

## Genesis Chapter 24 - Commentary By Mike Wells

### Chapter 24 Overview:

In Genesis 24 is the story of Abraham's servant seeking a wife for Isaac. It is a story of Abraham's determination to guide his son towards God's will. It is a story of God's providential guidance. God chose a gentile bride for Isaac, the son of promise, even as He did the same for Jesus in the church. This chapter can be divided into 4 sections: (1) Abraham's direction for Isaac's marriage in verses 1-9. (2) The expedition of Abraham's servant to Mesopotamia and his meeting Rebekah in verses 10-28. (3) Rebekah and her family agree to her marriage to Isaac in verses 29-53. (4) The joyful meeting of Isaac and Rebekah and their marriage in verses 54- 67.

***Genesis 24 : 1-6 - 1 And Abraham was old, and well stricken in age: and the LORD had blessed Abraham 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: 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: 4 But thou shalt go unto my country, and to my kindred, and take a wife unto my son Isaac. 5 And the servant said unto him, Peradventure 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 camest? 6 And Abraham said unto him, Beware thou that thou bring not my son thither again.***

- Abraham in his old age decided and was determined to seek a wife for his son Isaac.
- As God had promised in ***Genesis 22:16-17***, “*the LORD had blessed Abraham in all things.*”
- In the culture of that day, the parents selected a spouse for their children.
- Abraham sent his chief servant to obtain a wife for Isaac.
- I am not sure what the placing of his servant's hand “*under his thigh*” means except that it had to do with a vow Abraham made his servant make with him to not obtain a wife for Isaac from the daughters of the Canaanites.
- Why? Because, they lived in the middle of the Canaanites and Abraham knew their ungodly, pagan nature.
- So Abraham told his servant to go back to his the area of his kin folks for his search.
- The servant wondered if he couldn't get a potential bride to come to Isaac, if he should then bring Isaac with him to where the ladies are.
- Abraham said no way, “*Beware thou that thou bring not my son thither again.*”
- God had promised the land to Abraham and his seed.
- Abraham was not about to allow his son to be tempted to go elsewhere, even to Haran.
- So, to ensure Isaac stayed in the land of promise, he warned his servant not to take Isaac there.

***Genesis 24 : 7 - The LORD God of heaven, which took me from my father's house, and from the land of my kindred, and which spake unto me, and that sware 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.***

- Abraham told his servant that God would “*send his angel before thee, and thou shalt take a wife unto my son from thence.*”
- Most likely God had revealed to Abraham that he would send an angel before Abraham's servant to providentially prosper his journey.
- I wonder how many times in our lives, God has sent an angel or gone before us to prepare the way!

**Genesis 24 : 8-9 - 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. 9 And the servant put his hand under the thigh of Abraham his master, and swore to him concerning that matter.***

- Abraham directed his servant that if the woman of choice would not agree to return with him, he would then be freed from the oath.
- Again, I am not sure what the placing of his servant's hand “*under his thigh*” means except that it had to do with how a symbol of their vow.

**Genesis 24 : 10-11 - 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. 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.***

- Abraham's servant took ten camels and journeyed to the region of Mesopotamia to the city where Nahor, Abraham's brother lived.
- He arrived late in the afternoon.
- Knowing young women usually would come out to the city well to draw water late in the day, he parked his camels there to check out the scene.
- He hoped to survey the eligible young women that were going to come to the well.

**Genesis 24 : 12-15 - 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. 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. 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.***

- Before Abraham's servant did anything, he first prayed and asked God to providentially direct his search.
- That is exactly what we should do on all things.
- We should take matters to God in the prayer then proceed.
- The servant then proposed a simple sign asking God to show him the right women.
- The important part of this is that he sought God's guidance in the matter.
- We likewise need to learn to seek God's will on decisions we make.
- No decision is too small or too large for us to take to God in prayer!!

- We also learn in Genesis 24 : 45 that the servant had prayed silently in his heart and not aloud.

**Genesis 24 : 16-20 - 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. 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 hasted, 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. 20 And she hasted, and emptied her pitcher into the trough, and ran again unto the well to draw water, and drew for all his camels.**

- No sooner had the servant finished his prayer than “***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.***”
- Rebekah was Abraham’s great-niece, and a second cousin to Isaac.
- The text notes that “***the damsel was very fair to look upon, a virgin.***”
- In other words, she was easy on the eyes – a real looker.
- It was that the custom of the day for virgin girls to wear clothing which that indicated this.
- That is how it could be determined with a quick glance that this was a single virgin.
- Rebekah proceeded to fill her pitcher and Abraham’s servant asked her for a drink of water.
- To his amazement, she not only gave him water, but also volunteered to water his camels.

**Genesis 24 : 21 - *wondering at her held his peace, to wit whether the LORD had made his journey prosperous or not.***

- To his amazement, the first girl to come out fulfilled the conditional request he had made to God.
- He didn’t say a thing, wondering if she was the one.

**Genesis 24 : 22-25 - 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; 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 enough, and room to lodge in.**

- Abraham’s servant gave her “***a golden earring . . . and two bracelets***” of gold.
- This was probably in part due to his gratitude for her assistance, but he also perceived she was the one God had chosen.
- He then asked her family’s name and if he could lodge there that night.
- To his amazement, she informed him that she was the daughter of Bethuel, the son of Nahor (Abraham’s brother).
- In addition, she said that she was sure there was room for him to lodge that night.

**Genesis 24 : 26 - bowed down his head, and worshiped the LORD. 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 now knew that God had providentially led him and answered his prayer.
- The servant of Abraham had become a godly man as evidenced in his faith and his worship of Him.
- He had clearly had walked by faith on his crucial mission.

**Genesis 24 : 28-32 - 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. 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 spake the man unto me; that he came unto the man; and, behold, he stood by the camels at the well. 31 And he said, Come in, thou blessed of the LORD; wherefore standest thou without? for I have prepared the house, and room for the camels. 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.**

- After meeting Abraham's servant, Rebekah ran home and told her family what had happened to her.
- Her brother Laban ran back to the well and met Abraham's servant.
- He formally invited the man and his entourage to their home.
- Abraham's servant then came, took the load of his camels, fed them, and gave water for those who had traveled with him.

**Genesis 24 : 33-37 – 33 I am Abraham's servant. And the LORD hath blessed my master greatly; and is become great. 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. 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.**

- Rebekah's family set food before him, but he declined to eat until he had told them the purpose of his journey.
- Rebekah's family learned that he was the servant of their relative, Abraham.
- Once again, it is noted that God had blessed Abraham as he had promised
- He then proceeded to inform them of Isaac and that Abraham had given him careful instructions to not search for a wife for him from the Canaanites.

**Genesis 24 : 38-41 - 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 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: 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.**

- The servant told them in detail that Abraham had instructed him to go to his father's house and his to where his kin folks were to take a wife for his son.

- He also told them how God sent an angel to providentially help his journey prosper.

**Genesis 24 : 42-48** - *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; 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. 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.*

- He finishes telling the story of his journey and how he met Rebekah and how he got here.
- Abraham's servant then told them that he had specifically asked God to indicate His choice and will.
- He noted in verse 45 that before he had finished speaking in his heart to God – indicating a silent prayer - that Rebekah appeared
- He told them that Rebekah fulfilled in detail the test he had asked God to use to indicate His will.
- He further noted that he then bowed his “*head and worshiped the LORD, and blessed the LORD God of my master Abraham which had led me in the right way.*”
- We too should remember to thank God as well.

**Genesis 24 : 49-51** – *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. 50 The thing proceedeth from the LORD: we cannot speak unto thee bad or good. 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*

- Abraham's servant therefore ‘popped’ the question to his hosts.
- Would they give Rebekah to be Isaac's wife?
- Both Laban her brother and Bethuel her father together said to take her to be Isaac's wife.

**Genesis 24 : 52-54** - *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. 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.*

- Abraham's servant then **worshipped the LORD.**
- He gave Rebekah more gifts of jewelry and clothing as well as gifts to her mother and brother.
- They then spent the most of the night in fellowship together.

- After a short time of sleep, Abraham’s servant arose in the morning and said, “*Send me away unto my master.*”

**Genesis 24 : 55-57 - 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. 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. 57 And they said, We will call the damsel, and enquire at her mouth.***

- The reality of it all suddenly struck home.
- Rebekah’s mother and brother asked that she might be allowed to wait ten days.
- It was only natural as they might never see her again.
- However, Abraham’s servant thought better since he felt they might change their minds.
- He therefore said, “*Hinder me not, seeing the LORD hath prospered my way: send me away that I may go to my master.*”

**Genesis 24 : 58-59 – 58 *And they called Rebekah, and said unto her, Wilt thou go with this man? And she said, I will go. 59 And they sent away Rebekah their sister, and her nurse, and Abraham’s servant, and his men.***

- So, the family decided to let Rebekah make the decision.
- She said, “I will go.”
- So they sent her nurse along with her and they got ready to go.

**Genesis 24 : 60-61 - 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.***

- Rebekah’s family then blessed her and prophetically asked God to let her be “**the mother of thousands of millions, and let thy seed possess the gate of those which hate them.**”
- That promise of course would be fulfilled as she became the mother of Israel and Edom.
- In addition in and through Christ which would come from her blood line, literally countless multitudes of God’s people on into eternity would descend from her.
- Her seed would someday in fact possess the gates of those (i.e., dominate) which hated her seed.
- We know that Jesus has the final victory over Satan and so do we through Him if we confess, repent, and trust in him.

**Genesis 24 : 62-65 - 62 *And Isaac came from the way of the well Lahairoi; for he dwelt in the south country. 63 And Isaac went out to meditate in the field at the eventide: and he lifted up his eyes, and saw, and, behold, the camels were coming. 64 And Rebekah lifted up her eyes, and when she saw Isaac, she lighted off the camel. 65 For she had said unto the servant, What man is this that walketh in the field to meet us? And the servant had said, It is my master: therefore she took a vail, and covered herself.***

- Meanwhile, Isaac, back in Canaan land, was living at the well *Lahairoi* (the well where God had appeared to Hagar).
- In the early evening, he had gone out to pray
- As he looked into the distance, he saw the caravan of his father’s servant coming.

- Rebekah jumped off the camel when she saw Isaac standing there.
- She had already asked the servant who this was and he had told her.
- She therefore modestly covered herself with a veil.

**Genesis 24 : 66-67 - 66 *And the servant told Isaac all things that he had done. 67 And Isaac brought her into his mother Sarah's tent, and took Rebekah, and she became his wife; and he loved her: and Isaac was comforted after his mother's death.***

- The servant told Isaac all which had happened.
- Isaac took Rebekah, and she became his wife.
- Moreover, “*he loved her: and Isaac was comforted after his mother's death.*”
- **Genesis 25:20** notes that Isaac was 40 years old when he married Rebekah.