

260916 Marriage - Readings

16 September 2026



The Bible

1. Gen. 2:18

18 ¶ And the LORD God said, *It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him.*

2. Gen. 24:2–4, 7, 10–15, 17, 18, 20, 21, 23–26, 28, 29, 31–34, 36, 37, 40, 42–46, 48, 50 (to :), 51–54, 61 (to :), 62–67 (to :)

2 And Abraham said unto his eldest servant of his house, that ruled over all that he had, Put, I pray thee, thy hand under my thigh:

3 And I will make thee swear by the LORD, the God of heaven, and the God of the earth, that thou shalt not take a wife unto my son of the daughters of the Canaanites, among whom I dwell:

4 But thou shalt go unto my country, and to my kindred, and take a wife unto my son Isaac.

7 ¶ The LORD God of heaven, which took me from my father's house, and from the land of my kindred, and which spake unto me, and that sware unto me, saying, Unto thy seed will I give this land; he shall send his angel before thee, and thou shalt take a wife unto my son from thence.

10 ¶ And the servant took ten camels of the camels of his master, and departed; for all the goods of his master *were* in his hand: and he arose, and went to Mesopotamia, unto the city of Nahor.

11 And he made his camels to kneel down without the city by a well of water at the time of the evening, *even* the time that women go out to draw *water*.

12 And he said, O LORD God of my master Abraham, I pray thee, send me good speed this day, and shew kindness unto my master Abraham.

13 Behold, I stand *here* by the well of water; and the daughters of the men of the city come out to draw water:

14 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; and thereby shall I know that thou hast shewed kindness unto my master.*

15 ¶ And it came to pass, before he had done speaking, that, behold, Rebekah came out, who was born to Bethuel, son of Milcah, the wife of Nahor, Abraham's brother, with her pitcher upon her shoulder.

17 And the servant ran to meet her, and said, Let me, I pray thee, drink a little water of thy pitcher.

18 And she said, Drink, my lord: and she hasted, and let down her pitcher upon her hand, and gave him drink.

20 And she hasted, and emptied her pitcher into the trough, and ran again unto the well to draw *water*, and drew for all his camels.

21 And the man wondering at her held his peace, to wit whether the LORD had made his journey prosperous or not.

23 And said, Whose daughter *art* thou? tell me, I pray thee: is there room *in* thy father's house for us to lodge in?

24 And she said unto him, I *am* the daughter of Bethuel the son of Milcah, which she bare unto Nahor.

25 She said moreover unto him, We have both straw and provender enough, and room to lodge in.
26 And the man bowed down his head, and worshipped the LORD.
28 And the damsel ran, and told *them of* her mother's house these things.
29 ¶ And Rebekah had a brother, and his name *was* Laban: and Laban ran out unto the man, unto the well.
31 And he said, Come in, thou blessed of the LORD; wherefore standest thou without? for I have prepared the house, and room for the camels.
32 ¶ And the man came into the house: and he ungirded his camels, and gave straw and provender for the camels, and water to wash his feet, and the men's feet that *were* with him.
33 And there was set *meat* before him to eat: but he said, I will not eat, until I have told mine errand. And he said, Speak on.
34 And he said, I *am* Abraham's servant.
36 And Sarah my master's wife bare a son to my master when she was old: and unto him hath he given all that he hath.
37 And my master made me swear, saying, Thou shalt not take a wife to my son of the daughters of the Canaanites, in whose land I dwell:
40 And he said unto me, The LORD, before whom I walk, will send his angel with thee, and prosper thy way; and thou shalt take a wife for my son of my kindred, and of my father's house:
42 And I came this day unto the well, and said, O LORD God of my master Abraham, if now thou do prosper my way which I go:
43 Behold, I stand by the well of water; and it shall come to pass, that when the virgin cometh forth to draw *water*, and I say to her, Give me, I pray thee, a little water of thy pitcher to drink;
44 And she say to me, Both drink thou, and I will also draw for thy camels: *let* the same *be* the woman whom the LORD hath appointed out for my master's son.
45 And before I had done speaking in mine heart, behold, Rebekah came forth with her pitcher on her shoulder; and she went down unto the well, and drew *water*: and I said unto her, Let me drink, I pray thee.
46 And she made haste, and let down her pitcher from her *shoulder*, and said, Drink, and I will give thy camels drink also: so I drank, and she made the camels drink also.
48 And I bowed down my head, and worshipped the LORD, and blessed the LORD God of my master Abraham, which had led me in the right way to take my master's brother's daughter unto his son.
50 Then Laban and Bethuel answered and said, The thing proceedeth from the LORD: ...
51 Behold, Rebekah *is* before thee, take *her* and go, and let her be thy master's son's wife, as the LORD hath spoken.
52 And it came to pass, that, when Abraham's servant heard their words, he worshipped the LORD, *bowing himself* to the earth.
53 And the servant brought forth jewels of silver, and jewels of gold, and raiment, and gave *them* to Rebekah: he gave also to her brother and to her mother precious things.
54 And they did eat and drink, he and the men that *were* with him, and tarried all night; and they rose up in the morning, and he said, Send me away unto my master.
61 ¶ And Rebekah arose, and her damsels, and they rode upon the camels, and followed the man: ...
62 And Isaac came from the way of the well Lahai-roi; for he dwelt in the south country.
63 And Isaac went out to meditate in the field at the eventide: and he lifted up his eyes, and saw, and, behold, the camels *were* coming.
64 And Rebekah lifted up her eyes, and when she saw Isaac, she lighted off the camel.

- 65 For she *had* said unto the servant, What man is this that walketh in the field to meet us? And the servant *had* said, It is my master: therefore she took a veil, and covered herself.
- 66 And the servant told Isaac all things that he had done.
- 67 And Isaac brought her into his mother Sarah's tent, and took Rebekah, and she became his wife; and he loved her: ...



Science and Health with key to the Scriptures by Mary Baker Eddy

1. SH 582:24

- 24 **CANAAN** (the son of Ham). A sensuous belief; the testimony of what is termed material sense; the error which would make man mortal and would make mortal
- 27 mind a slave to the body.

2. SH 583:5–8 (to ;)

- CHILDREN OF ISRAEL.** The representatives of Soul, not
- 6 corporeal sense; the offspring of Spirit, who, having wrestled with error, sin, and sense, are governed by divine Science; ...

3. SH 69:2–10

- The scientific fact that man and the universe
- 3 are evolved from Spirit, and so are spiritual, is as fixed in divine Science as is the proof that mortals gain the sense of health only as they lose the sense of sin and disease.
- 6 Mortals can never understand God's creation while believing that man is a creator. God's children already created will be cognized only as man finds the truth of being.
- 9 Thus it is that the real, ideal man appears in proportion as the false and material disappears.

4. SH 56:7; 57:10–18; 58:5 Tones, 14–16, 21, 28–1; 59:11

- Marriage is the legal and moral provision for generation among human kind. Until the spiritual creation
- 9 is discerned intact, is apprehended and understood, and His kingdom is come as in the vision of the Apocalypse, — where the corporeal sense of creation was cast out, and its spiritual sense was revealed from
- 12 heaven, — marriage will continue, subject to such moral regulations as will secure increasing virtue.

Marriage
temporal

- Both sexes
- should be loving, pure, tender, and strong. The attraction between native qualities will be perpetual only as it
- 12 is pure and true, bringing sweet seasons of renewal like the returning spring.

15 Beauty, wealth, or fame is incompetent to meet the
demands of the affections, and should never weigh
against the better claims of intellect, good-
18 ness, and virtue.

Affection's
demands

Tones of the
6 human mind may be different, but they should be con-
cordant in order to blend properly. Unselfish
ambition, noble life-motives, and purity, —
9 these constituents of thought, mingling, constitute in-
dividually and collectively true happiness, strength, and
permanence.

Chord and
discord

With ad-
15 ditional joys, benevolence should grow more
diffusive.

Mutual
freedom

21 Home is the dearest spot on
earth, and it should be the centre, though not the bound-
ary, of the affections.

Wealth may obviate the necessity for toil or the
chance for ill-nature in the marriage relation, but noth-
30 ing can abolish the cares of marriage.

“She that is married careth . . . how she may please
her husband,” says the Bible; and this is the pleasantest
1 thing to do.

Fulfilling the
12 different demands of their united spheres, their sympa-
thies should blend in sweet confidence and cheer, each
partner sustaining the other, — thus hallowing the union
15 of interests and affections, in which the heart finds peace
and home.

5. SH 4:3–16

3 What we most need is the prayer of fervent desire
for growth in grace, expressed in patience, meekness,
love, and good deeds. To keep the com-
6 mandments of our Master and follow his
example, is our proper debt to him and the only
worthy evidence of our gratitude for all that he has
9 done. Outward worship is not of itself sufficient to
express loyal and heartfelt gratitude, since he has
said: “If ye love me, keep my commandments.”
12 The habitual struggle to be always good is unceas-

Efficacious
petitions

ing prayer. Its motives are made manifest in the
blessings they bring, — blessings which, even if not
15 acknowledged in audible words, attest our worthiness
to be partakers of Love.

6. SH 102:31–2

Christian

Science despoils the kingdom of evil, and pre-eminently
1 promotes affection and virtue in families and therefore
in the community.

7. SH 254:10–12

When we wait

patiently on God and seek Truth righteously, He directs
12 our path.

8. SH 454:18–21, 22

18 Love inspires,
illumines, designates, and leads the way. Right motives
give pinions to thought, and strength and freedom to
21 speech and action.

Wait patiently for divine Love to move upon the
waters of mortal mind, and form the perfect concept.
24 Patience must “have her perfect work.”