia. The Palestinian people’s DNA shows a closer relationship to that of Abraham and the children of Israel than do the Jews.

The “Rhineland Hypothesis” depicts Eastern European Jews as a

“population isolate” that emerged from a small group of German Jews who migrated eastward and expanded rapidly. Alternatively, the “Khazarian Hypothesis” suggests that Eastern European Jew descended from the Khazars, an amalgam of Turkic clans that settled the Caucasus in the early centuries CE and converted to Judaism in the 8th century.

<http://gbe.oxfordjournals.org/content/early/2012/12/14/gbe.evs119.full.pdf>

Evangelist Texe Marrs says,

Who should possess the land of Israel? Christian evangelicals say it should be the descendants of Abraham. They point to the Old Testament and claim that God gave this land forever to the descendants of Abraham and that God demands they and they alone own the land.

To the Christian evangelical, this means the Jews. Yes, it is the Jews who own this land, and it is their land forever.

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The Jews, then, according to Christian evangelicals, are the descendants of Abraham, his *seed*.

There is only one problem. And it is a huge one. Science proves those who call themselves “Jews” are *not* Jews! *DNA Science has confounded the Christian evangelicals by proving conclusively that most of the people in the nation of Israel and in World Jewry are not the descendants of Abraham*.

Those living today who profess to be “Jews” are *not* of the ancient Israelites, and they are *not* the seed of Abraham. In fact, the new DNA research shows that the Palestinians actually have more Israelite blood than do the “Jews!”

The nation of Israel today is populated with seven and half million *imposters*.

<http://www.texemarrs.com/042013/jews_not_descendants_of_abraham.htm>

**Revelation 2:9 (KJV)**
9  I know thy works, and tribulation, and poverty, (but thou art rich) and *I know* the blasphemy of them which say they are Jews, and are not, but *are* the synagogue of Satan.

**Revelation 3:9 (KJV)**
9  Behold, I will make them of the synagogue of Satan, which say they are Jews, and are not, but do lie; behold, I will make them to come and worship before thy feet, and to know that I have loved thee.

The term “Jews” first is seen in the Bible in Esther 3:6.

In evangelical Christian churches, we have been taught that we have to support Israel and everything they do and if we do not support them, then God will not bless us. **Knowing now that not all people in Israel who claim to be Jews, really are, how do you feel about that now?**

Also, as I showed you earlier, only two of the tribes of Israel were called Jews. The rest were all called Hebrews or Children of Abraham. It is very probable that you, an American, are more of a physical descendant of Abraham than are those who live in Israel and claim to be Jewish.

Not only did Abraham have two wifes, Sarah and later, Keturah, he also had concubines. Concubines are wives who do not have the authority of a normal wife. Men would have children with their wives and with their concubines. Solomon, David and Bathsheba’s son, had 300 wives and 700 concubines. We know that Solomon, the wisest man on earth, disobeyed God’s commands by taking wives from other races and faiths. He strayed from God’s Word as he got older because of these wives!

We know that Abraham has at least eight sons (Ishmael, Isaac, Zimran, Jokshan, Medan, Midian, Ishbak, and Shuah. We never are told just how many sons he had with his concubines.

Most of the patriarchs in the Bible practiced polygamy and it is not a sin. However, I believe polygamy is NOT God’s best and it is not an ideal situation for a husband or a wife and especially for the children that live in that situation.

**5**Abraham gave everything he owned to his son Isaac. **6**But before he died, he gave gifts to the **sons of his concubines** and **sent them off to a land in the east, away from Isaac.**

The land of Canaan had been promised to Abraham’s seed through Isaac. Abraham did not want a conflict between Isaac and his other sons and that is why he sent them away to the east.

**7**Abraham lived for 175 years, **8**and he died at a ripe old age, having lived a long and satisfying life. He breathed his last and joined his ancestors in death.**9**His sons Isaac and Ishmael buried him in the cave of Machpelah, near Mamre, in the field of Ephron son of Zohar the Hittite. **10**This was the field Abraham had purchased from the Hittites and where he had buried his wife Sarah. **11**After Abraham’s death, God blessed his son Isaac, who settled near Beer-lahai-roi in the Negev.

Ishmael and Isaac must have known each other as they got older and had some kind of relationship because we see them burying Abraham in the cave of Machpelah.

Midian, the son of Abraham and Keturah, was the father of a people who became one of the greatest enemies of the descendants of Abraham.

Midian was the most prominent of Abraham's second family. He and his people are mentioned 67 times by name. He was defeated by Esau ([Gen. 36:35](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+36%3A35)). Moses fled to his land and married a woman of Midian ([Ex. 2:15-16](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ex+2%3A15-16); [3:1](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ex+3%3A1); [4:19](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ex+4%3A19); [18:1](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ex+18%3A1)). Midianites became a snare to Israel ([Num. 25:1-15](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Nu+25%3A1-15)), for which God commanded Israel to war with them ([Num. 25:16-18](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Nu+25%3A16-18); [31:1- 20](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Nu+31%3A1-20)). For many centuries, off and on, Israel fought with them ([Josh. 13:21](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jos+13%3A21); [Judg. 6:1-2](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jdg+6%3A1-2); [7:8-25](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jdg+7%3A8-25); [8:3-28](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jdg+8%3A3-28); [9:17](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jdg+9%3A17)). Midian was the nation defeated by Gideon with such great destruction that its downfall is referred to as "the day of Midian" ([Isa. 9:4](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Isa+9%3A4); [10:26](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Isa+10%3A26); [Ps. 83:9](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ps+83%3A9)).
Dake's Annotated Reference Bible: Containing the Old and New Testaments of the Authorized or King James Version Text.