

Abraham—Genesis 24

A Wife for Isaac

I. Additional Scriptures/Notes...

24:1... ABRAHAM—“Characteristics of Life...

1. Obedience--left home and friends at the call of God (Genesis 12:4);
2. Unselfishness--gave Lot the first choice of the land (Genesis 13:9);
3. Courage--defeated the robber kings (Genesis 14:14);
4. Benevolence--gave tithes to Melchizedek, The Priest (Genesis 14:20);
5. Incorruptibility--refused to receive gifts for service rendered (Genesis 14:23);
6. Mighty in prayer (Genesis 18:23-33);
7. Wonderful in faith--was willing to offer up his only son, Isaac (Hebrews 11:17)”
[*Thompson Chain Reference Bible*].

24:2... HAND UNDER THE THIGH, cf., Gen 47:29.

24:11... MADE HIS CAMELS TO KNEEL DOWN—“ Which these creatures are used to do when they are loaded and unloaded, and also when they take rest, and it was for the sake of the latter they were now made to kneel. It seems that this is what is not natural to them, but what they are learned to do: it is said, as soon as a camel is born they tie his four feet under his belly, put a carpet over his back, and stones upon the borders of it, that he may not be able to rise for twenty days together; thus they teach him the habit of bending his knees to rest himself, or when he is to be loaded or unloaded” [*John Gill’s Exposition of the Entire Bible*].

24:15... REBEKAH—“Qualities:

1. Beautiful (Genesis 24:16);
2. Industrious (Genesis 24:19);
3. Hospitable (Genesis 24:25);
4. A Woman Of Decision (Genesis 24:57-58);
5. Modest (Genesis 24:65);
6. Brought Trouble Into The Home By Teaching Her Son Deception (Genesis 27:15-17)” [*TCRB*].

24:25... PROVENDER—“Dry food for beasts, usually meal, or a mixture of meal and cut straw or hay. In a more general sense, it may signify dry food of any kind” [*Webster’s 1828 Dictionary*].

24:29... LABAN—“Son of Bethuel, brother of Rebekah, and father of Leah and Rachel. (B.C. about 1860-1740). The elder branch of the family remained at Haran, Mesopotamia, when Abraham removed to the land of Canaan, and it is there that we first meet with Laban, as taking the leading part in the betrothal, of his sister Rebekah to her cousin Isaac. [Gen 24:10](#); [Gen 24:29-60](#); [Gen 27:43](#); [Gen 29:5](#). The next time Laban appears in the sacred narrative, it is as the host of his nephew, Jacob, at Haran. [Gen 29:13-14](#).” [*Smith’s Bible Dictionary*].

24:63... TO MEDITATE—“They who acknowledge God in all their ways, will find him present to direct their paths, and make their way prosperous; and when the prayer of faith meets with an immediate answer, the glory ought as speedily to be rendered to God in solemn praise and thanksgiving. [Jos 1:8](#); [Psa 1:2](#), [Psa 77:11](#), [Psa 77:12](#), [Psa 104:34](#), [Psa 119:15](#), [Psa 139:17](#), [Psa 139:18](#), [Psa 143:5](#), [Psa 143:6](#)” [*TSK*].

II. Chronology.BIBLE PERIOD: **Patriarchy.****III. Summary.**

In this chapter we have Abraham concerned for the future of his son and seeing to it that he has a wife who will not take him in the direction of rebellion to the Lord's will as would likely be the case if he found a wife from among the people where he lives. We also see in Abraham's steward (most likely Eliezer), one of the very finest demonstrations of faithful stewardship we could ever want to follow. Eliezer is made to understand, by Abraham, the seriousness of the task and he obviously does appreciate his responsibility. He carries out his responsibility flawlessly.

IV. Outline.

1. Abraham solemnly charges Eliezer (cf., Gen 15:2) to find a wife for Isaac (24:1-4).
2. Eliezer, wisely, makes sure he understands the charge (5-8).
3. Eliezer agrees (9).
4. Eliezer goes to Mesopotamia with a plan for finding the right woman (10-14).
5. Eliezer is blessed with success at the well (15-28).
6. Eliezer is introduced to Rebekah's family and explains his mission (29-49).
7. Agreement is made that Rebekah would go with Eliezer to be Isaac's wife (50-60).
8. Rebekah becomes Isaac's wife and is comfort to him after his mother's death (61-67).

V. Questions.**True or False**

01. _____ Rebekah had a brother named Nahor.
02. _____ If Eliezer could not find a wife for Isaac in Mesopotamia who was willing to come with him, he was to take Isaac there.
03. _____ At the well, Rebekah did more for Eliezer than he even asked.
04. _____ Eliezer was a prayerful man.
05. _____ Isaac was well pleased with Rebekah.

Multiple Choice (Select the BEST Answer)

06. _____ Rebekah's mother requested that the return trip with her daughter be delayed by: (a) 6 months; (b) 7 years; (c) at least 10 days.
07. _____ Which of the following was NOT a part of Eliezer's petition to the Lord at the well: (a) good speed; (b) a sign to determine who was the right maiden; (c) kindness unto his master; (d) none of these.
08. _____ The title given by Laban to Eliezer was: (a) thou pilgrim; (b) thou blessed of the Lord; (c) stranger.
09. _____ Did Eliezer repeat the charge that was given him by Abraham in the presence of Rebekah's family: (a) YES; (b) NO.
10. _____ Were Bethuel and Laban convinced that it was the Lord's will that Rebekah become Isaac's wife: (a) YES; (b) NO.

Fill in the Blanks

11. "And Abraham was _____, and well-stricken in _____: and the Lord had _____ Abraham in all things."
12. Eliezer told Rebekah's family, "I am _____."
13. Rebekah told Eliezer, at the well, "I am the daughter of _____, the son of _____, which she bare unto _____."
14. Eliezer said, "My master made me _____."

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15. “And now, if ye will deal _____ and _____ with my master, tell me: and if not, tell me; that I may turn to the _____, or to the left.”

Each Question is worth 7 Points

My Score is: _____

Answers will be found on next week's handout

ANSWERS to Lesson 02-... [01—True, Gen 21:25; 02—False, Gen 20:13; 03—False, Gen 21:4; 04—True, Gen 20:17; 05—True, Gen 21:18; 06—c, Gen 21:30; 07—c, Gen 21:16; 08—a, Gen 21:11; 09—a, Gen 20:6; 10—a, Gen 20:11; 11—in, dream, Gen 20:3; 12—sheep, oxen, gave, restored, Gen 20:14; 13—set, time, Gen 21:2; 14—with, grew, archer, Gen 21:20; 15—Beersheba, Gen 21:33.]

VI. Lessons & Applications.

1. **In FAITHFUL Eliezer, we see a wonderful demonstration of taking care of stewardship responsibilities (Genesis 24)...**

- 1) He took seriously his stewardship responsibilities (2-6).
- 2) He had the, “If God is With Me, I Can Do It,” attitude (7-9).
- 3) He went to W-0-R-K (10).
- 4) He was willing to go to a far country (10).
- 5) He prayed to God about his stewardship (12-14).
- 6) He recognized that God had blessed his efforts (24:15-21).
- 7) He gave thanks to God for blessing his efforts (26-27).
- 8) He would not leave the task half done by being diverted to some other task (33).
- 9) He had words of praise for his master (33-35).
- 10) He was bold to state his charge (36-49).
- 11) He had success from his humble service (50-51).
- 12) He would not allow the completion of the task to be hindered (55- 59).
- 13) He gave account of his stewardship (66). [From my sermon of February 27, 2000, you can see the sermon outline at: <http://LemmonsAid.net/sermons/000227-Eliezer.htm>].

2. **...and the Lord had blessed Abraham in all things** (Gen 24:1). We need go no further back than to chapter 22 to find the reason for these blessings. Abraham was a faithful man. He was faithful to the Lord. Whenever the Lord gave to Abraham a command, the command was obeyed. This has ALWAYS been the case with our God. Whenever His people are faithful and acknowledge their dependence upon Him, He is faithful to bless them. How wonderful that we have such exceeding, great, and precious promises from the Lord (2 Pet 1:4); the only thing preventing us from being blessed in similar way to that of Abraham is our own unfaithfulness!

3. **...O Lord God of my master Abraham...** (Gen 24:12). The influence for good of Abraham upon Eliezer had been great. No doubt Abraham would have spent a great deal of time with Eliezer. Here he is praying to Abraham's God. What about my own influence upon those who know me best?

4. **...I will draw water for thy camels also, until they have done drinking** (Gen 24:19). This is an attractive quality in Rebekah. She did more than was asked of her. It seems that Jesus also admires this trait (Mt 5:41).

5. **...I will not eat until I have told mine errand...** (Gen 24:33). It was with a single-minded determination to finish the task assigned to him that Eliezer approached his work for Abraham. We need to have that same sort of single-minded determination in the completing of our charge from the Lord (Mt 28:18-20).

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6. ...The thing proceedeth from the Lord: we cannot speak unto thee bad or good...
 Gen 24:50). These are extremely wise words from the lips of Laban! When we are convinced (by reading Scripture) that a certain thing is the Lord’s will, we must not think that we can make our own judgment about it!!!

VII. Seek-A-Word Puzzle.

P N O I U Y T R P R O V E N D E R E D W
 Q G O L D E N E A R R I N G Q A Z E X S
 W E D T C V F R T G B N H Y U J P M K I
 W P O L L N H N A H O R Y T G P B S V F
 R H E D C E X S W Q A Z X S I W E T R F
 V B O G T Y F H N M J U I H O L K R P O
 U J M S V F R T T G B E S C D C X A S H
 T Q A Z E X S W D E D R C V A F R W T A
 Y W H G B D N H Y E O U E M K M I O P C
 B G O E D C A Z A W S M D B G T E U S L
 C D E B R T R U T H D T F V B G T L U I
 B N H Y R R F V G E E D I V F R T Y S M
 O B G T Y A U J L H M N B T F R T G G F
 W B G T Y U C D C D T E W S U Q A Z X O
 E C D C E R R E F V B E G T Y T H N I N
 D E R D C O V F L R T Y R Y H I E B G O
 V E R T L G B N H E Y U B E T H U E L S
 M V F E R T G B N H T Y U J M N B V C X
 Z D H C D E R F V B G S H N H Y U R E D
 C T F R R O O M V F R T G B N H Y D R L

[The highlighted words can be found above. They may be backwards, diagonal, upside down, etc. See if you can find them all. The more you use the words of the Bible, the greater blessed you will be! You might be surprised at how much this little exercise will help you retain important truths. THANK YOU for the good effort you are putting forth in Bible study. DRL]

Genesis 24:22-27... ²²And 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; ²³And said, **Whose daughter** art thou? tell me, I pray thee: is there room in thy father’s house for us to lodge in? ²⁴And she said unto him, I *am* the daughter of **Bethuel** the **son of Milcah**, which she bare unto **Nahor**. ²⁵She said moreover unto him, We have both **straw** and **provender** enough, and **room** to lodge in. ²⁶And the man **bowed** down his head, and **worshipped** the LORD. ²⁷And 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.