

## EXPOSITION OF GENESIS

### Message #54

### Genesis 24:1-9

When we examine the life of Abraham, we see a man who was totally committed to doing the will of God from the first day of his call until the last day of his existence. Abraham is a rebuttal to older people who somehow convince themselves that their age is an excuse to passively coast in their relationship with God rather than actively strive to serve God and obey God.

Genesis 24 is a remarkable chapter. It is the longest chapter in Genesis and it is one of the most romantic chapters in the entire Bible. There are lessons in this chapter to be learned about faith, God's sovereignty, marriage and even N.T. salvation. However the chapter opens with another glimpse of Abraham's faithful commitment to God in the twilight of his years. W.H. Griffith Thomas called these opening nine verses, "The Evening of Life" (*Genesis, A Devotional Commentary*, p. 205).

**NO MATTER WHAT THE AGE, FAITH THAT IS HONORED BY GOD IS FAITH THAT CONTINUALLY STRIVES TO MOVE AHEAD AND DO THE WILL OF GOD IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE WORD OF GOD.**

Those who end up highly honored by God start the race and finish it. They are just as faithful to God in their twilight years as they were in their dawning years.

**NARRATIVE OBSERVATION #1** - The physical condition of Abraham. Genesis 24:1

**Fact #1** - He was old. 24:1a

This text is very intent on pointing out the fact that Abraham is very old and we may pretty much decipher his age. He was 10 years older than Sarah (Genesis 17:17) and he was 100 years old when Isaac was born (Genesis 21:5). Sarah died at age 127 (Genesis 23:1), which would make Abraham 137 when she died. About three years later Isaac married and he was 40 years old when he married (Genesis 25:20), which means **Abraham is about 140 years old (he will live another 35 years - Genesis 25:7).** We have tracked his life since he was 75 (Genesis 12:4). He has been committed to doing God's will for 65 years. There is no question that the greatest blessings of God came to him later in life rather than earlier.

**Fact #2** - He was prosperous. 24:1b

The word "bless" means God had caused Abraham to prosper in all areas of life - relationships, friends, family, finances and possessions all became his by blessing of God (Gesenius, *Hebrew Lexicon*, p. 142).

**NARRATIVE OBSERVATION #2** - The primary concern of Abraham. 24:2-4

Abraham's main concern is that his family fulfills the will of God and in order to do that Isaac needed a wife. To fulfill God's word, Abraham must move forward by faith. Dr. Allen Ross said: "The story records no word from God, no miracle, no cultic contact, and no prophetic oracle;

it does not even restate the Abrahamic covenant. It reports the hidden causality of God, sovereignly working through circumstances of those who are acting in faith” (*Creation & Blessing*, p. 415). The symbolism of an oath by putting a hand under Abraham’s thigh (24:2) has been viewed three ways: 1) A sign that through circumcision would come the Messiah; 2) A sign that one person willingly recognizes the superiority of another person; 3) A sign that through Abraham’s seed would come the Messiah. The Hebrew word “thigh” is the same word translated “loins” in Genesis 46:26 and Exodus 1:5 and there it refers to a physical lineage that comes from a person. The only other place this occurs is Genesis 47:29 and it refers to a serious promise.

**Concern #1** - That Isaac would not marry the wrong woman. 24:3

Under no circumstances was Isaac to marry a Canaanite woman.

**Concern #2** - That Isaac would marry the right woman. 24:4

Abraham is expressing his view of God’s will concerning Isaac’s wife when he is 40 years old and Abraham is 140 years old. God had sovereignly informed Abraham that there were several ladies in his family from which he could choose (Genesis 22:20-24).

**Concern #3** - That Isaac would move to the wrong country. 24:6,8

Abraham wanted Isaac to stay in the promised land and not move back to Mesopotamia.

**NARRATIVE OBSERVATION #3** - The main concern of the servant. 24:5

Now before the servant would swear an oath, he was wondering, what if I find this girl and I can’t convince her to come back and marry Isaac. Dr. John Calvin made an interesting observation when he said the servant does not question whether Isaac will marry the girl, but whether the girl will come back and marry Isaac (John Calvin, *Genesis*, Vol. 2, p. 15).

**NARRATIVE OBSERVATION #4** - The response of Abraham to the servant. 24:6-8

**Response #1** – Abraham warns the servant. 24:6 “beware” - this adds force and warning.

**Response #2** - Abraham instructs the servant. 24:7 - When we do our part, God does His.

**Response #3** - Abraham encourages the servant. 24:8 - if the woman refuses, he is free from oath

**NARRATIVE OBSERVATION #5** - The reaction of the servant to Abraham. 24:9

Abraham’s servant was prompted to do God’s will because that was Abraham’s focus.

If you want to discover will - obey God’s known will and pray about unknown. When you do your part, God will do His.