

Genesis 24: The Son's Bride (Part 1)

Forestgate Presbyterian Church ~ September 9, 2012

About **three** years have passed since the events of chapter 23; this chapter spans a number of weeks.

While there are no miracles in this chapter, we see God's **providence** all over the place.

What prompts Abraham to send his servant on this errand?

This servant is in charge of **everything**. This likely was **Eliezer** of Damascus, though he is never named in this narrative. (Gen 15:2)

The servant swears an oath to follow Abraham's instructions, with one **exclusion**. What did this agreement signify? Why was Abraham particularly concerned about the oath? What two things were specifically ruled out?

Abraham was being particularly careful in light of the **covenant promises**. This decision would have consequences for all future generations. (Gen 17:19)

This chapter illustrates the admonition from Paul not to be **unequally yoked**. (2 Cor 6:14)

What reason did Abraham have to believe that his servant's errand would be successful? (Gen 22:20)

Abraham fully expected the servant's journey to be aided by an **angel**. (Gen 24:7)

What does the traveling caravan look like? (Gen 24:10, 32)

A journey of this distance would take about a **month**, but we are told nothing about it.

Abraham's servant attends every step of his journey with **prayer** (the first recorded in scripture). Not only that, but we see God **answering** in real time. The servant responds with **gratitude**.

What can we surmise about the servant's spiritual condition? How must he have gotten this way?

The servant's gratitude is primarily on behalf of **Abraham**, not himself. The servant is not seeking his own will, but the will of his master.

Why did the servant propose a sign of watering as the clue that he'd found a wife for Isaac?

"He desires that his master's wife might be humble and industrious woman, bred up to care and labour, and willing to put her hand to any work that was to be done; and that she might be of a courteous disposition, and charitable to strangers." --Matthew Henry

How industrious? A thirsty camel can drink **twenty** gallons of water.

Rebekah is the daughter of Isaac's **cousin** Bethuel.

Where was Bethuel? **Laban** did almost all the talking on behalf of the family.

Based on what we know from Laban's dealing with Jacob, his eager hospitality was quite likely motivated by **greed**. (Gen 24:30)

Abraham's servant refused **food** until he had stated his business—he was more concerned about doing his master's will than having his own needs met. (Gen 24:33)

The servant relates details of the story in such a way that providence shows clearly. This served the purpose of **disarming** Bethuel's family to an otherwise difficult proposition.

Once the arrangements are made, Bethuel's family is given gifts. Rebekah is also given gifts, including new **clothes**. Then they ate and drank. (Gen 24:53-54)

The servant continues his single-minded focus on following his master's will by requesting **leave** the very next morning. Notice how the servant of Abraham shows deference to Bethuel's family. (Gen 24:54)

Who makes the decision about whether to delay the departure? (Gen 24:58)

Rebekah's nurse **Deborah** is sent with her, along with other servants. (Gen 24:61; 35:8)

Rebekah's blessing sounds a lot like God's repetition of the covenant in Gen 22:17.

When the caravan arrives home, Isaac is in the field **meditating**. (Gen 24:63)

When Rebekah sees Isaac, she dismounts her camel and puts on a veil as a show of **respect**. There is no indication that she is looking **backward** to the life she left behind in Haran. (Gen 24:64-65)

Isaac **loved** Rebekah and she becomes his wife. (Gen 24:67)

Isaac receives **comfort** from Rebekah, even three years after the death of Sarah. (Gen 24:67)

Homework for Part 2: Refer to your responsive reading and highlight every occurrence of "servant" and "master."