

The Bride

GENESIS 24

FIRST DAY: Introduction

God has good plans for our lives! He works in a myriad of ways to fulfill His good plans. God is not only in the plans, but in the process:

- He leads us
- He guides us
- He accompanies us
- He assures us
- He prospers His work through us

What is needed, on our part, to experience the fulfillment of God's promises? Trust, cooperation, commitment, and prayer will make us full participants in the fulfillment of God's great plans.

This great truth is clearly portrayed in Genesis 24. God had promised Abraham that through his son, Isaac, a great nation would descend. Yet, Isaac was forty years old, without a prospect for a wife. Abraham commissioned his servant to travel 500 miles to a city in Mesopotamia. There Abraham's servant prayed for God to show him the right wife for Isaac. God immediately answered the servant's prayer. What followed was a process of negotiations, testimony, entrustment, and commitment. God was sovereignly working in all of the processes to fulfill and prosper His promises to Abraham.

Today God is working in the activity of your life to fulfill His promises to you!

Ask God to help you to cooperate with His process in fulfilling His promises to you.

SECOND DAY: Read Genesis 24:1–9

1. At this time, Abraham was 140 years old. Sarah had been buried, and his son, Isaac, was not yet married. What was written about Abraham in Genesis 24:1?

2. Abraham summoned his *oldest servant* to make a solemn oath by putting his *hand* under Abraham's *thigh* (Genesis 24:2). Use their conversation in Genesis 24:3–6 to remark on:
 - a. The God he swore by (verse 3a)

 - b. What the servant was *not* to do (verse 3b)

(1) Link this with Deuteronomy 7:1, 3–4 and share your thoughts.

 - c. What the servant was to do (verse 4)

 - d. The servant's concern (verse 5)

 - e. Abraham's warning (verse 6)

3. In Genesis 24:7–9 Abraham explained why Isaac should not leave Canaan with his servant. Use Abraham’s statement to note and comment on:

a. God’s hand on Abraham (verse 7a)

b. God’s promise to Abraham (verse 7b)

(1) How does this explain why he would not want Isaac to leave *this land*?

c. Abraham’s confidence (verse 7c)

(1) Why do you think Abraham was so confident that God would do this?

d. Abraham’s charge (verses 8–9)

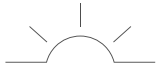
4. From your study today, how does Abraham’s charge to his servant reveal:

a. Abraham’s wisdom



FOOD FOR THOUGHT

The Canaanites descended from the grandson of Noah (Genesis 9:24–25). They worshiped many gods: Ba’al Hadad, the god of the storm; Dagon, the god of fertility; as well as Ashtoreth and Anat, who were goddesses of sex and war.



FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Note that Isaac,
the son of promise,
never left the
Promised Land.

b. Abraham's faith

5. Share a way Abraham is an example to you.

THIRD DAY: Read Genesis 24:10–27

1. Abraham's *servant* left on his journey to find a bride for Isaac. Use Genesis 24:10–21 to describe:

a. The journey (verses 10–11)

b. The prayer (verses 12–14)

(1) A thirsty camel could drink up to thirty gallons of water in fifteen minutes. Watering ten camels could require up to 300 gallons of water and at least an hour of hard labor. What does this convey to you about:

(a) The servant's prayer

(b) The kind of woman he sought for Isaac

c. The answer (verses 15–16)

(1) Why is it noteworthy that this happened *before he had finished speaking*?

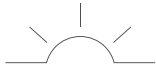
(a) Link this with Isaiah 65:24. What do you see?

(b) How does this minister to you concerning prayer?

d. The confirmation (verses 17–21)

(1) What do you find most remarkable about this scene?

2. What did the servant do *when the camels had finished drinking*? Genesis 24:22



FOOD FOR THOUGHT

I think this is one of the most important verses in Scripture for those who are desiring to know how to be led of God.²⁷

—Pastor Chuck Smith
on Genesis 24:27

3. Rebekah told Abraham's servant she was from the family of Nahor and then responded to his request for lodging (Genesis 24:23–25). What do you find captivating about his response in Genesis 24:26–27?

- a. In what way(s) do you see the Lord leading this servant?

(1) How does this speak to you?

4. Share a testimony of the Lord's leading in your life.

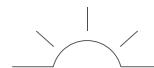
FOURTH DAY: Read Genesis 24:28–58

1. When Rebekah *ran and told her mother's household* about Abraham's servant, her brother Laban then *ran out* to meet him (Genesis 24:28–29). Use Genesis 24:30–33 to briefly summarize their encounter.

2. In Genesis 24:34 the *servant* introduced himself. He then declared the purpose of his *errand*. Read his account in Genesis 24:35–48 and record any observations that stand out to you.
 - a. What effect do you think the servant’s testimony had on Rebekah and her family?

3. After relating his story, the servant asked Rebekah’s family, *So tell me—will you or won’t you show unfailing love and faithfulness to my master? Please tell me yes or no, and then I’ll know what to do next* (Genesis 24:49 NLT). Why do you think he did this?
 - a. Use Genesis 24:50–51 to remark on Bethuel and Laban’s response.

4. According to Genesis 24:52–53, once the servant heard their response, what did he:
 - a. Do (verse 52)
 - (1) Notice this was the second time the servant did this. What does this convey about him?
 - b. Give (verse 53)



FOOD FOR THOUGHT

This is the longest recorded speech by any servant in the Bible—238 words.

(1) Observe that it was only after Rebekah's family responded positively to the servant's proposition that he blessed them with these gifts. Since it was part of the culture to give gifts to the family, this was considered a dowry—a promise of future security for the bride. Link this with Acts 2:38–39 and Ephesians 1:13–14 and share your thoughts.

5. After Abraham's servant had *stayed all night* with Rebekah's family, they tried to convince him to stay there *at least ten* more days (Genesis 24:54–55). However, what did the servant say? Genesis 24:56

6. When the servant insisted on leaving, Rebekah's family asked her if she would *go with* him (Genesis 24:57–58a). Print her response from Genesis 24:58b.

a. How does this demonstrate Rebekah's faith?

(1) Cite any parallels you observe between Rebekah's response and that of Abraham in Genesis 12:1–4.

- (a) How does this confirm she was the right choice for the son of promise?
- b. How do you desire to respond to God's call? See also Mark 10:29–30.

FIFTH DAY: Read Genesis 24:59–67

1. Once Rebekah decided to go with the servant to marry Isaac, her family willingly *sent* her (Genesis 24:59). Link the blessing they gave her in Genesis 24:60 with God's promise to Abraham in Genesis 22:17 and share your thoughts.
2. *After this, the servant took Rebekah and departed. Meanwhile, Isaac came from the way Beer Lahai Roi* (Genesis 24:61–62). Use Genesis 24:63–65 to capture the moment Isaac and Rebekah met, making special note of:
 - a. What Isaac was doing when he saw her (verse 63)

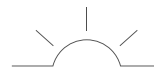
(1) What does this suggest to you about the kind of man Isaac was?

- b. Rebekah's response (verses 64–65)



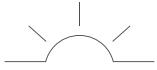
FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Beer Lahai Roi was the same well where Hagar encountered God. It means *The Well of the Living One Who Sees Me*. What an apt place for someone waiting for a wife!



FOOD FOR THOUGHT

The veil was considered a sign of being betrothed. Rebekah's gesture showed that she had accepted the proposal.



FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Sarah’s tent would become Rebekah’s home. This marked her as the matriarch and the most powerful woman in Abraham’s tribe.

3. What happened after the *servant told Isaac all the things he had done?* Genesis 24:66–67

a. Pastor Warren Wiersbe says, *The entire story makes it clear that God had chosen Rebekah for Isaac, for His providential leading is seen each step of the way.*²⁸ How does this underscore the importance of God’s leading in relationships?

4. We have already seen how Isaac is in many ways a picture of Jesus. Use the chart below to understand and comment on the parallels between the story of Isaac and Rebekah and the relationship of Jesus and His Church:

| ASPECT OF THE RELATIONSHIP | ISAAC AND REBEKAH | JESUS AND THE CHURCH | YOUR THOUGHTS |
|----------------------------|-------------------|----------------------|---------------|
| <i>Faith</i> | Genesis 24:58 | 1 Peter 1:8 | |
| <i>Union</i> | Genesis 24:63–67a | Revelation 19:7–8 | |
| <i>Love</i> | Genesis 24:67b | Ephesians 5:25–27 | |

SIXTH DAY: Review

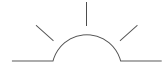
1. Genesis 24 is rich in New Testament parallels. We see similarities between the relationship of Isaac and Rebekah and the relationship of Jesus and the Church. We also see in Abraham's servant a picture of the Holy Spirit's work and ministry. Use John 16:7–15 to cite any parallels you see between the ministry of Abraham's servant and that of God's Spirit.

2. From your study this week, share a brief impression of:
 - a. Abraham

 - b. The servant

 - c. God's faithfulness

 - d. Rebekah

**FOOD FOR THOUGHT**

The servant refers to Abraham as his master twenty times in Genesis 24.

e. Laban

f. Rebekah's family

g. Isaac

3. What blesses you most about the plans and promises of Our Great Creator?