

Here Comes the Bride

Genesis 24

In Beijing, more than a third of women in their late 20s and 30s are looking for husbands... there may be as many as 500,000 "leftover women" in the capital
www.Jiayuan.com

Census 2011- 2 x's Single MEN Born 1970's as Women of Same Age

"Leftover Women" – Well Educated, Higher Salaries, Live in Large Cities

"Leftover Men" – Less Educated, Less Money, Live in Lower-Tier Cities

Story from Ancient Near East – 4000 yrs old > Man finding his Wife

If I was PRACTICAL PREACHER – 10 pts How to Find a Wife – Popular!!

Sermon is NOT Self-Help Lecture > Proclaim Christ THEME / Key of Bible

the Son of God, Jesus Christ...For all the promises of God find their Yes in him.
 2 Corinthians 1.19,20

Best Way to HELP Yourself & Others – Know and Follow Jesus Christ

If Isaac does NOT get Wife > No Children > Would be NO Jesus Christ

God Bound self to Covenant Plan thru Covenant People > Family of Abe

THRU Abraham ALL Peoples Blessed > Blessing IN & Thru Jesus Christ

Partner for Abe's Son > Plan of God's Salvation

NOT lesson on HOW to Find SPOUSE – To SINGLES or to PARENTS

ARE Lessons to Learn – Different Place in Salvation History / Culture / Time

See PROVIDENCE of God > How God FULFILLS His Promises to His People

1. God's Providence Confessed vs. 1-9

a. Honest Questions

v. 4 “go to my country and to my kindred, and take a wife for my son Isaac”

v. 5 The servant said to him, “Perhaps the woman may not be willing to follow me to this land. Must I then take your son back to the land from which you came?”

Servant Sent over 800 kms > Place Abe Left 70 yrs ago > No Facebook Friends
 Get Young Woman come back with him & 10 Camels > Wife of Stranger!!?
 Really? Wanna NARROW your OPTIONS to FEW CHOICES!?! Seems Silly!

b. Limited Options

v. 6 Abraham said to him, “See to it that you do not take my son back there.
 If YOU’re LEFT OVER (CRUEL & WRONG Term - Many Feel Pain like Are)
 Want to MAXIMIZE Options to Find a Good Partner – Not REDUCE Them

Similar Struggle Faced by SINGLE Christians Around World TODAY

2 Important Questions – Does God want ME to Marry? WHO should I Marry?
 Sometimes Great OPTION APPEARS > 1 small point they’re NOT Believer

26 yr old Seminary Grad – Called to Africa – Would LIKE to Get Married
 Opportunity to GO was URGENT – Could have Stayed Home & Wife Hunting
 Move Forward trust Either God would give Gift of Celibacy (is Gift) or Wife
 Fortunately for Me Next Step in my Journey was Hawaii > Met One Wahine!

PEOPLE of Land > Under God’s CURSE > Spoken by Noah in Genesis 9.24-26
 Abe was SHEMITE > His SON would NEVER marry a Cursed Canaanite

Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers. For what partnership has
 righteousness with lawlessness? Or what fellowship has light with darkness?
 What accord has Christ with Belial? Or what portion does a believer share with
 an unbeliever? What agreement has the temple of God with idols?

2 Corinthians 6.14-16a

Verses talk about DATING? No! 21st Dating NOT Directly Discussed in Bible

Verses talk about MARRIAGE? YES and MORE > **Any Binding Allegiance**

Business Partners, Political Parties, Labor Unions, Instagram Followers & Dating
 NOTHING – Not even your Family or Church – Should take God’s Place!

Jesus is NOT Lord if AnyTHING / ONE Else has your Ultimate Love & Loyalty

c. Proven Promises

Abe FOLLOWING God for DECADES > Asked MANY Questions, Still Asking
 FAILED a Number of Times – Learned thru it All – God was FAITHFUL

v. 1 Now Abraham was old, well advanced in years. And the LORD had blessed
 Abraham in all things.

Learned ENOUGH to KEEP ON in Ways of God > LAND was Place of Blessing
 God called Abe to LEAVE Home of UR come to Canaan – Stopped 10 yrs Haran

Call of God came 2nd Time in Ch 12 – LEAVE and Follow by FAITH

FAMINE in Land – Went on OWN Initiative to Egypt – turned into FIASCO

Do NOT Take Son Away – God’s Blessing Place is this LAND of PROMISE

vs. 2-4 Abraham said to his servant, the oldest of his household,
Eliezer of Damascus? 50+ yrs ago Gen 15: UNNamed for Theological Purpose
 who had charge of all that he had, “Put your hand under my thigh, that I may
 make you swear by the LORD, the God of heaven and God of the earth, that you
 will not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, among
 whom I dwell, but will go to my country and to my kindred, and take a wife for
 my son Isaac.”

Abe’s Trust in the LORD who promised THIS LAND

CONFIDENT in God: Creation / Covenant, Great / Good, Powerful / Personal

God mentioned 17 x’s but HE Never SPEAKS Directly > His HAND at Work

See PROVIDENCE of God > How God FULFILLS His Promises to His People

vs. 7-8 The LORD, the God of heaven, who took me from my father's house and
 from the land of my kindred, and who spoke to me and swore to me, ‘To your
 offspring I will give this land,’ he will send his angel before you, and you shall
 take a wife for my son from there. But if the woman is not willing to follow you,
 then you will be free from this oath of mine; only you must not take my son back
 there.”

Last WORDS of Abraham – Father of Faith – Still Walking & Growing in Faith

NO Compromise, No Canaanite Wife > FULL CONFIDENCE in God & Angels

SERVANT Submits to DEMAND of his Master > Solemn SIGN of LOYALTY

Every Job has Good AND Bad Aspects > Sometimes WEIRD things Happen

As Servant traveled 800 kms on Wife HUNTING EXPEDITION Thot of This....

v. 9 So the servant put his hand under the thigh of Abraham his master and swore to him concerning this matter.

Hebrew Language being MODEST Here > THIGH means Abe's LIFE ORGAN
 Son Started here and GRANDCHILDREN will Continue from Here by Faith
 Servant Handled Royal Family JEWELS and made Promise to God of Heaven

2. Faith in God's Providence Caught vs. 10-27

v. 10 Then the servant took ten of his master's camels and departed, taking all sorts of choice gifts from his master; and he arose and went to Mesopotamia to the city of Nahor...

Servant sets OFF on LONG IMPORTANT Journey > Job & Even Life at RISK
 Thot about Abe: TMI!! Too Much Info about Abe, WASHING his Hands A Lot!

v. 1 the LORD had blessed Abraham in all things

v. 2 servant, the oldest of his household, who had charge of all that he had

HEARD and SEEN A lot about the GOD of ABRAHAM > Faith in Faithful God
 Abe JOURNEYED to NEW PLACE > Built ALTAR & Called on Name of Lord

Though grace does not run in the blood, and regeneration is not of blood or birth, yet it doth very frequently – I was about to say almost always – happen that God, by means of one of a household, draws the rest to himself. He calls an individual, and then he uses him to be a sort of spiritual decoy to bring the rest of the family into the gospel net.
 Charles Spurgeon

11 yrs Central Asia: Kazaks, Uzbeks, Uzbeks, Turkmen, Tajiks, Kyrgyz, Uighurs
 Come to Faith in Jesus Christ > Family & Friends > Angry, Ostracized, Suffered
 Endure with Love, Forgiveness, and Humility > Family & Friends also Believed

Servant seen Abe Talking the Talk & Walking the Walk for MANY YEARS
 Servant CAUGHT Master's Faith in God of PROMISES and PROVIDENCE

a. Providence works through Plans and Prayers

vs. 11-13 And he made the camels kneel down outside the city by the well of water at the time of evening, the time when women go out to draw water. And he said, “O LORD, God of my master Abraham, please grant me success today and show steadfast love to my master Abraham. Behold, I am standing by the spring of water, and the daughters of the men of the city are coming out to draw water...

TRIES to Do what he has SEEN WORK for Father Abraham > PRAY!

OATHS in Ancient Near East > Always sworn in NAME of a GOD

Solemn Moment – Even CAMELS are KNEELING in Presence of Great God

Not PERSONAL Confession – God of MY Master Abraham – Borrows his Cred.

Needs to make SURE God is Looking at Right Guy....

v. 13 *Behold, I am standing by the spring of water*

Do you SEE ME HERE God!! I am Calling You! Stretching Wings of FAITH!

BIRTH of Faith > TRAINING WHEELS on his PRAYER – Sincere Seeking

Not Graduate from Sunday School – Not Natural or Comfortable to Pray

We need to help SEEKERS in BASIC STEPS of Following God of Abraham

Calls upon a God who PROMISES to GUIDE those who TRUST Him...

In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.

Proverbs 3.6

Call to me and I will answer you, and will tell you great and hidden things that you have not known.

Jeremiah 33.3

b. Looks for Exceptional Person

v. 14 Let the young woman to whom I shall say, ‘Please let down your jar that I may drink,’ and who shall say, ‘Drink, and I will water your camels’—let her be the one whom you have appointed for your servant Isaac. By this I shall know that you have shown steadfast love to my master.”

Could NOT just say, “Well, if she asks me if I want a drink!?”

A.N.E. HOSPITALITY required Offering a Stranger at the Well a DRINK

Not just say, “Wearing Black and White STRIPES” All Women in BJ wearing

Not RANDOM or NONSENSE Sign: “*Carries her Jar on LEFT Shoulder*”

Asks for Woman who is a RISK TAKER, GRACIOUS, STRONG, Endurance

Will do Hard Work for STRANGER that she does NOT Know!

CAMELS > Great Value > Carry Heavy Loads thru Hostile Dessert Terrains

CAMELS do NOT Store Water in Hump > Drink to REPLACE what they LOST

Camel out on Few Days JOURNEY could Drink 100 Liters to REPLENISH

vs. 15-20 Before he had finished speaking, behold, Rebekah, who was born to Bethuel the son of Milcah, the wife of Nahor, Abraham's brother, came out with her water jar on her shoulder. The young woman was very attractive in appearance, a maiden whom no man had known. She went down to the spring and filled her jar and came up. Then the servant ran to meet her and said, “Please give me a little water to drink from your jar.” She said, “Drink, my lord.” And she quickly let down her jar upon her hand and gave him a drink. When she had finished giving him a drink, she said, “I will draw water for your camels also, until they have finished drinking.” So she quickly emptied her jar into the trough and ran again to the well to draw water, and she drew for all his camels.

Rebecca was ONE BUFF BABE! – PRETTY and POWERFUL!!

WATER Vessel typically held about 10 Liters – 10 Trips, 10 Camels – 100 Laps!

God Answers PRAYER – Confirms Promises – Reveals Providence

Before they call I will answer; while they are yet speaking I will hear. Isaiah 65.24

vs. 22-25 When the camels had finished drinking, the man took a gold ring weighing a half shekel, and two bracelets for her arms weighing ten gold shekels, and said, “Please tell me whose daughter you are. Is there room in your father's house for us to spend the night?” She said to him, “I am the daughter of Bethuel the son of Milcah, whom she bore to Nahor.” She added, “We have plenty of both straw and fodder, and room to spend the night.”

Rebecca FAR EXCEEDS Common Expectation > KIND, Generous, STRONG

TODAY Guidance is Multi-Faceted > Many Prayers for GUIDANCE in Bible

NO Example of Apostles or N.T. Church asking for SIGNS in Prayer

Flew from Africa to Tokyo 1986 – Pregnant Wife – 2 Small Sons

Friends from Hawaii – M workers in Tokyo – had their P.O. Box

Been Living Remote, War-Torn part of Africa, Not used Telephone in 4 years!

NARITA Airport +1 Hour from City – Guess what! P.O. Box not in Phone Book

Just about CATCH Next Flight from Tokyo to home in HONOLULU

Prof from Covenant College M worker in Japan > Sent Letter to me in Uganda

Prof Young gave me his PHONE NUMBER – Called and Got Him on the Line

“Would you by any chance know John LaDue?” “Of course, his daughter and my daughter are best friends! – Let me GET you his NUMBER!!”

No reason to expect God to give us Sign, every reason to expect Him to Guide us

God can do the Extra-Ordinary, but Normally He uses the ORDINARY

Signs can become PUTTING God to the TEST > Telling HIM what to DO!

MORE Faith > Trusting God thru Waiting, Prayer, Word, Good Counsel

c. Servant becomes True Son – Wonderful see Faith Begin and Grow....

v. 7 Abraham: “The LORD, the God of heaven...he will send his angel before you, and you shall take a wife for my son from there”

v. 9 So the servant put his hand under the thigh of Abraham his master and swore to him concerning this matter. – *You’ll NOT FORGET that Part – Neither did he!*

v. 12 he said, “O LORD, God of my master Abraham, please grant me success

v. 15 Before he had finished speaking, behold, Rebekah *HOTTIE & HELPFUL!!*

v. 21 The man gazed at her in silence to learn whether the LORD had prospered his journey or not.

vs. 26,27 The man bowed his head and worshiped the LORD and said, “Blessed be the LORD, the God of my master Abraham, who has not forsaken his steadfast love and his faithfulness toward my master. As for me, the LORD has led me in the way to the house of my master's kinsmen.”

Success, which inflates the natural man, humbles the man of God. The servant's first thought is for the Lord, his second for his employer, and his final one, with unaffected delight, for himself: *'he led me – me – straight to the house...'*

Derek Kidner

3. God's Providence Confirmed vs. 28-61

a. Family and Finance

vs. 28-32 Then the young woman ran and told her mother's household about these things. Rebekah had a brother whose name was Laban. Laban ran out toward the man, to the spring. As soon as he saw the ring and the bracelets on his sister's arms, and heard the words of Rebekah his sister, "Thus the man spoke to me," he went to the man. And behold, he was standing by the camels at the spring. He said, "Come in, O blessed of the LORD. Why do you stand outside? For I have prepared the house and a place for the camels." So the man came to the house and unharnessed the camels, and gave straw and fodder to the camels, and there was water to wash his feet and the feet of the men who were with him.

Abe had NOT Been Back Home > But his REPUTATION had ARRIVED!

NOW see his Servant – 10 Truckloads of Goodies – Put Cars in their Garage

10 Shekels was YEAR'S WAGES for Laborer or Artisan

The silver and gold objects and the garments presented to Rebekah are part of her transformation into a member of Abraham's household... The presents given to her brother Laban and her mother demonstrate Abraham's wealth and the desirability of the marriage.

John Walton and Victor Matthews

RUNNING Family > Rebekah was RUNNING – Brother Laban RAN TOO!

Same Laban who will CHEAT their SON JACOB

Comes RUNNING when the MONEY is BROUGHT OUT > Put on Charm...

vs. 33 -49 Then food was set before him to eat. But he said, "I will not eat until I have said what I have to say." He said, "Speak on." So he said, "I am Abraham's servant... Now then, if you are going to show steadfast love and faithfulness to my master, tell me; and if not, tell me, that I may turn to the right hand or to the left."

Treats FAMILY with Respect, Dignity, Intelligence

Marriage Consideration – Simplicity, Transparency, Trust, Choice, Willingness

No Flattery, No Pressure, No Lies, No Empty Boasting, No Sex, No Deceit

FULL TRUST in the PROMISES of God and PROVIDENCE of God

b. Hand of God Recognized

vs. 50-52 Then Laban and Bethuel answered and said, “The thing has come from the LORD; we cannot speak to you bad or good. Behold, Rebekah is before you; take her and go, and let her be the wife of your master's son, as the LORD has spoken.” When Abraham's servant heard their words, he bowed himself to the earth before the LORD.

Providence of God CONFIRMED – Even these less than Faithful Believe

LABAN > White One – LUNAR – Moon WORSHIPPER > Sees Real Power

Let any man turn to God in earnest, let him begin to exercise himself unto godliness, let him seek to develop his powers of spiritual receptivity by trust and obedience and humility, and the results will exceed anything he may have hoped in his leaner and weaker days. A.W. Tozer

c. Prompt Obedience

vs. 54-56 And he and the men who were with him ate and drank, and they spent the night there. When they arose in the morning, he said, “Send me away to my master.” Her brother and her mother said, “Let the young woman remain with us a while, at least ten days; after that she may go.” But he said to them, “Do not delay me, since the LORD has prospered my way. Send me away that I may go to my master.”

SEPARATION and MARRIAGE was NOT OPTION > Travel TOGETHER

WAIT or WORK or MOVE or Change Plans > If Married LIVE TOGETHER

Family hopes HANG AROUND, Maybe 10 days to Unload Goodies off Camels

Characteristic of Abraham's Faith > Does NOT Delay to OBEY God

Even when Hard > Circumcision, Sending Hagar Away, Sacrifice Isaac

vs. 57-59 They said, “Let us call the young woman and ask her.” And they called Rebekah and said to her, “Will you go with this man?” She said, “I will go.” So they sent away Rebekah their sister and her nurse, and Abraham's servant and his men.

Very UNUSUAL in Ancient World for WOMAN to be part of Major Decisions

Contracts ASSURE her PROTECTION – Not Necessarily her PLEASURE

OPINION of Family is IMPORTANT, should be Considered

FINAL Decision made by HUSBAND and WIFE – Ready for MARRIAGE!

Nothing in the recorded history of Rebekah so puts her in the true spiritual line of Abraham as this decision...She had probably never been away from home in her entire life, but if God was sending her away, she wanted to respond to His leading immediately. So should we.... James Boice

4. God's Providential Promise Consummated vs. 62-67

a. Journey Completed

vs. 61-63 Then Rebekah and her young women arose and rode on the camels and followed the man. Thus the servant took Rebekah and went his way. Now Isaac had returned from Beer-lahai-roi and was dwelling in the Negeb. And Isaac went out to meditate in the field toward evening. And he lifted up his eyes and saw, and behold, there were camels coming.

Many Obstacles have been GRACIOUSLY Overcome by God's Providence

Will Isaac find wife?

Will servant succeed?

Will any woman water camels?

Will her family agree?

Will woman be willing to go?

Return JOURNEY More than 800 kms!

What will Isaac say?

End of Long Waiting and Wandering: She SEES him – He sees the CAMELS!!

b. Joy and Comfort

vs. 64-67 And Rebekah lifted up her eyes, and when she saw Isaac, she dismounted from the camel and said to the servant, "Who is that man, walking in the field to meet us?" The servant said, "It is my master." So she took her veil and covered herself. And the servant told Isaac all the things that he had done. Then Isaac brought her into the tent of Sarah his mother and took Rebekah, and she became his wife, and he loved her. So Isaac was comforted after his mother's death.

No HESITATION – No Consultation with Abe - Immediate Marriage

Brides were veiled during the wedding but went unveiled as married women.

John Walton and Victor Matthews

Today MANY Women meet Potential Husbands – UNCOVER Themselves

WONDER why Men treat them as Mere SEX OBJECTS

She'll live with him the REST of her Life – Meets w/ Modesty & Respect

She was VIRGIN and they had SEX Only AFTER their WEDDING

This was what used to happen in traditional African societies, where the first sexual act took place at the home of the young woman's parents on the evening after the wedding ceremony. If she proved to be a virgin, everyone was happy. If not there was shame and sadness. Barnabe Assohoto and Samuel Ngewa

STORY described in LANGUAGE and CULTURE of that Day

Joyful Couple > PLEASING to their Families > GLORIFYING to God

May we have such Holy Stories of Love and Courtship for our Descendants!

c. Full Joy in Christ

Ours is CYNICAL Age – Something Go Wrong > DISAPPOINTMENT Ahead

We will see HAPPY ENDING > God of Providence will do ALL Things WELL

God going to TURN World RIGHT Side UP > See Him FACE to FACE

Blessing of Rebekah's Family Unknowingly ECHOED Promise of God to Abe

v. 60 And they blessed Rebekah and said to her, "Our sister, may you become thousands of ten thousands, and may your offspring *possess the gate of those who hate him!*"

God of POWER and PROVIDENCE made this Everlasting PROMISE...

"I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And *your offspring shall possess the gate of his enemies*"
Genesis 22.17

Great SON of Isaac & Rebekah – Son of Abraham, Son of David, Son of God

Came in FULLNESS of Time - God's Providential Hour of Fulfillment

Jesus: "I will build my church, and *the gates of hell shall not prevail against it*"

Matthew 16.18

Genesis 24 – Like every Chapter of Bible – Points us to Lord Jesus Christ....

Isaac is TYPE of Christ > ch 22 DIED & ROSE Again – SYMBOLICALLY

NOW Alive – Father sends SERVANT who is Not NAMED

– Like Self-Effacing HOLY SPIRIT

Servant GOES on MISSION of Trusted Master as His STEWARD

Does NOT OWN the GIFTS, But FREELY Gives HIS Master's Treasures

SEARCHES for BRIDE for RISEN SON > to Dwell with Him in Love Forever

BRIDE NEVER SEEN the Son > Hears Great News of how Wonderful He Is

Servants PERSONAL Needs were ignored until the Master's Business was Done

She AGREES to Love Him, to Follow Forever, NEVER to Go HOME Again!

Goes with Servant of Master – Living by His Riches and Kindness

LONG Journey DIFFICULTY & ADVERSITIES thru Strange, Unknown Lands

Bride PRESSES Onward – NOT Turning Back – ENDURING to the END

Bride ARRIVES finds HUSBAND Waiting & Expecting Her COMING

They Lovingly EMBRACE in Great JOY and BLESSING Forever!!

“Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.” This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church. Ephesians 5.31,32

1. How has God's unseen, gracious, hand of providence been clearly revealed in your life?
2. Why is the marriage of Isaac critical to the continuation of God's Covenant?
3. Notice how the text emphasizes Rebekah's quick obedience (vs. 15,18, 20, 28, 58). How quick are you to obey?

4. Trust in God's providence seems contagious, from Abraham to his servant, from the servant to Rebekah and her family, from you to.....?

Genesis 24:¹ Now Abraham was old, well advanced in years. And the LORD had blessed Abraham in all things. ²And Abraham said to his servant, the oldest of his household, who had charge of all that he had, "Put your hand under my thigh, ³that I may make you swear by the LORD, the God of heaven and God of the earth, that you will not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, among whom I dwell, ⁴but will go to my country and to my kindred, and take a wife for my son Isaac." ⁵The servant said to him, "Perhaps the woman may not be willing to follow me to this land. Must I then take your son back to the land from which you came?" ⁶Abraham said to him, "See to it that you do not take my son back there. ⁷The LORD, the God of heaven, who took me from my father's house and from the land of my kindred, and who spoke to me and swore to me, 'To your offspring I will give this land,' he will send his angel before you, and you shall take a wife for my son from there. ⁸But if the woman is not willing to follow you, then you will be free from this oath of mine; only you must not take my son back there." ⁹So the servant put his hand under the thigh of Abraham his master and swore to him concerning this matter. ¹⁰Then the servant took ten of his master's camels and departed, taking all sorts of choice gifts from his master; and he arose and went to Mesopotamia to the city of Nahor. ¹¹And he made the camels kneel down outside the city by the well of water at the time of evening, the time when women go out to draw water. ¹²And he said, "O LORD, God of my master

Abraham, please grant me success today and show steadfast love to my master Abraham. ¹³Behold, I am standing by the spring of water, and the daughters of the men of the city are coming out to draw water. ¹⁴Let the young woman to whom I shall say, ‘Please let down your jar that I may drink,’ and who shall say, ‘Drink, and I will water your camels’—let her be the one whom you have appointed for your servant Isaac. By this I shall know that you have shown steadfast love to my master.” ¹⁵Before he had finished speaking, behold, Rebekah, who was born to Bethuel the son of Milcah, the wife of Nahor, Abraham's brother, came out with her water jar on her shoulder. ¹⁶The young woman was very attractive in appearance, a maiden whom no man had known. She went down to the spring and filled her jar and came up. ¹⁷Then the servant ran to meet her and said, “Please give me a little water to drink from your jar.” ¹⁸She said, “Drink, my lord.” And she quickly let down her jar upon her hand and gave him a drink. ¹⁹When she had finished giving him a drink, she said, “I will draw water for your camels also, until they have finished drinking.” ²⁰So she quickly emptied her jar into the trough and ran again to the well to draw water, and she drew for all his camels. ²¹The man gazed at her in silence to learn whether the LORD had prospered his journey or not. ²²When the camels had finished drinking, the man took a gold ring weighing a half shekel, and two bracelets for her arms weighing ten gold shekels, ²³and said, “Please tell me whose daughter you are. Is there room in your father's house for us to spend the night?” ²⁴She said to him, “I am the daughter of Bethuel the son of Milcah,

whom she bore to Nahor.”²⁵ She added, “We have plenty of both straw and fodder, and room to spend the night.”²⁶ The man bowed his head and worshiped the LORD²⁷ and said, “Blessed be the LORD, the God of my master Abraham, who has not forsaken his steadfast love and his faithfulness toward my master. As for me, the LORD has led me in the way to the house of my master's kinsmen.”²⁸ Then the young woman ran and told her mother's household about these things.²⁹ Rebekah had a brother whose name was Laban. Laban ran out toward the man, to the spring.³⁰ As soon as he saw the ring and the bracelets on his sister's arms, and heard the words of Rebekah his sister, “Thus the man spoke to me,” he went to the man. And behold, he was standing by the camels at the spring.³¹ He said, “Come in, O blessed of the LORD. Why do you stand outside? For I have prepared the house and a place for the camels.”³² So the man came to the house and unharnessed the camels, and gave straw and fodder to the camels, and there was water to wash his feet and the feet of the men who were with him.³³ Then food was set before him to eat. But he said, “I will not eat until I have said what I have to say.” He said, “Speak on.”³⁴ So he said, “I am Abraham's servant.³⁵ The LORD has greatly blessed my master, and he has become great. He has given him flocks and herds, silver and gold, male servants and female servants, camels and donkeys.³⁶ And Sarah my master's wife bore a son to my master when she was old, and to him he has given all that he has.³⁷ My master made me swear, saying, ‘You shall not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, in whose land I

dwell, ³⁸but you shall go to my father's house and to my clan and take a wife for my son.' ³⁹I said to my master, 'Perhaps the woman will not follow me.' ⁴⁰But he said to me, 'The LORD, before whom I have walked, will send his angel with you and prosper your way. You shall take a wife for my son from my clan and from my father's house. ⁴¹Then you will be free from my oath, when you come to my clan. And if they will not give her to you, you will be free from my oath.' ⁴²"I came today to the spring and said, 'O LORD, the God of my master Abraham, if now you are prospering the way that I go, ⁴³behold, I am standing by the spring of water. Let the virgin who comes out to draw water, to whom I shall say, "Please give me a little water from your jar to drink," ⁴⁴and who will say to me, "Drink, and I will draw for your camels also," let her be the woman whom the LORD has appointed for my master's son.' ⁴⁵"Before I had finished speaking in my heart, behold, Rebekah came out with her water jar on her shoulder, and she went down to the spring and drew water. I said to her, 'Please let me drink.' ⁴⁶She quickly let down her jar from her shoulder and said, 'Drink, and I will give your camels drink also.' So I drank, and she gave the camels drink also. ⁴⁷Then I asked her, 'Whose daughter are you?' She said, 'The daughter of Bethuel, Nahor's son, whom Milcah bore to him.' So I put the ring on her nose and the bracelets on her arms. ⁴⁸Then I bowed my head and worshiped the LORD and blessed the LORD, the God of my master Abraham, who had led me by the right way to take the daughter of my master's kinsman for his son. ⁴⁹Now then, if you are going to show

steadfast love and faithfulness to my master, tell me; and if not, tell me, that I may turn to the right hand or to the left.”⁵⁰ Then Laban and Bethuel answered and said, “The thing has come from the LORD; we cannot speak to you bad or good.”⁵¹ Behold, Rebekah is before you; take her and go, and let her be the wife of your master's son, as the LORD has spoken.”⁵² When Abraham's servant heard their words, he bowed himself to the earth before the LORD.⁵³ And the servant brought out jewelry of silver and of gold, and garments, and gave them to Rebekah. He also gave to her brother and to her mother costly ornaments.⁵⁴ And he and the men who were with him ate and drank, and they spent the night there. When they arose in the morning, he said, “Send me away to my master.”⁵⁵ Her brother and her mother said, “Let the young woman remain with us a while, at least ten days; after that she may go.”⁵⁶ But he said to them, “Do not delay me, since the LORD has prospered my way. Send me away that I may go to my master.”⁵⁷ They said, “Let us call the young woman and ask her.”⁵⁸ And they called Rebekah and said to her, “Will you go with this man?” She said, “I will go.”⁵⁹ So they sent away Rebekah their sister and her nurse, and Abraham's servant and his men.⁶⁰ And they blessed Rebekah and said to her, “Our sister, may you become thousands of ten thousands, and may your offspring possess the gate of those who hate him!”⁶¹ Then Rebekah and her young women arose and rode on the camels and followed the man. Thus the servant took Rebekah and went his way.⁶² Now Isaac had returned from Beer-lahai-roi and was dwelling in the Negeb.⁶³ And Isaac went out to

meditate in the field toward evening. And he lifted up his eyes and saw, and behold, there were camels coming. ⁶⁴And Rebekah lifted up her eyes, and when she saw Isaac, she dismounted from the camel ⁶⁵and said to the servant, “Who is that man, walking in the field to meet us?” The servant said, “It is my master.” So she took her veil and covered herself. ⁶⁶And the servant told Isaac all the things that he had done. ⁶⁷Then Isaac brought her into the tent of Sarah his mother and took Rebekah, and she became his wife, and he loved her. So Isaac was comforted after his mother's death.