

A Wife For Isaac

Genesis 24

Isaac's Future

Genesis 24:1-28

Faith Concerning Isaac: *Genesis 24:1-9*

Abraham Commissioned His Servant

Realizing the situation, Abraham did his best to prepare Isaac for the future. Unable to travel and find a wife for Isaac, he summoned his servant to go in his place. It was his eldest servant and the ruler over all of Abraham's possessions. His identity is unknown but it may have been his steward Eliezer (Genesis 15:2-3). The servant was required to take an oath before the LORD. Isaac's marriage was a serious matter and the man was directed to do his best (1 Corinthians 10:31). Abraham made it very clear Isaac would not marry a Canaanite woman.

1. *Abraham knew their spiritual condition* – the Canaanites were pagan idolaters.
2. *Abraham recognized their ways* – the Canaanites were exceedingly wicked.

The servant promised to return to Abraham's homeland to find Isaac a wife. It is important to marry an individual of like faith (2 Corinthians 6:14-18). Many struggles and hardships arise when dating or marrying an unbeliever. The servant understood the task and asked for direction if the woman refused to leave her land. It was a practical thought because the distance was far and the woman may choose to stay with her family. The servant wanted to know if Isaac should be taken and he was told Isaac would remain in the land God promised. Abraham believed the LORD would work in the matter and would prepare the woman He intended for Isaac (Psalm 37:4-5). If the woman did not want to leave, the servant would be released from the oath, having done all in his power to fulfill it.

Abraham Trusted the LORD

Abraham remained obedient to God's word and encouraged Isaac to do likewise. The Canaanites were sinful and had no desire to serve the LORD, so Abraham trusted God would provide Isaac a wife from his homeland. Parents, you may not be able to choose your children's spouse but you can pray that God will direct them to the correct one. Pray they do not marry a person of the world because life will be filled with difficulties.

Abraham believed the LORD would direct his servant and trusted in God's promise that his descendants would inherit the land (Genesis 15:1-6). Abraham had confidence in the LORD, and lived by faith (Hebrews 11:1). His servant departed while he and Isaac remained and waited. It was not necessarily an arranged marriage, because Abraham believed God had a woman chosen to be Isaac's wife and knew she was not of the world. So he went about finding that woman for Isaac to marry. Remember the LORD is interested in our lives and cares about our decisions.

1. *Why* – because He is our Creator and knows what is required to produce joy (John 15:11, 16:4).
2. *Why* – because He is our Savior and will provide our needs (Psalm 23:1; 2 Corinthians 9:8; Philippians 4:19).
3. *Why* – because He loves all that belong to Him and will lead correctly (Psalm 48:14).

Faith Rewarded: Genesis 24:10-28

The Servants Request

Abraham's servant left with a large caravan, carrying gifts for the future bride and her family. Upon arriving at Nahor, he stopped and rested by a well of water just outside the city. It was evening, the time when women went to the well to draw water. As he waited, Abraham's servant prayed unto the LORD, seeking kindness on behalf of Abraham. This humble man asked for help, not wanting to choose the wrong woman for Isaac (1 Peter 5:6-7). He did not know which one would be Isaac's wife but he believed God did.

Wisely, he placed himself where prudent and faithful women would be found. Then, he asked the LORD to send the correct woman and provide verification (Proverbs 19:14). He knew most of the women if not all would provide water to a thirsting man and his companions. But few if any would be considerate enough to voluntarily provide water to all of the camels. If a young woman would take the initiative to do this without complaining, he asked that she be the woman for Isaac. It was a practical test that would verify the young woman's character traits. All were able to perform the task but few would consider it. This would manifest the woman's generosity, consideration, diligence, and dedication. It was a prayer seeking the LORD'S guidance and not demanding or directing Him in any way (Proverbs 3:5-6). It was a specific prayer with details of the situation.

1. *Prayer over a personal matter* – it concerned his current dilemma.
2. *Prayer with obedience* – it was made as he followed the LORD. Abraham's servant was where he was supposed to be.
3. *Prayer with a correct motive* – it was made in accordance with the LORD'S direction and not the servant's personal desires.

It was a prayer of faith trusting the LORD to provide an answer. Abraham's servant looked to the LORD and was blessed.

Rebekah's Arrival

Rebekah arrived before the servant finished praying, going to the well to draw water, as was the custom of the day. Abraham's servant quickly ran to meet her and asked for some water. Rebekah provided a drink to him and then proceeded to give the thirsting camels water. The servant looked on with wonder and considered if the LORD had already answered his prayer. It probably amazed him that Rebekah went about doing all things that he asked for in prayer. The LORD is able to answer our prayers before we finish because He is aware of all things (Psalm 139:1-4). In this passage the scriptures offer much concerning Rebekah.

1. *Her lineage* – she was the daughter of Bethuel and granddaughter of Nahor and Milcah.
2. *Her appearance* – she was fair to look upon, pretty.
3. *Her morality* – she was a virgin, pure.
4. *Her dedication* – she went to draw water, as was the custom.
5. *Her generosity* – she gave Abraham's servant water to drink.
6. *Her consideration* – she offered to provide drink to the tired and thirsting camels.
7. *Her diligence* – she gave water to the camels without complaint.

Grateful for her assistance, Abraham's servant gave her valuable jewelry, asked her identity and if her family could provide him lodging. Rebekah informed him of her family and kindly offered him a place to stay in their residence. Upon realizing Rebekah was related to Abraham, the servant immediately gave thanks unto the LORD. He understood the LORD answered his prayer and thanked Him on behalf of his master, Abraham (Psalm 106:1). The servant was grateful the LORD led him correctly (Psalm 37:23).

Isaac Blessed Genesis 24:29-67

Isaac's Future Bride: Genesis 24:29-61

Rebekah's Interest

Rebekah returned to her mother's tent and told her all things. After seeing Rebekah's gifts and hearing her story, her brother Laban quickly went to meet the servant to offer him a formal invite. He noticed the fine jewelry and knew a man of wealth waited. Laban proved to be a man that loved the world and its treasures (Genesis 29-31; 1 Timothy 6:10). Abraham's servant accepted the invitation and went to their house, where he took care of the camels and washed up. Rebekah's family generously provided a meal for the servant.

Before eating the meal, Abraham's servant asked if he could share his business with them, and they obliged. Knowing the conversation concerned a marriage request, the servant provided details concerning Abraham and Isaac's lives and their financial situation. He spoke of how Abraham had been greatly blessed with material riches, like flocks, herds, silver, and gold. He spoke of Abraham's son Isaac who would inherit all that Abraham possessed. He may have provided details of their lives in the land of promise and he gave the LORD credit for their blessings (Psalm 34:8). The servant shared how Abraham desired for Isaac to have a wife from his homeland and how he was sent to find the future bride. He talked of his trip and meeting with Rebekah. The servant made it clear the LORD was in control of the situation (Proverbs 3:5-6).

Rebekah's Decision

Abraham's servant finished by asking her family permission for Rebekah to marry Isaac. Her family consented and chose not to go against the LORD'S will (James 4:17). Regardless of how they felt, they recognized God's leading in the matter and submitted. The servant gave Rebekah, her mother, and Laban gifts.

The servant arose the next morning and planned to return to Abraham. Rebekah's brother Laban and mother desired for her to stay longer, at least ten days. Though they approved, they were not excited to see her depart. They realized it was a long way off and knew they might not see her again. Rebekah was given the choice and she chose to leave immediately.

1. *Rebekah was not taken against her will* – it was her decision to make and she would live with the consequences.
2. *Rebekah was not deceived* – she was presented the facts and knew the situation.
3. *Rebekah was not forced into a decision* – she could say no and Abraham's servant would depart.

Notice, Rebekah had a say in her marriage, it was not completely arranged for her. She was willing to leave, so she departed with her nurse and attendants (Genesis 35:8). Rebekah eagerly followed the LORD'S direction and set off for a new life. No, she did not know the future, but she followed anyway. Marriage is still like that, one does not know what tomorrow holds, so place your trust in God and remain faithful.

Isaac's Patience: Genesis 24:62-67

Isaac Remained Home

Isaac trusted God would provide him a wife and he patiently waited. He was not idle in waiting but continued in his responsibilities. Isaac was in the south, perhaps already establishing a place near the well of Lahairoi (Genesis 25:11).

Isaac was found meditating in the field when Rebekah arrived. He took time at the end of his day to think on God and talk with Him (Psalm 55:17). It is important to fellowship with the LORD.

Isaac and Rebekah

Isaac looked up from where he was meditating and saw the caravan arriving. He probably instantly knew the LORD blessed, noticing more people and camels returning than what had left. Probably knowing they were nearby Rebekah had enquired about Isaac's identity when she saw him. Nothing is said concerning her trip, but it is likely they talked a great deal about her future husband Isaac. Upon learning it was Isaac, Rebekah reacted, hurriedly jumping off the camel to go meet him. She placed her veil on, which was the custom for women when meeting their future husband. Abraham's servant introduced them and retold the events of the trip. He faithfully carried out his commission, finding Rebekah and bringing her safely to Isaac.

Isaac was blessed with a wife (Proverbs 18:22). He took Rebekah to Sarah's tent where she was exalted in her position, becoming the wife of a wealthy and influential man. Isaac loved Rebekah and would spend his life with her (Ephesians 5:25). A man taught correctly and after God will love and obey his parents (Ephesians 6:1; Colossians 3:20). When he takes a wife, he will love her as well.

Conclusion

Abraham knew the LORD would bless his family through Isaac. He believed God would provide Isaac a wife, so Abraham trusted the LORD and waited for Him to bless. Abraham grew closer to the LORD and looked to Him with his great concerns. As Abraham found out, the LORD is trustworthy and able to provide our needs. It is up to you to place your faith in Him. *As for God, his way is perfect: the word of the LORD is tried: he is a buckler to all those that trust in him. Psalm 18:30*

Point to Ponder

If we can trust God with our eternity, surely we can trust Him with our daily life as well.

Quote

"God always gives His very best to those who leave the choice with Him." J. Hudson Taylor

Questions

Why did Abraham send his servant to his homeland?

In what way(s) did Abraham trust the LORD?

Life of Abraham: Genesis 12-25

Genesis 24: A Wife For Isaac

In what way(s) did Abraham's servant live by faith?

What can be learned from Isaac's example of waiting?

What new truth have you learned from this lesson?