

SALT Church

Genesis 24

“The Lord will Send”

April 29, 2026

“In the Beginning”

Recap Genesis 23

Genesis 24

24 Abraham was now a very old man, and the Lord had blessed him in every way.² One day Abraham said to his oldest servant, the man in charge of his household, “Take an oath by putting your hand under my thigh.

- That’s a strange way to take an oath.
 - One thing I know for sure is that we would be looking face to face and eye to eye.

³Swear by the Lord, the God of heaven and earth, that you will not allow my son to marry one of these local Canaanite women. ⁴Go instead to my homeland, to my relatives, and find a wife there for my son Isaac.”

- It is clear, that Abraham was not going to allow Isaac to marry the cursed offspring of Noah’s grandson Cain.

- Instead, He calls his closest friend and servant to his side and makes him swear upon oath that he would travel back to Abraham's homeland to find a bride from his own people.
 - Some believe this was Eliezer of Damascus who Abraham said would inherit all that he had if he never had a son.
 - We don't know for sure, but it would not surprise me.
- It is clear to me that Abraham is coming to the end of his life.
 - He knows it and its time his son has a wife.
 - It is estimated that Isaac is in his late 30's based upon the age of his mother at her death.
 - It is also clear that Isaac is still struggling with the loss of his mother Sarah.

To travel back to the homeland is no small ask for the homeland is approximately 500 miles away.

- 50 miles a day with at least one days rest a week would make the travel time approximately 2 weeks.
 - This assumes no issues and good weather.
 - Total travel time was a month.
 - This is no easy task to swear to.

5 The servant asked, "But what if I can't find a young woman who is willing to travel so far from home? Should I then take Isaac there to live among your relatives in the land you came from?"

- This sounds logical from the servant's point of view.

- But Abraham has information that his servant doesn't have.

6 “No!” Abraham responded. (Very strong!!!!)

“Be careful never to take my son there.”

- Did you know that Isaac never traveled back to the homeland?
 - Not once!

7 For the Lord, the God of heaven, who took me from my father's house and my native land, solemnly promised to give this land to my descendants.

- I think it is important to point out that this promise has not fully been fulfilled.
- We must remember that the promise of the land is from the Nile to the Euphrates.
- Why is this important to us and the Jews?
 - Because God will keep His covenant promise.
 - Based upon our understanding of scripture, this will occur during the millennial kingdom.
 - A 1,000-year period in which Jesus rules here on earth.
 - But first there must be a 7-year period in which God turns man over to his sin and extends grace one last time.
- How does this influence how we live?
 - The purpose of prophecy is encouragement.
 - I think of prophecy as a sign

- Signs can warn of upcoming road hazards
- Signs can also give a milage countdown as you reach your destination.
- The nation of Israel is the sign.
 - Sadly, some will choose to “watch the signs” to determine their enthusiasm towards Christ.
 - That’s like the unfaithful husband tracking his wife on his phone and as she draws near, he sends his lover away and commits to be faithful.

The command on our life to “Love the Lord your God with all of your heart, soul, and mind” has nothing to do with Jesus’ return.

- It has everything to do with Jesus’ current location and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.

Back to Genesis

He (The Lord) will send His angel ahead of you, and He will see to it that you find a wife there for my son. ⁸ If she is unwilling to come back with you, then you are free from this oath of mine. But under no circumstances are you to take my son there.”

- This is stark contrast to Abraham’s 1st recorded words, “You have given me no offspring” Genesis 15:3
- These are Abrahams’s last recorded words.
 - This is how you finish life as a child of God
 - Strong in faith and conviction
 - Resting in the promises of God

9 So the servant took an oath by putting his hand under the thigh of his master, Abraham.

- This odd way of taking an oath places your face in the face of the one the oath is to.
 - This is as “up close and personal” as you can get.

He swore to follow Abraham’s instructions.

- As I said earlier, we do not know who this servant is, but I will say he is one of my most favorite Biblical characters.
 - He is faithful to his master
 - He loves his master and his master’s son
 - He is a man of faith as he prays very specifically soon
 - We must keep in mind that there is no written word yet.
 - I am amazed and impressed with his love and faith
 - I can’t wait to meet him some day

10 Then he loaded ten of Abraham’s camels with all kinds of expensive gifts from his master, and he traveled to distant Aram-naharaim.

- In this culture animals project certain things:
 - To ride a donkey would tell everyone that its rider comes in peace.
 - Jesus rode a donkey’s colt when He entered Jerusalem.
 - Conquerors ride horses, war-horses to be specific.
 - If an army was coming that was led by a warrior on a horse, that warrior would be considered the conqueror.

- But what do camels project?
 - Wealth (great wealth)
 - Abraham's servant loaded 10 of Abraham's camels meaning he has more camels!
 - He loads expensive gifts from his master.
 - He travels approximately 500 miles

Let's process this for a moment:

- He would be traveling with a lot of men (warriors) to guard the wealth
- This means other animals carrying supplies
- This is a very slow process with a lot of moving parts
 - All of this would project great wealth and blessing from the Lord.

There he went to the town where Abraham's brother Nahor had settled.

- This is why some believe this is Eliezer of Damascus
- He would know this land
- He would know who to ask for

¹¹ He made the camels kneel beside a well just outside the town. It was evening, and the women were coming out to draw water.

- I love this servant and his faithfulness.
 - But God is the real hero of this story
 - Pay attention to the timing of this story

- There is no way that the timing of all of these things was coincidence.
 - God was at work and all that was needed was a request from Abraham and the obedience of his servant.
 - Listen to the prayer of this faithful servant

¹² “O Lord, God of my master, Abraham,” he prayed. “Please give me success today, and show unfailing love to my master, Abraham. ¹³ See, I am standing here beside this spring, and the young women of the town are coming out to draw water. ¹⁴ This is my request. I will ask one of them, ‘Please give me a drink from your jug.’ If she says, ‘Yes, have a drink, and I will water your camels, too!’—let her be the one you have selected as Isaac’s wife. This is how I will know that you have shown unfailing love to my master.”

- There is nothing miraculous in that prayer request.
- It is a simple request from a faithful servant, nothing tricky, just faith in the Father who is already at work.

¹⁵ Before he had finished praying,

- I love that phrase,
 - God knew what he was going to ask for and was already answering his prayer before he had asked.
- It is reasonable to conclude that Rebekah had left her house before the servant had prayed for the Father’s help.

- God is good!

he saw a young woman named Rebekah coming out with her water jug on her shoulder.

- “Rebekah” means to tie securely or to bind up
 - There is no doubt that Isaac will be wrapped up by her beauty
 - And soon she will be tying the knot
 - Still, it is an odd name for a baby

She was the daughter of Bethuel, who was the son of Abraham’s brother Nahor and his wife, Milcah.

- Isaac would be marrying his distant cousin.
 - Look at God go!

¹⁶Rebekah was very beautiful and old enough to be married, but she was still a virgin.

- Several things jump out of that sentence to me:
 - The Bible doesn’t call very many people beautiful so she must be drop-dead gorgeous.
 - “Old enough to be married” sounds like she is still pretty young
 - “She was still a virgin” tells me that premarital sex was alive and well back in the day.

She went down to the spring, filled her jug, and came up again. ¹⁷Running over to her, the servant said, “Please give me a little drink of water from your jug.”

- Abraham's servant sees this young lady and is taken by her beauty but there is the prayer request and the faith to believe that God was at work.

18 "Yes, my lord," she answered, "have a drink." And she quickly lowered her jug from her shoulder and gave him a drink.

- This would not have been abnormal but what comes next is!

19 When she had given him a drink, she said, "I'll draw water for your camels, too, until they have had enough to drink." 20 So she quickly emptied her jug into the watering trough and ran back to the well to draw water for all his camels.

- That may not sound like much to us but allow me to express some truth:
 - There are 10 camels and camels can drink up to 25 gallons each
 - But for easy math's sake let's assume they drink 12 gallons each
 - 10 camels needing 12 gallons that's 120 gallons
 - The jug that she would have been carrying would have been approximately 3 gallons
 - A gallon of water weighs approximately 8 pounds
 - So, 3 gallons = 24 pounds of water.
 - If she provides 12 gallons for each of the 10 camels that's 120 gallons which would be 40 trips to the well and back.
 - That's 960 pounds of water
 - If it takes her 3 minutes per fill that's 2 hours of watering.

- She's a worker
- She's beautiful
- She's a keeper
 - Young men don't miss the power of prayer in all of this.
 - The prayers started long before Isaac ever met his bride
 - Dad's never underestimate the power of going before the throne for your children's spouses
 - Young ladies don't wait until you are in a relationship before you start praying for your husband.

21 The servant watched her in silence, wondering whether or not the Lord had given him success in his mission.

- That is an interesting sentence to me
- She had said everything just like he had prayed so, why would he think this way?
 - Because the act was as important as the words.
 - She is still watering the camels as he ponders "is she the one?"

22 Then at last, when the camels had finished drinking,

- Rebekah had passed the test!
 - She had followed through after hours of hard work she had followed through and there is no record of one complaint.
 - We must keep in mind that this man is a stranger to her.

- Yes he has money but we will soon find out that she too comes from wealth.

(side note)

- Rebekah didn't suddenly develop a habit of helping people in need.
- She was taught this behavior
- She respected her elders
- And apparently, she had been taught how to work without complaint.
 - Those things do not “just happen” it is something that our young people need to know if they are to become servants of the most high God.

he took out a gold ring for her nose and two large gold bracelets for her wrists.

- Nose rings in the Bible were not sinful; they were accepted cultural symbols of wealth, status, and beauty, often worn by women. They represented honor, covenant, or engagement.

²³ “Whose daughter are you?” he asked. “And please tell me, would your father have any room to put us up for the night?”

- This is an important sentence because it reveals what the servant did not know.
 - He had been sent to find a young lady who was from Abraham's people.
 - So far God had arranged everything with the proper words and work

- Now the servant will be brought to his knees in worship as she answers this very important question.

²⁴ “I am the daughter of Bethuel,” she replied. “My grandparents are Nahor and Milcah.

- The servant would have known who Nahor and Milcah were.
- I am sure his heart jumped for joy when he heard their names.

²⁵ Yes, we have plenty of straw and feed for the camels, and we have room for guests.”

- This is why I said that she too has come from wealth.
- Only wealthy people would have enough for the servant and all of his entourage.

²⁶ The man bowed low and worshiped the Lord. ²⁷ “Praise the Lord, the God of my master, Abraham,” he said. “The Lord has shown unfailing love and faithfulness to my master, for he has led me straight to my master’s relatives.”

- The best worship is the worship that is pure and spontaneous.
- The servant could not contain his joy for the Lord had allowed him to participate in this epic journey.
- Our hero God the Father had arranged everything in advance
- All that was needed from Abraham and his servant was the faith to ask and the faith to go.

So, the servant bows in worship and the young woman filled with excitement RUNS HOME!

²⁸ The young woman ran home to tell her family everything that had happened.

- I miss being young
- After watering camels for two hours, I would be done
- I would have hijacked a camel and rode it to the house but not Rebekah!

Next, we are introduced to Laban Rebekah's older brother.

- He will show up later and what we will see from him is a deep love of money.

²⁹ Now Rebekah had a brother named Laban, who ran out to meet the man at the spring. ³⁰ He had seen the nose-ring and the bracelets on his sister's wrists and had heard Rebekah tell what the man had said. So, he rushed out to the spring, where the man was still standing beside his camels.

- If you have ever known a person like this, you know exactly who Laban is.

³¹ Laban said to him, "Come and stay with us, you who are blessed by the Lord! Why are you standing here outside the town when I have a room all ready for you and a place prepared for the camels?"

- Laban is already scheming as the draw of the expensive gifts upon the camels' backs call out to him.

32 So the man went home with Laban, and Laban unloaded the camels,

- You get the feeling that Laban couldn't wait to see what was loaded on those 10 camels.

32 So the man went home with Laban, and Laban unloaded the camels, gave him straw for their bedding, fed them, and provided water for the man and the camel drivers to wash their feet. 33 Then food was served. But Abraham's servant said, "I don't want to eat until I have told you why I have come."

- I like this guy; he does not want to waste time nor does he want to buddy up to Laban.
 - So, he says let's get down to business.
 - It also appears to me Bethuel, Laban's dad must be advanced in years.
 - This would make sense due to Abraham's advance age.
 - Like Abraham, it sounds like Bethuel has turned everything over to Laban.

"All right," Laban said, "tell us."

- I think it is important that I point out that Moses, who wrote this under the power of the Holy Spirit, takes the time to repeat the whole story.
 - He could have said, “and the servant told Laban everything that had happened” but he didn’t, why?
 - I believe that Moses wants us to be clear on who the real hero of this story is, its God the Father.
 - He is in every detail of the events of His own.

34 “I am Abraham’s servant,” he explained. 35 “And the Lord has greatly blessed my master; he has become a wealthy man. The Lord has given him flocks of sheep and goats, herds of cattle, a fortune in silver and gold, and many male and female servants and camels and donkeys.

36 “When Sarah, my master’s wife, was very old, she gave birth to my master’s son, and my master has given him everything he owns. 37 And my master made me take an oath. He said, ‘Do not allow my son to marry one of these local Canaanite women.38 Go instead to my father’s house, to my relatives, and find a wife there for my son.’

39 “But I said to my master, ‘What if I can’t find a young woman who is willing to go back with me?’ 40 He responded, ‘The Lord, in whose presence I have lived, will send his angel with you and will make your mission successful. Yes, you must find a wife for my son from among my relatives, from my father’s family. 41 Then you will have fulfilled your obligation. But if you

go to my relatives and they refuse to let her, go with you, you will be free from my oath.'

⁴² "So today when I came to the spring, I prayed this prayer: 'O Lord, God of my master, Abraham, please give me success on this mission. ⁴³ See, I am standing here beside this spring. This is my request. When a young woman comes to draw water, I will say to her, "Please give me a little drink of water from your jug." ⁴⁴ If she says, "Yes, have a drink, and I will draw water for your camels, too," let her be the one you have selected to be the wife of my master's son.'

⁴⁵ "Before I had finished praying in my heart, I saw Rebekah coming out with her water jug on her shoulder. She went down to the spring and drew water. So, I said to her, 'Please give me a drink.' ⁴⁶ She quickly lowered her jug from her shoulder and said, 'Yes, have a drink, and I will water your camels, too!' So, I drank, and then she watered the camels.

⁴⁷ "Then I asked, 'Whose daughter are you?' She replied, 'I am the daughter of Bethuel, and my grandparents are Nahor and Milcah.' So, I put the ring on her nose, and the bracelets on her wrists.

⁴⁸ "Then I bowed low and worshiped the Lord. I praised the Lord, the God of my master, Abraham, because he had led me straight to my master's niece to be his son's wife. ⁴⁹ 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.”

- **Faith often comes in steps**

- **1st Abraham talked to God** about a wife for his son
- **2nd Abraham talked to his servant** and expressed his expectations based upon his prayer to God
- **3rd** was the faith to move and go to Abraham's homeland
- **4th** was the faith that God was already at work and after weeks of travel there would be a young lady ready to return with Abraham's servant.
- **5th** was the faith that the servant was in the right place at the right time by praying a simple prayer that would reveal whether he was or was not.
- **6th** was the faith to allow God do the work.
 - In other words, Rebekah had to show up and show out.
 - She did because God was in this!
- **7th** was the faith that her family would allow her to return to Isaac.

⁵⁰ Then Laban and Bethuel replied, “The Lord has obviously brought you here, so there is nothing we can say. ⁵¹ Here is Rebekah; take her and go. Yes, let her be the wife of your master's son, as the Lord has directed.”

- There was nothing in this faith journey that would have indicated that the answer would have been anything different.
- But we don't ever count our chickens before they hatch.

52 When Abraham's servant heard their answer, he bowed down to the ground and worshiped the Lord.

- The final step in the faith journey is always worship with grateful heart no matter the outcome.

53 Then he brought out silver and gold jewelry and clothing and presented them to Rebekah. He also gave expensive presents to her brother and mother. 54 Then they ate their meal, and the servant and the men with him stayed there overnight.

- This is another indication that Laban and his family are also wealthy.

But early the next morning, Abraham's servant said, "Send me back to my master."

- Abraham's servant is eager to get back
 - It could be joy
 - It could be a feeling that this family could have some other tricks up their sleeve. (Jacob will learn this the hard way)

55 "But we want Rebekah to stay with us at least ten days," her brother and mother said. "Then she can go."

- It could be that mama is not ready to send her baby girl off with a stranger.

56 But he said, "Don't delay me. The Lord has made my mission successful; now send me back so I can return to my master."

57 “Well,” they said, “we’ll call Rebekah and ask her what she thinks.” 58 So they called Rebekah. “Are you willing to go with this man?” they asked her.

And she replied, “Yes, I will go.”

- This says something about Rebekah’s faith
 - Apparently she believes that God is all in this

59 So they said good-bye to Rebekah and sent her away with Abraham’s servant and his men. The woman who had been Rebekah’s childhood nurse went along with her.60 They gave her this blessing as she parted:

***“Our sister, may you become
the mother of many millions!
May your descendants be strong
and conquer the cities of their enemies.”***

- It is interesting to me that they would say such a thing.
- She does become the mother of millions and they do conquer the cities of their enemies.

61 Then Rebekah and her servant girls mounted the camels and followed the man. So, Abraham’s servant took Rebekah and went on his way.

- What a crazy story
 - Can you imagine some rich dude showing up saying that God had told him to come get your daughter?

62 Meanwhile, Isaac, whose home was in the Negev, had returned from Beer-lahai-roi.63 One evening as he was walking and meditating in the fields, he looked up and saw the camels coming.

- There is no doubt that Isaac knows where and why Abraham's servant had left.
 - What a faith journey for him.
 - His daddy almost kills him in the name of the Lord
 - His mother dies after being married to his daddy for over a hundred years.
 - Now, his daddy is old and has turned over his incredible wealth to him and yet he is lonely.
 - There is no doubt Isaac is a man of great faith and it would not surprise me if he too had been praying for his bride.

64 When Rebekah looked up and saw Isaac, she quickly dismounted from her camel. 65 “Who is that man walking through the fields to meet us?” she asked the servant.

- I love, love!

And he replied, “It is my master.” So, Rebekah covered her face with her veil.

- The veil over her face is a signal that she is ready to be married.

- The fact that she had prepared herself with the proper dress says a lot about how she felt about this moment.
 - This is a true love at 1st sight story.

66 Then the servant told Isaac everything he had done.

- I wonder how much Isaac heard.
- There are few things more distracting than a beautiful woman

67 And Isaac brought Rebekah into his mother Sarah's tent, and she became his wife.

- Don't get weirded out by this statement.
- This would be like Isaac inheriting his family home and now he brings his new bride home.

He loved her deeply, and she was a special comfort to him after the death of his mother.

- I love, love!
- He loved her deeply and she was a special comfort to him.
 - That's good stuff.

Closing thoughts:

Romans 8:28-30

28 And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his

purpose. ²⁹ For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. ³⁰ And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.

Proverbs 3:5-6

*Trust in the Lord with all your heart
and lean not on your own understanding;
⁶ in all your ways submit to him,
and he will make your paths straight.*