

Genesis 24:1-61

- 1 ¶ **And Abraham was old, *and* well stricken in age: and the LORD had blessed Abraham in all things.**
Abraham was very old, God made him a promise and blessed him in all things.
- 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:** There's been a lot of discussion about this comment. There is no definite answer. There was a custom in these times that if you made a vow you were to hold onto an object of some kind so that everyone who saw you made this vow knew you were binding yourself. The equivalent in these times is in our courtrooms, when we swear on the bible to tell the truth.
- 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:**
Abraham is making his chief servant, the manager of the house, who had the second most power in the house next to the owner; Abraham does not want his servant to marry a Canaanite who were pagans at that time. He wanted his people to marry other Christians.
- 4 **But thou shalt go unto my country, and to my kindred, and take a wife unto my son Isaac.** There are three things men need to learn about life: 1) birth 2) marriage and 3) death. You only have control over the marriage. You have good opportunity of 1 out of 3 events in your life. If you don't take God's advice and marry another Christian, there will be trouble.
- 5 **And the servant said unto him, Peradventure (in case) the woman will not be willing to follow me unto this land: must I needs bring thy son again unto the land from whence thou came?** The servant says "Abraham, what if I find her and she won't follow me to this land?"
- 6 **And Abraham said unto him, Beware thou that thou bring not my son thither again.** Abraham says "don't you even think about taking Isaac to the land from where we came.
- 7 **The LORD God of heaven, which took me from my father's house, and from the land of my kindred, and which spoke unto me, and that swore 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.** Notice the faith that Abraham has: God has made a promise that He will take care of the situation. He sent an angel before you and He will take care of the situation.
- 8 **And if the woman will not be willing to follow thee, then thou shalt be clear from this my oath: only bring not my son thither again.** Abraham gives the servant advice: if she won't come back with you, you have done your job and you are free. But Isaac will not go with the servant. God is out in the forefront picking Isaac's wife for him and the servant has to go get her.
- 9 **And the servant put his hand under the thigh of Abraham his master, and swore to him concerning that matter.**
- 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.** The servant takes a whole lot of goods with him, a healthy dowry to entice the woman to come back and marry Isaac.
- 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*.** In those days, women had to go out in the morning and evening to draw water for their use. It was a woman's task.
- 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.** The servant prays to God for help in this situation, but he asks the benefit to go to Abraham and not himself.
- 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.*** He asks God for a sign. There's nothing wrong with that. The sign is she is the one who gives him and his camels some water.
- 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.**
- 16 And the damsel *was* very fair to look upon, a virgin, neither had any man known her: and she went down to the well, and filled her pitcher, and came up.** Rebekah: Here's another great looking woman from the same group of people.
- 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 hastened, and let down her pitcher upon her hand, and gave him drink.**
- 19 And when she had done giving him drink, she said, I will draw *water* for thy camels also, until they have done drinking.** Boy, can you imagine what he was thinking at this point? This has been a short excursion! I've found her already!
- 20 And she hastened, 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.**
- 22 And it came to pass, as the camels had done drinking, that the man took a golden earring of half a shekel weight, and two bracelets for her hands of ten *shekels* weight of gold;** This was quite a nice dowry.
- 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 (food for the camels) enough, and room to lodge in.** Remember, he is traveling with a big entourage for protection because of all the wealthy items he was carrying.
- 26 And the man bowed down his head, and worshipped the LORD.** The first thing the servant does is thank the Lord for answering his prayers.
- 27 And he said, Blessed *be* the LORD God of my master Abraham, who hath not left destitute my master of his mercy and his truth: I *being* in the way, the LORD led me to the house of my master's brethren.** The servant says he's been led all the way and thank you for that.
- 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.** Old Uncle Laban starts here.
- 30 And it came to pass, when he saw the earring and bracelets upon his sister's hands, and when he heard the words of Rebekah his sister, saying, Thus spoke the man unto me; that he came unto the man; and, behold, he stood by the camels at the well.** Uncle Laban notices all that gold dangling around his niece's wrist. These could have been nose rings as well because those were common in those days. When you handed a lady gold jewelry in those days, it meant a marriage proposal.
- 31 And he said, Come in, thou blessed of the LORD; wherefore standest thou without (why are you standing outside)? For I have prepared the house, and room for the camels.** Uncle Laban notices all the wealth in this entourage, and he likes money. He's a wheeler and dealer. He sees great advantage in entertaining this guy, this servant.

- 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.** We don't know how many were in this entourage, but it was quite large.
- 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.** This servant is so intent on finishing his task that he wants to seal the deal before they eat.
- 34 And he said, I *am* Abraham's servant.**
- 35 And the LORD hath blessed my master greatly; and he is become great: and he hath given him flocks, and herds, and silver, and gold, and menservants, and maidservants, and camels, and asses.**
- 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.** He lets this family know that Isaac is going to inherit the entire estate when Abraham dies.
- 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:**
- 38 But thou shalt go unto my father's house, and to my kindred, and take a wife unto my son.**
- 39 And I said unto my master, Peradventure (in case) the woman will not follow me.**
- 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:** the servant is reiterating Abraham's story.
- 41 Then shalt thou be clear from *this* my oath, when thou comest to my kindred; and if they give not thee *one*, thou shalt be clear from my oath.**
- 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; He wants them to understand the complicatedness of what he went through to find Rebekah and how important this is, and that she is definitely the chosen one.**
- 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.**
- 47 And I asked her, and said, Whose daughter *art* thou? And she said, The daughter of Bethuel, Nahor's son, whom Milcah bare unto him: and I put the earring upon her face, and the bracelets upon her hands.** The earring upon her face could be the nose ring as was common in those days.
- 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.**
- 49 And now if ye will deal kindly and truly with my master, tell me: and if not, tell me; that I may turn to the right hand, or to the left.** The servant wants a straight answer from these people if they will honor this or not. He didn't want to beat around the bush. He was so intent on completing the task the Lord gave him that he won't do anything else until the task is completed.
- 50 Then Laban and Bethuel answered and said, The thing proceedeth from the LORD: we cannot speak unto thee bad or good.** We understand that God is in this.
- 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.** We agree, go ahead and take her. We believe God is involved in this. Even though Abraham had left them years ago, God was still there. Remember, Abraham's father was a pagan priest.

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- 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. This was the custom at the time.
- 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. The custom was to ask permission to leave after staying the night.
- 55** And her brother and her mother said, Let the damsel abide with us *a few days*, at the least ten; after that she shall go. The mother wants her to stay a bit to say her goodbyes.
- 56** And he said unto them, Hinder me not, seeing the LORD hath prospered my way; send me away that I may go to my master. The servant wants to leave immediately.
- 57** And they said, We will call the damsel, and enquire at her mouth. OK, we're going to ask Rebekah what she wants to do: stay a while or leave right away.
- 58** And they called Rebekah, and said unto her, Wilt thou go with this man? And she said, I will go. She's ready to go right away.
- 59** And they sent away Rebekah their sister, and her nurse, and Abraham's servant, and his men.
- 60** And they blessed Rebekah, and said unto her, Thou *art* our sister, be thou *the mother* of thousands of millions, and let thy seed possess the gate of those which hate them.
- 61** And Rebekah arose, and her damsels, and they rode upon the camels, and followed the man: and the servant took Rebekah, and went his way.
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