

REBEKAH – A WIFE FOR ISAAC

Genesis 24 and brief notes on Genesis 27.

--- 24:1 Abraham, very old – 140. Isaac 40, was born when Abraham was 100 years old. Thinking of all that God had told him about his many descendants and how all the families of the earth would be blessed through them, surely Abraham was thinking, "But Isaac is 40 years old and still not married."

-- And he had to be aware of his own age and that he certainly wanted to be involved in the marriage of his son by which God was going to fulfill his promises to Abraham.

--- 24:2 His servant, steward of all that he possessed (Eliezer, Gen. 15:2, 3). He didn't want Isaac to go just looking for a wife and had full confidence in Eliezer his faithful servant. Are our children able to choose good wives or do they need the help of someone like Eliezer?

--- 24:3, "Thou shalt not take for my son a wife from the daughters of the Canaanites, among whom I dwell".

--- Parents should help their children with dating and marriage issues.

--- Canaanites, under curse (Gen. 9:25), land of slavery, idolatry, all kinds of wickedness. Israelites forced to destroy the Canaanites and to let many of them live were like thorns in their side, leading them to apostasy.

--- God's plan for Isaac would have been impossible if he were married to Canaanite.

--- 24:4 My land, Mesopotamia. He and his brother Haran, his father Terah.

--- 24:5 - Abraham's servant was worried that perhaps the woman would not come with him. He took the oath very seriously; it should be fulfilled without fail.

--- But Abraham said to him (v. 7), "Jehovah, God of heaven, who took me from my father's house and from the land of my kindred, and spoke to me and swore to me, saying, To your seed I will give this land; He will send his angel before you, and you will bring a woman from there for my Son."

--- Abraham thought he would be successful because God had always blessed him, and he sees this whole thing as another step in God's providence to fulfill the promise of Genesis 12:1-2.

--- Therefore, it was a very serious matter, **he would have the direction of an angel**. It was God's business. Proverbs 19:14, "The prudent woman is the Lord's."

--- 24:10 The servant brought ten camels and many gifts to present to the young woman who would possibly be Isaac's wife.

--- How much is a good wife worth?

--- It was customary among them to give gifts to the bride. Now the wife gives dowry (property, gifts) to the husband.

--- 24:11,12 At sunset he comes to the well of water outside the city and prays, "The Lord, God of heaven, who took me from my father's house and from the land of my kindred, and spoke to me and swore to me, saying, To thy seed I will give this land; He will send his angel before you, and you will bring a woman from there for my Son."

"Where to look for a good wife?" In the park or recreation centers? Abraham's servant **sought a wife for Isaac in a place where women worked**. He didn't look for them in the park or playgrounds.

... 24:12-14 How many pray to God for His help in choosing a good wife for himself or his son? It is very necessary to pray to God for wisdom, direction in everything.

--- The servant names certain specific things that might indicate that he had found Isaac's future wife.

--- 24:15 God answers promptly, God's providence was very punctual. . "And it came to pass that before he had just spoken, behold, Rebekah..." Here is the woman you requested! Isaiah 65:24, "And before they cry I will answer; While they are still talking, I will have heard."

--- 24:16, "She looked very beautiful." She filled her pitcher and came up. She didn't stop by watching these foreigners and asking them questions, but simply did what she meant to do and walked out.

--- 24:17, 18 "I beg you to give me to drink some water from your pitcher."

--- She could have said, "How does he dare to talk to me that way? But she was willing, humble, and very helpful. She showed courtesy to this foreigner.

--- 24:19 "And she hurried and emptied her pitcher and gave him something to drink" and also for ten camels and hurried to do it. She gave him much more than he had asked for, **but of more importance was another very important detail to indicate God's providence.**

--- She was not forced to comply with God's providence. Obviously, it was the fruit of Rebecca's beautiful disposition. It had internal as well as external beauty.

--- The text does not say that the servant offered to help her. She alone drew water for ten camels.

--- 24:21, the servant was "amazed," but it seems to us that it was in his interest to help her and instead of simply being "amazed" by her willingness and helpful spirit that extended beyond what was expected of her,

--- 24:22, 23, He gave her gifts and asked whose daughter she was and if there was a place to stay. And again, she offered him much more than she had asked for.

--- 24:26, He rightly worshipped God because He was obviously answering his prayer.

... 24:27, The Lord was leading him to the house of Rebekah and her family. The servant recognized this and gave thanks and worshipped God.

--- 24:29-33, Laban, Rebekah's brother, attended to him with all courtesy, but this is the same Laban who was so abusive to Jacob.

--- Laban offered him food but he said, "I won't eat until I've said my message. And he said to him, 'Speak.'" The servant was very noble. He denied himself by refusing to eat before explaining well the purpose of his coming and being assured that God's plan was successful. John 4:34, the true food of Jesus.

--- 24:35, Isaac's father was very wealthy and has given his son Isaac "all that he has." Therefore, the man looking for a wife is rich.

24:39 Although Abraham had gone out and no longer lived among them, but what he does now looking for a wife for his son indicates his love and respect for his people.

... 24:42 "God of my lord Abraham." He says this to give even more strength to his prayer.

--- 24:34-49, The servant repeats the story and waits for an answer.

--- 24:45 "Before I finished speaking in my heart. **Rebecca did not hear his prayer but fulfilled it to the letter.**

--- 24:50 Laban says, "This has come from the Lord," so "Take her and go."

--- 24:52, The servant prays again, "bowed down to the ground before the Lord." Throughout the process of carrying out God's providence Eliezer prayed.

--- 24:53 He gave her more gifts... The gifts he gave her when he made himself known were like gifts of respect, but these are the dowry of marriage.

--- They spent the night in peace with Laban's family and at dawn they wanted to go out.

--- 24:54-58. Her mother and brother said to wait about ten days, but the servant insisted they should leave at once and the family agreed.

--- 24:52 Imagine the impatience of Abraham, so anxious to know that everything was fulfilled according to his wishes and that Isaac would have a good wife.

--- 24:63 Isaac had gone out into the field to meditate, his servant and companions came with Rebekah and he "took Rebekah for a wife, and loved her."

--- **This chapter is a very edifying and encouraging example of God's providence. Step by step the very important matter of finding a good wife for Isaac who would be (as 24:60 says) "mother of thousands of thousands" is carried out.**

24:67 Now Isaac consoled himself after his mother's death.

--- **The dilemma.** Genesis 25:23, prophecy (plan, purpose, decree) of God, Not Esau but Jacob would be Isaac's successor as head of God's chosen people (the older was to serve the younger).

--- **Gen. 27 presents an emergency.** If Rebekah had let Isaac bless Esau, God's chosen people would not have been the people of Israel but the descendants of Esau (the Edomites).

What Isaac and Esau intended to do was a real emergency that required drastic action on Rebekah's part. The Bible does not condemn Rebekah for what she did.

[Wayne Partain, March 22, 2023]