

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?