

### ShalomAZ Ministries

In Pursuit of Israel's Redemption

# "When You Don't Know the Next Step (But God Does)" Rabbi Cosmo Panzetta Devotion and Discussion Questions

Key Passages: Gen. 24; 22:15-24; Psalm 37:23-24; Prov. 3:5-6; Eph. 1:5-6; Num 14:8

Chayei Sarah opens in the sober shadow of loss and the steady light of promise. Sarah has died at 127; Abraham is 147—"old and advanced in years"—and yet the promise marches on. In Genesis 24, there is no thunder from heaven, only the quiet providence of Adonai as Abraham entrusts his servant to find a wife for Isaac from among his own people. Here we witness how God's will often unfolds: not with spectacle, but through oaths in His Name, prayers lifted to Him, worship offered to Him, and steps that He quietly orders.

This chapter gives us a window into real-time discernment—how to walk when details are dim but the Promiser is clear. Abraham remembers the pledge, trusts the character of God, and moves forward in obedient faith. That stance gives his servant a pattern: act on what you know; ask for what you don't; adore when God confirms. "From ADONAI a man's steps are made firm... Though he stumble, he will not fall headlong, for ADONAI is holding his hand." (Ps. 37:23–24)

#### 1. THE LORD GOES BEFORE YOU TO ACCOMPLISH HIS WILL (Gen. 24:6-9)

Eliezer voices the questions we feel: "What if...?" Abraham answers with settled confidence: "ADONAI... will send His angel before you" (Gen 24:7). Abraham does not hand his servant a play-by-play; he hands him a Person to trust. God's will is not about human control but holy confidence. Abraham rests in God's pledge—"To your seed I will give this land"—and releases the outcome to the LORD. The point is not to force results but to trust the God who goes before.

Underneath this trust is a conviction about the *heart* of God's will. Scripture calls it His *delight* (*chafetz*). "If ADONAI is pleased (*chafetz*) with us, He will lead us into that land" (Num. 14:8). And in Messiah we see the motive of that will: "He predestined us for adoption… in keeping with the good pleasure of His will… to the glorious praise of His grace" (Eph. 1:5–6). His will carries kindness. You can take the next step, believing that His desire toward you is good.

Today, declare aloud: "Abba, I trust Your *good pleasure* for my life." Then take one concrete step you've been delaying because you wanted more details.

## 2. FAITHFULLY OBEY WHAT YOU KNOW, EXPECTING FRESH LEADING AS YOU WALK (GEN 24:10-14)

Eliezer doesn't wait for a full blueprint. He obeys the part he knows and travels to Nahor's city. At the well he prays simply and specifically: "ADONAI, the God of Abraham my master, please make something happen before me today, and show chesed to Abraham my master... Let the young woman who says, 'Drink—and I'll also water your camels' be the one You have appointed" (Gen 24:12–14). He asks for a sign that reveals *character*—hospitality, generosity—not a stunt that addresses his anxiety.

This is a pattern for us: (1) **Obey first**—do the clear thing you already know. (2) **Pray clearly**—ask for wise, non-manipulative confirmations. (3) **Hold loosely**—you are following the Shepherd, not forcing an outcome. Obedience invites revelation; as you act on light, more light comes. You don't have to make God's will happen. You do have to walk with Him and keep your heart open.

#### 3. WALK IN PEACE, EXPECTING THAT HE WILL COME THROUGH (GEN 24:15-27)

"Before he had finished speaking, behold—Rebekah..." (Gen 24:15). While the prayer is still on Eliezer's lips, the answer is already in motion. After she embodies the very sign he prayed, Eliezer bows: "Blessed be ADONAI... who has not forsaken His loyalty and His truth... As for me, ADONAI has guided me in the way" (Gen 24:27). Love and truth—chesed and emet—are the hands that lead him. Peace rises where worship lives.

When the testimony is heard, Rivkah's family discerns the fingerprint of Heaven: "The matter proceeds from ADONAI" (Gen 24:50–51). That's the quiet resonance of God's leading. You may still face delays, reroutes, or "not now," but you can walk unhurried because His leadership is real. Keep watching for alignment with His Word, weighing with humility, and worshiping when He confirms. And practice "peace before proof." Spend time in worship, thanking God for guidance you cannot yet see.

#### **CONCLUSION**

The chapter ends in rest. Isaac, meditating at dusk, lifts his eyes; Rebekah lifts hers. "He loved her. So Isaac was comforted" (Gen 24:67). God's path is rarely the path of least resistance, but it is always the path to *shalom*. This is the fruit of walking in His delight—comfort after sorrow, steadiness after strain, love after long waiting.

So we yield our timeline to the One who holds time. "Trust in ADONAI with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight" (Proverbs 3:5–6). And if you stumble on the way? "Though he stumble, he will not fall headlong, for ADONAI is holding his hand" (Psalm 37:24). Rest in the good pleasure of His will.

Where have you been forcing outcomes? Name it before the Lord and release it. Ask Him for His shalom to replace your hurry.

#### **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

- 1. Where do you see the "quiet providence" of God at work in Genesis 24, and how does that shape your view of guidance?
- 2. In what ways does believing that God's will is His *good pleasure* (Eph 1:5–6) change your willingness to obey?
- 3. Which of the three practices (Obey first / Pray clearly / Hold loosely) do you need most right now—and why?
- 4. Describe a time when you sensed, like Laban and Bethuel, "The matter proceeds from ADONAI." What confirmed that for you?
- 5. What practical rhythms help you "walk in peace before proof" when you don't see the full picture?

#### **CLOSING PRAYER:**

Abba, in Yeshua's Name, we surrender our wills to Your delight. Let what pleases You become what pleases us. Thank You that You go before us; as we obey what we know, please confirm what we don't. Close the doors that need to shut, open the ones You've ordained, and steady our hearts with *shalom*. Give us ears to hear, eyes to see, and a heart of worship that trusts Your leading. Keep our steps from stumbling, and when we do, uphold us with Your hand. We trust the good pleasure of Your will.

In Yeshua's mighty Name, amen.