

## How Do You Find A Wife In Canaan?

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by Chuck Durham

When Abraham was very old he took his most trusted servant and made him swear ***“that you will not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites”*** (Gen. 24:3). The Bible says Isaac commanded the same thing for his son Jacob (Gen. 28:1) In a feeble attempt to gain his father’s favor, Esau married a descendant of Ishmael because he *“saw that the daughters of Canaan did not please his father Isaac”* (Gen. 28:8). Later, both Judah (Gen. 38:2) and Simeon (Gen. 46:10) married Canaanite women. How many of Jacob’s other sons did likewise we are not told. Moses warned the Israelites concerning the Canaanites, *“nor shall you make marriages with them”* (Deut. 7:3).

Why did Abraham express such deep concern that Isaac not marry a Canaanite woman, which he evidenced by placing his servant under oath to God? Why did Isaac send Jacob over 600 miles from home to find a wife? Why did God *providentially* remove Jacob’s house from Canaan to Egypt? And, why the stern command of Moses, *“Do not marry them!”* In light of such concern, what are we, **spiritual** Israel, to do in the midst of worldly, ungodly people?

### Beauty Is Vain

Worldly women know how to attract a man. They know how to wear the *“attire of a harlot”* (Prov. 7:10). They know the seductive words to use (Prov. 5:3). Each unmarried Christian is constantly bombarded by such strong temptations. Look at the billboards, the diet drink ads, the local fitness center -- every man or woman depicted is picture perfect. Why shouldn’t we want a beautiful, enticing Canaanite? Because beauty is vain (Prov. 31:30). It is the seduction of pride. Beauty cannot last. When was the last time you saw a 70-year-old woman in a bikini? It is vain, empty, useless. What truly matters is the heart (1 Sam. 16:7). You do not live with a person’s *outward* man, but with the *inward* person (1 Pet. 3:3-4).

### They Do Not Know God

They worship the world of lust, power, and wealth. They do not know God. Moses told the Israelites that *“they will turn your sons away from following Me, to serve other gods”* (Deut. 7:4). Do we think that something has changed in the 20th century? Remember the tragic end of Solomon (1 Kings 11:1-10). And time would fail to tell of Samson, Judah, Dinah and all that walked down that tragic path.

### They Do Not Regard Marriage As Permanent

One in three marriages fail in America today, and that number is approaching one in two. Girls and boys raised on a steady diet of two or three new daddies in the course of their rearing, will not grow up miraculously into adults that have the right regard for marriage. Be extremely cautious when they laud *“until death do we part”* while their family is riddled with divorce.

How do you find a wife in Canaan? The answer is unequivocally, **“You Don’t!”**

-- via Reel Road Church of Christ  
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