

ABRAHAM'S SON ISAAC NEEDS A WIFE Genesis 23:1-2 & 24:1-67 & 25:20

23:1 Isaac's mother Sarah **lived** to be 127 years old. 2 **Then** she **died** in **Canaan**. [Isaac was 37 years old. (Genesis 17:17)]

24:1 **Now** Abraham was **very old** – and **Creator God** had **blessed** Abraham in **every way**.

2 Abraham's **head servant** was **in charge** of **everything** that Abraham **owned**. **So** Abraham said to his head servant, 3 "I am living in Canaan now. But please **swear** to me **by** God of **heaven** and **earth**. Swear that you will **get** a wife for Isaac – but you will not get a **Canaanite** wife for him.

4 **Instead**, you will **go back** to my **relatives** – and you will get a wife for Isaac **from** my relatives.

5 The head servant said to Abraham, "**But maybe** the woman will not **want** to live in Canaan. **What should** I **do then**? Should I **take** your son **back** to your relatives?" 6 "No, **never!**" said Abraham, "Do not take my son back to my relatives. 7 The God of heaven **brought** me from my father's family – and he brought me to Canaan. The God of heaven swore to me and **promised**: 'I will **give** Canaan to your **descendants**.' The God of heaven will **help** you get a wife from my relatives for my son."

9 So the head servant swore it to Abraham. 10 Then the servant took ten of Abraham's **camels** – and the servant took many good **gifts** from Abraham. Then he went (**about** 800 **kilometers** / 500 **miles north**) to the **town** of Nahor (but he did not know where Abraham's relatives lived).

11 **Outside** the town there was a **well** – and the head servant **stopped** by the well. It was **evening**. In the evening the women from Nahor came to the well to get water. 12 Then the head servant **prayed**, "God of my **master** Abraham, please help me be **successful** today – and please be **kind** to my master Abraham."

13 He prayed to God, "**Look!** The girls from Nahor are coming to the well to get **water**. 14 (I will do a **test**.) I will ask a girl, 'Please give me **a drink** of water.' **If** she **says**, 'I will give you a drink,' and if she **also** says, 'I will **water** your camels too' – I will know that she is the girl you have **chosen** for Isaac."

15-16 **While** the head servant was **still** praying, **Rebekah** came to the well with her **water jar** on her **shoulder**. Then she **filled** her jar with water. (The head servant did not **know** it, but) Rebekah was the daughter of Isaac's **cousin**. She was very **beautiful**, and she was a **virgin**.

17 The servant **ran** to **meet** her and said, "Please give me a drink from your jar." 18 So Rebekah gave him a drink of water. 19 Then she said, "I will water your camels, too – I will get water **until** your camels are **finished** drinking." 20 So she **quickly emptied** her jar into the **trough** for animals. [One camel **can** drink 100 to 200 **liters** / 25 to 50 **gallons** of water!] Then she ran back to the well – and she got water for **all** his camels. 21 The head servant was **watching** her **quietly** – and he was **wondering**: Has God given me **success**? – Is she the wife for Isaac?

22 **Finally**, the camels stopped drinking – and the servant gave Rebekah a **gold nose ring** and two gold **bracelets**. 23-24 Then the servant **asked**, "**Whose daughter** are you?" Rebekah **told** the servant her father's name – (her father was Abraham's **nephew**!) And the head servant asked Rebekah, "Please, can we **stay** at your father's house **tonight**?" 25 And she said, "At our house we have **straw** and **food** for your camels. And you can stay at our house tonight."

26Then the head servant bowed down and worshiped the God of heaven and earth. 27He said, "Praise God – praise the God of my master Abraham. God is still kind and faithful to my master. And God has helped me – God led me to the house of my master's relatives."

32Then the head servant went to Rebekah's house – 33and they served him food. But the head servant said, "I cannot eat yet. First, I must tell you my purpose." 34Then he said, "I am Abraham's servant. (35-48And he told Rebekah's father and brother Laban the whole story.) 49Then the head servant asked Rebekah's father and brother, "Will you show kindness to my master Abraham – will you give Rebekah to Isaac? Will you say yes? Or will you say no?"

50Rebekah's brother and father answered, "This is from God. 51Take Rebekah – and she can become Isaac's wife. This is God's plan." 52Then Abraham's servant bowed down to the ground before Creator God. 53Then the servant gave gold and silver jewelry and clothes to Rebekah. And he gave expensive gifts to Rebekah's brother and her mother.

54Then Abraham's servant ate and drank, and he stayed there that night. The next morning he got up and said, "Send me back to my master." 58Then Rebekah's family asked her, "Will you go with this man?" And Rebekah answered, "I will go." 61So Rebekah and her servant girls got ready to go. Then they got on their camels and went back to Canaan with Abraham's servant.

67Then Isaac married Rebekah, and he loved her. And Isaac was comforted after his mother's death.

25:20Isaac was 40 years old when he married Rebekah.

CONTENT QUESTIONS

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- **Why** was Isaac sad? (Genesis 23:1-2)
- **Who** was in charge of everything that Abraham owned? (Genesis 24:2)
- What did Abraham want for his son? (verse 3)
- What did Abraham ask his head servant not to do? (verse 3)
- Where did Abraham tell his servant to get a wife for Isaac? (verse 4)

Why do you think Abraham did not want a Canaanite wife for Isaac?

How much does our husband or wife **influence** what we think? – what we do?

About 600 years later God said to Israel:

Do not marry Canaanites. Do not give your daughters to Canaanite men. And do not take Canaanite women for your sons – your sons must not marry Canaanite women. The Canaanite women will change your sons' hearts – and your sons will stop following me. Your sons will follow other gods – and I will be very angry with you – and I will destroy you.

Deuteronomy 7:3-4

Why is it important for us to marry a person who loves Creator God?

Why should our children marry people who love Creator God?

- What was the head servant **worried** about? (verse 5)

So what **question** did the servant ask Abraham? (verse 5)

What did Abraham answer? (verse 6)

What was God's promise to Abraham? (verse 7)

How would God help the head servant? What did Abraham say? (verse 7)

Do you think Abraham believed God's promise? Why do you think so?

Why didn't Abraham want Isaac to go back to his relatives?

What do you think?

- What did the servant promise Abraham? (verse 9)
- Where did the servant go? (verse 10)

How did he get there? (verse 10)

- Where did he stop? (verse 11)

Why was the well a good place to stop?

- What is the first thing that the head servant did? (verse 12)

What did the servant pray about his work? (verse 12)

Do you think that God cares about our work?

Should we pray about our work, studies, problems, etcetera?

- What test did the servant make? (verse 14)

Why did the servant make this test? (verse 14)

What did the servant learn about Rebekah from this test? (verses 18-25)

What is more important: beauty or character?

- Who did the head servant thank? (verses 26-27)
- What did the servant do before he ate? (verses 33-48)
- What did the servant ask Rebekah's father and brother? (verse 49)
- What did Rebekah's father and brother answer? (verse 50)
- What did Rebekah answer? (verse 58)

How do you think Rebekah and her family felt?

- Isaac had never met Rebekah – but how did he feel about her? (verse 67)

When a man finds a wife, he finds a good thing – and he gets good gifts from God.

Proverbs 18:22

(When a man gets married) he leaves his father and mother, and he is united to his wife. And the husband and wife become one body. Genesis 2:24

- How old was Isaac when his mother died? (Genesis 23:2)
- How old was Isaac when he got married? (Genesis 25:20)

How do you think Isaac felt for the 3 years after his mother died? (Genesis 24:67)

How many people did Creator God bless in this story?

need	必要とする
wife	妻
live	生きる、住む
then	そして、その場合、その時、そしたら、それなら
die	死ぬ
Canaan	カナン（地方）、（現代イスラエル辺り）
now	今、もう、さて、それで
very	非常に
old - older - oldest	年、年寄り、古い
Creator God	創造者、創造主、天地創造の神様
bless	祝福する
every	あらゆる、すべての
way	方法
head	主任、あたま
servant	しもべ
in charge	責任ある、管理する、担当する
everything	すべて、全部
own	所有する、持つ
so	だから、それで、それに従って、そのためには、そんなに
swear - swore - sworn	誓う、誓って約束する
by	によって、そば、そばに、
heaven	天、天国
earth	地、地球
get - got - gotten	得る、もらう、受ける、になる、に着く
Canaanite	カナン人
instead	代わりに
go back - went back - gone back	戻る
relatives	親戚
from	から
but	しかし
maybe	もしかしたら

want	望む、欲しい、やりたい
what	何、何と
should	するべき
do - did - done	する
then	その場合、そして
take back	連れ戻す
never	決して
bring - brought - brought	連れてくる、持ってくる
promise	約束する
give - gave - given	上げる、下さる、献げる
descendant	子孫
help	助ける、助け
camel	らくだ
gift	贈り物
about	について、約
kilometer	キロメートル
mile	マイル（1 マイル= 1.6 キロメートル）
north	北
town	町
outside	外
well	井戸
stop	やめる、止まる、止まれ、止める
evening	夕方
pray	祈る
master	主人
successful	成功する
kind	親切
look!	見よ、ほら
water	水
test	試し
a drink	飲み物

if	もし
say - said - said	言う、話す
also	また、も、それに
water [verb]	(動物に) 飲ませる、(植物に) 水をかける
choose - chose - chosen	選ぶ
while	しながら、(折り) ながら、している間
still	まだ
Rebekah	リベカ (イサクの妻)
water jar	水瓶
shoulder	肩
fill	一杯にする、満たす
know - knew - known	知る
cousin	いとこ
beautiful	美しい
virgin	処女、バージン
run - ran - run	走る
meet - met - met	会う
until	まで
finish	終える
quickly	急いで、早く
empty	からにする
trough	水ぶね
can - could	できる
liter	リットル
gallon	ガロン (1 gallon = 3.785 リットル)
all	すべて
watch	眺める、見つめる
quietly	静かに、静かな、穏やかな
wonder	どうなるかと思う、訝る
success	成功
finally	やっと

gold	金
nose ring	鼻輪
bracelets	腕輪
ask	尋ねる、聞く
whose	誰の
daughter	娘
tell - told - told	伝える、教える
nephew	甥
stay	泊まる、滞在する、いる
tonight	今晚、今夜
straw	わら
food	食べ物、食糧
bow	ひれ伏す、お辞儀する
worship	拝む、礼拝をする
praise	ほめたたえる、賛美する
faithful	忠実
lead - led - led	導く、連れていく
serve	(料理を) 出す
cannot	わけにはいけない、できない
eat - ate - eaten	食べる
yet	まだ
first	第一、一番目、最初、まず、初めに、最初の
must	しなければならない
purpose	目的
Laban	ラバン（リベカの兄弟、アブラハムのいとこ）
whole	全部、すべて
story	話
show	示す
kindness	親切
answer	答える
take -took - taken	連れていく、持っていく

become - became - became	になる、なる
plan	計画、計画を立てる
before	前、以前、の前、前に
jewelry	宝飾品、ジュエリー
clothes [発音：kloze]	衣服、衣、洋服
expensive	高価な
next	次
morning	朝
get up - got up - gotten up	起きる、立ち上がる
send - sent - sent	見送る
get ready - got ready - gotten ready	準備する
get on - got on - gotten on	乗る
marry	結婚する
love	愛する、愛
is comforted - <u>was</u> comforted - has been comforted	慰められる、 <u>慰められた</u> 、慰められたことがある
after	の後、ののち
death	死

why	なぜ、どうして
who	誰
think - thought - thought	思う、考える
how much	どれほど
influence	影響を及ぼす
change	変わる、変える
heart	心
follow	従う、後をついていく
other	他の、他
gods	神々
angry	怒る
destroy	滅ぼす
important	大切、重要な、大事な、重大、優れる、えらい (人)

worry	思い煩う、心配する
question	質問、問い
how	どう、どのくらい
work	仕事、働き、仕事する、働く、作業
care about	気を使う、心配してくれる、気にする、構う、大切に思う
etcetera = etc.	など
more	もっと、～より
beauty	美しさ
character	性格
feel - felt - felt	感じる
leave - left - left	離れる
unite	結ばれる、一致する
one body	一体