

Genesis 24:1 – 67

¹ Now Abraham was old, advanced in age; and the LORD had blessed Abraham in every way. ² Abraham said to his servant, the oldest of his household, who had charge of all that he owned, 'Please place your hand under my thigh, ³ and I will make you swear by the LORD, the God of heaven and the God of earth, that you shall not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, among whom I live, ⁴ but you will go to my country and to my relatives, and take a wife for my son Isaac.' ⁵ The servant said to him, 'Suppose the woman is not willing to follow me to this land; should I take your son back to the land from where you came?' ⁶ Then Abraham said to him, 'Beware that you do not take my son back there! ⁷ The LORD, the God of heaven, who took me from my father's house and from the land of my birth, and who spoke to me and who swore to me, saying, 'To your descendants I will give this land,' He will send His angel before you, and you will take a wife for my son from there. ⁸ But if the woman is not willing to follow you, then you will be free from this my oath; only do not take my son back there.' ⁹ So the servant placed his hand under the thigh of Abraham his master, and swore to him concerning this matter. ¹⁰ Then the servant took ten camels from the camels of his master, and set out with a variety of good things of his master's in his hand; and he arose and went to Mesopotamia, to the city of Nahor. ¹¹ He made the camels kneel down outside the city by the well of water at evening time, the time when women go out to draw water. ¹² He said, 'O LORD, the God of my master Abraham, please grant me success today, and show lovingkindness to my master Abraham. ¹³ Behold, I am standing by the spring, and the daughters of the men of the city are coming out to draw water; ¹⁴ now may it be that the girl to whom I say, 'Please let down your jar so that I may drink,' and who answers, 'Drink, and I will water your camels also'--may she be the one whom You have appointed for Your servant Isaac; and by this I will know that You have shown lovingkindness to my master.' ¹⁵ Before he had finished speaking, behold, Rebekah who was born to Bethuel the son of Milcah, the wife of Abraham's brother Nahor, came out with her jar on her shoulder. ¹⁶ The girl was very beautiful, a virgin, and no man had had relations with her; and she went down to the spring and filled her jar and came up. ¹⁷ Then the servant ran to meet her, and said, 'Please let me drink a little water from your jar.' ¹⁸ She said, 'Drink, my lord'; and she quickly lowered her jar to her hand, and gave him a drink. ¹⁹ Now when she had finished giving him a drink, she said, 'I will draw also for your camels until they have finished drinking.' ²⁰ So she quickly emptied her jar into the trough, and ran back to the well to draw, and she drew for all his camels. ²¹ Meanwhile, the man was gazing at her in silence, to know whether the LORD had made his journey successful or not. ²² When the camels had finished drinking, the man took a gold ring weighing a half-shekel and two bracelets for her wrists weighing ten shekels in gold, ²³ and said, 'Whose daughter are you? Please tell me, is there room for us to lodge in your father's house?' ²⁴ She said to him, 'I am the daughter of Bethuel, the son of Milcah, whom she bore to Nahor.' ²⁵ Again she said to him, 'We have plenty of both straw and feed, and room to lodge in.' ²⁶ Then the man bowed low and worshiped the LORD. ²⁷ He said, 'Blessed be the LORD, the God of my master Abraham, who has not forsaken His lovingkindness and His truth toward my master; as for me, the LORD has guided me in the way to the house of my master's brothers.' ²⁸ Then the girl ran and told her mother's household about these things. ²⁹ Now Rebekah had a brother whose name was Laban; and Laban ran outside to the man at the spring. ³⁰ When he saw the ring and the bracelets on his sister's wrists, and when he heard the words of Rebekah his sister, saying, 'This is what the man said to me,' he went to the man; and behold, he was standing by the camels at the spring. ³¹ And he said, 'Come in, blessed of the LORD! Why do you stand outside since I have prepared the house, and a place for the camels?' ³² So the man entered the house. Then Laban unloaded the camels, and he gave straw and feed to the camels, and water to wash his feet and the feet of the men who were with him. ³³ But when food was set before him to eat, he said, 'I will not eat until I have told my business.' And he said, 'Speak on.' ³⁴ So he said, 'I am Abraham's servant. ³⁵ The LORD has greatly blessed my master, so that he has become rich; and He has given him flocks and herds, and silver and gold, and servants and maids, and camels and donkeys. ³⁶ Now Sarah my master's wife bore a son to my master in her old age, and he has given him 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 live; ³⁸ but you shall go to my father's house and to my relatives, and take a wife for my son.' ³⁹ I said to my master, 'Suppose the woman does not follow me.' ⁴⁰ He said to me, 'The LORD, before whom I have walked, will send His angel with you to make your journey successful, and you will take a wife for my son from my relatives and from my father's house; ⁴¹ then you will be free from my oath, when you come to my relatives; and if they do not give her to you, you will be free from my oath.' ⁴² So I came today to the spring, and said, 'O LORD, the God of my master Abraham, if now You will make my journey on which I go successful; ⁴³ behold, I am standing by the spring, and may it be that the maiden who comes out to draw, and to whom I say, 'Please let me drink a little water from your jar'; ⁴⁴ and she will say to me, 'You 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 jar on her shoulder, and went down to the spring

and drew, and I said to her, ‘Please let me drink.’⁴⁶ She quickly lowered her jar from her shoulder, and said, ‘Drink, and I will water your camels also’; so I drank, and she watered the camels also.⁴⁷ Then I asked her, and said, ‘Whose daughter are you?’ And she said, ‘The daughter of Bethuel, Nahor’s son, whom Milcah bore to him’; and I put the ring on her nose, and the bracelets on her wrists.⁴⁸ And I bowed low and worshiped the LORD, and blessed the LORD, the God of my master Abraham, who had guided me in the right way to take the daughter of my master’s kinsman for his son.⁴⁹ So now if you are going to deal kindly and truly with my master, tell me; and if not, let me know, that I may turn to the right hand or the left.’⁵⁰ Then Laban and Bethuel replied, ‘The matter comes from the LORD; so we cannot speak to you bad or good.’⁵¹ Here is Rebekah 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 ground before the LORD.⁵³ The servant brought out articles of silver and articles of gold, and garments, and gave them to Rebekah; he also gave precious things to her brother and to her mother.⁵⁴ Then he and the men who were with him ate and drank and spent the night. When they arose in the morning, he said, ‘Send me away to my master.’⁵⁵ But her brother and her mother said, ‘Let the girl stay with us a few days, say ten; afterward she may go.’⁵⁶ 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 And they said, ‘We will call the girl and consult her wishes.’⁵⁸ Then they called Rebekah and said to her, ‘Will you go with this man?’ And she said, ‘I will go.’⁵⁹ Thus they sent away their sister Rebekah and her nurse with Abraham’s servant and his men.⁶⁰ They blessed Rebekah and said to her, ‘May you, our sister, become thousands of ten thousands, and may your descendants possess the gate of those who hate them.’⁶¹ Then Rebekah arose with her maids, and they mounted the camels and followed the man. So the servant took Rebekah and departed.⁶² Now Isaac had come from going to Beer-lahai-roi; for he was living in the Negev.⁶³ Isaac went out to meditate in the field toward evening; and he lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, camels were coming.⁶⁴ Rebekah lifted up her eyes, and when she saw Isaac she dismounted from the camel.⁶⁵ She said to the servant, ‘Who is that man walking in the field to meet us?’ And the servant said, ‘He is my master.’ Then she took her veil and covered herself.⁶⁶ The servant told Isaac all the things that he had done.⁶⁷ Then Isaac brought her into his mother Sarah’s tent, and he took Rebekah, and she became his wife, and he loved her; thus Isaac was comforted after his mother’s death.

Historical and Cultural Background

- Abraham’s servant was named Eliezer (Gen.15), which means ‘helper’ or ‘God is my helper.’
- Recall that Abraham’s family was big on hospitality, so the servant looks for a young woman who would match that value. Because camels drink so much (forty gallons, according to some estimates), men usually drew for them, while women watered the rest of the herd (Gen.29:10; Ex.2:16; 1 Sam.9:11).
- ‘Beer-lahai-roi’ was the well of water where Hagar had encountered God in Genesis 16:14. It meant ‘well of the living one who sees (me).’
- Note: Scholars used to dispute the date of the Abraham story because they believed that camels were not domesticated until 1000 BC. However, we now have texts that describe the domestication of camels: from Alalakh (18th century BC); from Old Babylonian lexical texts from the same period; from a Sumerian text from Nippur, which mentions the use of camel’s milk. In addition, camel bones have been discovered in contexts that are plausibly domestic: in Egypt and Arad (2900 BC); in Mari (2500 BC); in Be’er Resisim (1900 BC); in Gezer, Jericho, el-Jisr, Ta’nach, and Megiddo (1800 BC).¹

¹ P. Wapnish, “Camel,” in *The Oxford Encyclopedia of Archaeology in the Near East*; “Camel,” in *Encyclopedia Judaica*; J. Zarins, “Camel,” in *The Anchor Bible Dictionary*; K.A. Kitchen, *Israel and the Ancient Orient*; and N. Sarna, *Genesis*.

Questions

1. Introduction: story of how I met Ming, really felt a connection along our values (risk, urban ministry, living in community with other Christians, love for Scripture, care for the poor, giving and generosity, teaching and mentoring others, family as part of ministry, possibly adopting or foster parenting), and then married her
2. What are the values that Abraham and Sarah seem to have as a family?
 - a. Personal faith in God
 - b. Trust in God's word, that God wants to bless the whole world
 - c. Hope that God will bring life out of death, blessing and inheritance
 - d. Learning that God wants them to honor their marriage because it was His original design
 - e. Their sense that God is taking them on an adventure
 - f. Courage (Abraham rescued Lot) and not acting out of fear (like Abraham lying about Sarah)
 - g. Prayer for others
 - h. Hospitality (they made a lavish meal for God)
3. What does Abraham's planning show about his faith?
 - a. Faith, trust, adventure, hope
 - b. A sense that this is his last act as a father to bless his son – with a wife who will match him. He knows from his own life experience and marriage to Sarah that God wanted Sarah to have faith and trust God as well. It's not enough just to have a beautiful, fertile, trophy wife. Isaac had developed a sense of trust in God that God would bring his own body into life back from death. Rebekah had to be a bride to match. Abraham is utterly serious about it. He sends the servant he most trusts.
 - c. A sense that God's promise that Isaac and his descendants will inherit this land, means that Isaac needs to stay in the land (v.7)
 - d. Trust in God to prepare the way, and prepare the young woman (v.7)
 - e. He somehow knows that God will send an 'angel' (literally, messenger) with Eliezer to guide him (v.7). This is striking. How does Abraham know this? The first time an angel of God appeared in the text of Genesis, it was with Hagar when she ran away, and came back to Abraham and Sarah (Gen.16:7 – 16). The second time angels of God appeared was with God when God came to visit Abraham and Sarah (Gen.18) and then the two angels went to warn Lot about Sodom and Gomorrah (Gen.19:1). The third time an angel of God appeared was when Hagar and Ishmael were sent into the wilderness and needed water, food, and protection (Gen.21:17). The fourth time was when the angel stopped Abraham from killing Isaac (Gen.22:11) and then restated the creational blessing (Gen.22:15). So it seems like Abraham understands that God appears personally or speaks personally through 'the angel' He sends.
 - f. Respect for the girl's free will (v.8)
 - g. How does he know all this? Apparently he's been praying and God has been preparing him to start this process.
4. What does the servant's approach suggest about his faith in God? How does he know how to find a good match?
 - a. He looks for a match in values, namely the values of hospitality, sexual purity, integrity, kindness
 - b. He sets up a 'test' or – a better paradigm – looks for a 'context' in which a girl's character qualities would be evident.
 - c. Illus: Wayne Gretzky was the greatest ice hockey player. He was once asked, 'What makes you so great?' He replied, 'Most players go to where the puck is. I go to where the puck should be.'
 - d. Application: Are you likely to find a person with great faith and values at a pub/bar/club??? No – you'll find that person serving, ministering, caring, on the mission field, or doing something important. Because that's where they should be. It's not where people are, but where they should be, if they have God's deepest values in their heart.
5. What is Rebekah like?
 - a. Beautiful (v.16)
 - b. Moral (a virgin) (v.16) – it is unclear whether the servant Eliezer knows this because God tells him in prayer, or if the narrator is just disclosing it to us to build our own sense of surety that this is a good match for Isaac.
 - c. Very hospitable, generous, works hard on behalf of a stranger (v.18 – 20)

- d. She describes her family before she says her name (v.24) – probably a good way to introduce herself to a stranger. She also mentions her grandmother Milcah and grandfather Nahor but not her mother.
 - e. Application: Are these difficult values and convictions to cultivate in one’s heart? How do you learn and internalize values?
 - f. Her reaction to being given a gold ring and two bracelets is not given (v.22). Why not?
6. How does Eliezer’s negotiation with the family reflect faith or lack of faith?
- a. We are introduced to Laban, who will play a big role in the life of Rebekah and Isaac’s son Jacob. What is he like? He ‘saw the ring and the bracelets’ (v.30). That seems to indicate that he takes note of how wealthy Abraham’s family is.
 - b. Eliezer speaks before eating, so as not to obligate himself by accepting their hospitality first. He wants to be clear about his purpose.
 - c. He names ‘Abraham’ and not ‘Abram’ and then talks about Sarah bearing a son ‘in her old age’ because they would have remembered Abram and Sarai (v.34 – 35)
 - d. He talks about his prayer and God’s guidance (v.40 – 49)
 - e. But the family has a hard time letting go (v.55) when they say, ‘Let the girl stay with us a few days, say ten.’ Literally, ‘a few days or ten,’ is ambiguous and open ended. ‘‘Days’ in the plural sometimes means a year, in which case the ten would refer to ten months.’²
7. Back to Rebekah’s character and implicit faith
- a. Does Rebekah stall and side with her family? No. She refuses to yield to family pressure. She adheres to the value of Genesis 2:24, ‘A man [and woman] will leave his father and mother and cleave to his wife [her husband].’ This shows her obedience to God and God’s creation vision. Rebekah’s marriagability value and faith are running high!
 - b. How does she have the courage to go with a stranger to marry someone she’s never met?
 - i. Stories passed down to her from her family, not only about her uncle Abram and aunt Sarai, but farther back? Presumably she might know something about the story going back to the garden.
 - ii. The Adam and Eve story started near a supernatural source of water, so meeting someone near a spring who offers marriage sounds familiar. She might have known that Abram and Sarai were like a new Adam and Eve.
 - iii. Rebekah seems to have her own relationship with God, so God could be speaking to her and leading her.
 - iv. She gets to hear the account of Eliezer, which builds her sense of faith and what this family is all about.
 - c. Application: What does this mean for us?
 - i. If we put ourselves into Rebekah’s shoes, what we learn is what to listen for in friendship, partnership, and especially marriage: A retelling of God’s story. There is something strangely familiar about what she hears and experiences.
 - ii. If we put ourselves into the position of Eliezer, Abraham, or even God, what we learn is that our testimony will draw out the appropriate friend, partner, or spouse. It is even likely that Rebekah is being shown to be the true heir of Abraham and Sarah, for Rebekah even more than Isaac lives out the character qualities connected to vibrant relationship with God: hospitality, generosity, morally pure. Later we will find that Rebekah receives a word from God about the twins in her womb (25:22 – 23), then acts in spite of Isaac and his meat-driven appetite to gain for Jacob the blessing (27:5ff.). Significantly, Rebekah says to Jacob, ‘My son, *obey my voice...*’ (27:43) and the text says this without being literarily critical of Rebekah. This is a remarkable woman, spiritually speaking the true heir of Abraham and Sarah.
8. How do Isaac and Rebekah finally meet?
- a. Isaac is prayerful, spending time at a holy site
 - b. Rebekah is appropriately modest
 - c. Rebekah replaces Sarah as the matriarch of the family/clan
 - d. Isaac loves her
 - e. What other couples met by a well of water?

² Robert Alter, *Genesis* (New York: W. W. Norton, 1996), p.121

- i. Adam and Eve, by the spring flowing out of Eden that divided into four rivers
 - ii. Jacob will meet Rachel by a well
 - iii. Moses will meet Zipporah by a well
 - iv. Saul meets women going to draw water from a well
 - v. Jesus meets a woman by a well
 - vi. This must be reassuring for Rebekah, who recognized the pattern of God-blessed betrothal by a source of water
9. In what sense is Abraham as father acting like God as father? This section bears several important echoes of retelling Genesis 1 and 2. This section, along with Genesis 23, is sandwiched in between the chiasmic narratives of Genesis 12 – 22 and Genesis 25 – 35. It is not included in them.
- a. Genesis 1 begins with an introduction of ‘heaven and earth.’ In Genesis 24, the story begins when Abraham prays and calls God, ‘God of heaven and God of earth’ (Gen.24:3). One major idea of Genesis 1 is God making life to bear more life. The major idea of Genesis 24 is God needing to provide a bride for Isaac so they might together bear more life.
 - b. Genesis 1 poetically narrates God speaking ten times to make a beautiful world for humanity. In Genesis 24, Abraham’s servant Eliezer brings ten camels, and two bracelets for Rebekah weighing ten shekels in gold. Laban and Bethuel ask for Rebekah to stay for ten days, which Eliezer refuses. Then they bless Rebekah to be mother of thousands, even ten thousands. The pattern of ten leading to something new hold here – it is especially poetic that it leads to a new marriage, a new Adam and Eve in the form of Isaac and Rebekah.
 - c. Genesis 1 ends with a blessing of fruitfulness, as does this passage.
 - d. Genesis 1 involves seven days of creation. In Genesis 24, Rebekah speaks seven times, which *might* be significant because it presents her as portraying certain critical qualities like faith, hospitality, and identity:
 - i. ¹⁸ She said, ‘Drink, my lord’; and she quickly lowered her jar to her hand, and gave him a drink.
 - ii. ¹⁹ Now when she had finished giving him a drink, she said, ‘I will draw also for your camels until they have finished drinking.’
 - iii. ²⁴ She said to him, ‘I am the daughter of Bethuel, the son of Milcah, whom she bore to Nahor.’
 - iv. ²⁵ Again she said to him, ‘We have plenty of both straw and feed, and room to lodge in.’
 - v. ³⁰ When he saw the ring and the bracelets on his sister’s wrists, and when he heard the words of Rebekah his sister, saying, ‘This is what the man said to me,’
 - vi. ⁵⁸ Then they called Rebekah and said to her, ‘Will you go with this man?’ And she said, ‘I will go.’
 - vii. ⁶⁵ She said to the servant, ‘Who is that man walking in the field to meet us?’
 - e. In Genesis 2, God provides Adam with a bride who is bone of his bone and flesh of his flesh. This is similar to Genesis 24, where God, through Abraham as father, provides Isaac with a bride from a people who are related to him: ‘my country... my relatives’ (Gen.24:4).
 - f. In Genesis 2, God completed the creation story with the consummation of a marriage, in Eden, near a source of water which divided and became four rivers. Genesis 24 ends with the consummation of a marriage, near a well named ‘well of living water.’
10. Is this story also a foreshadowing? Abraham (father of nations) sends Eliezer (the helper) to gather a bride for his son Isaac. It’s an archetype: The Father sends the Helper to gather a bride for His Son... intriguing!

Literary Analysis of Genesis 24

¹ Now Abraham was old, advanced in age; and the LORD had blessed Abraham in every way. ² Abraham said to his servant, the oldest of his household, who had charge of all that he owned, 'Please place your hand under my thigh, ³ and I will make you swear by the LORD, the God of heaven and the God of earth, that you shall not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, among whom I live, ⁴ but you will go to my country and to my relatives, and take a wife for my son Isaac.'

The Servant's First Speech

⁵ The servant said to him, 'Suppose the woman is not willing to follow me to this land; should I take your son back to the land from where you came?'

⁶ Then Abraham said to him, 'Beware that you do not take my son back there! ⁷ The LORD, the God of heaven, who took me from my father's house and from the land of my birth, and who spoke to me and who swore to me, saying, 'To your descendants I will give this land,' He will send His angel before you, and you will take a wife for my son from there. ⁸ But if the woman is not willing to follow you, then you will be free from this my oath; only do not take my son back there.'

The Servant's Second Speech

⁹ So the servant placed his hand under the thigh of Abraham his master, and swore to him concerning this matter. ¹⁰ Then the servant took ten camels from the camels of his master, and set out with a variety of good things of his master's in his hand; and he arose and went to Mesopotamia, to the city of Nahor. ¹¹ He made the camels kneel down outside the city by the well of water at evening time, the time when women go out to draw water. ¹² He said, 'O LORD, the God of my master Abraham, please grant me success today, and show lovingkindness to my master Abraham. ¹³ Behold, I am standing by the spring, and the daughters of the men of the city are coming out to draw water; ¹⁴ now may it be that the girl to whom I say, 'Please let down your jar so that I may drink,' and who answers, 'Drink, and I will water your camels also'--may she be the one whom You have appointed for Your servant Isaac; and by this I will know that You have shown lovingkindness to my master.'

¹⁵ Before he had finished speaking, behold, Rebekah who was born to Bethuel the son of Milcah, the wife of Abraham's brother Nahor, came out with her jar on her shoulder. ¹⁶ The girl was very beautiful, a virgin, and no man had had relations with her; and she went down to the spring and filled her jar and came up. ¹⁷ Then the servant ran to meet her, and said, 'Please let me drink a little water from your jar.'

¹⁸ She said, 'Drink, my lord'; and she quickly lowered her jar to her hand, and gave him a drink. ¹⁹ Now when she had finished giving him a drink, she said, 'I will draw also for your camels until they have finished drinking.' ²⁰ So she quickly emptied her jar into the trough, and ran back to the well to draw, and she drew for all his camels. ²¹ Meanwhile, the man was gazing at her in silence, to know whether the LORD had made his journey successful or not.

The Servant's Third Speech

²² When the camels had finished drinking, the man took a gold ring weighing a half-shekel and two bracelets for her wrists weighing ten shekels in gold, ²³ and said, 'Whose daughter are you? Please tell me, is there room for us to lodge in your father's house?'

²⁴ She said to him, 'I am the daughter of Bethuel, the son of Milcah, whom she bore to Nahor.' ²⁵ Again she said to him, 'We have plenty of both straw and feed, and room to lodge in.'

The Servant's Fourth Speech

²⁶ Then the man bowed low and worshiped the LORD. ²⁷ He said, 'Blessed be the LORD, the God of my master Abraham, who has not forsaken His lovingkindness and His truth toward my master; as for me, the LORD has guided me in the way to the house of my master's brothers.'

²⁸ Then the girl ran and told her mother's household about these things. ²⁹ Now Rebekah had a brother whose name was Laban; and Laban ran outside to the man at the spring. ³⁰ When he saw the ring and the bracelets on his sister's wrists, and when he heard the words of Rebekah his sister, saying, 'This is what the man said to me,' he went to the

man; and behold, he was standing by the camels at the spring. ³¹ And he said, ‘Come in, blessed of the LORD! Why do you stand outside since I have prepared the house, and a place for the camels?’ ³² So the man entered the house. Then Laban unloaded the camels, and he gave straw and feed to the camels, and water to wash his feet and the feet of the men who were with him.

The Servant’s Fifth Speech

³³ But when food was set before him to eat, he said, ‘I will not eat until I have told my business.’ And he said, ‘Speak on.’

The Servant’s Sixth Speech

³⁴ So he said, ‘I am Abraham’s servant. ³⁵ The LORD has greatly blessed my master, so that he has become rich; and He has given him flocks and herds, and silver and gold, and servants and maids, and camels and donkeys. ³⁶ Now Sarah my master’s wife bore a son to my master in her old age, and he has given him all that he has.

<p>² Abraham said to his servant, the oldest of his household, who had charge of all that he owned, ‘Please place your hand under my thigh, ³ and I will make you swear by the LORD, the God of heaven and the God of earth, that</p> <p>you shall not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, among whom I live, ⁴ but you will go to my country and to my relatives, and take a wife for my son Isaac.’</p> <p>⁵ The servant said to him, ‘Suppose the woman is not willing to follow me to this land; should I take your son back to the land from where you came?’</p> <p>⁶ Then Abraham said to him, ‘Beware that you do not take my son back there! ⁷ The LORD, the God of heaven, who took me from my father’s house and from the land of my birth, and who spoke to me and who swore to me, saying, ‘To your descendants I will give this land,’ He will send His angel before you, and you will take a wife for my son from there. ⁸ But if the woman is not willing to follow you, then you will be free from this my oath; only do not take my son back there.’</p>	<p>³⁷ My master made me swear, saying,</p> <p>‘You shall not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, in whose land I live; ³⁸ but you shall go to my father’s house and to my relatives, and take a wife for my son.’</p> <p>³⁹ I said to my master, ‘Suppose the woman does not follow me.’</p> <p>⁴⁰ He said to me, ‘The LORD, before whom I have walked, will send His angel with you to make your journey successful, and you will take a wife for my son from my relatives and from my father’s house; ⁴¹ then you will be free from my oath, when you come to my relatives; and if they do not give her to you, you will be free from my oath.’</p>
--	---

<p>¹¹ He made the camels kneel down outside the city by the well of water at evening time, the time when women go out to draw water.</p> <p>¹² He said, ‘O LORD, the God of my master Abraham, please grant me success today, and show lovingkindness to my master Abraham. ¹³ Behold, I am standing by the spring, and the daughters of the men of the city are coming out to draw water; ¹⁴ now may it be that the girl to whom I say, ‘Please let down your jar so that I may drink,’ and who answers, ‘Drink, and I will water your camels also’ --may she be the one whom You have appointed for Your servant Isaac; and by this I will know that You have shown lovingkindness to my master.’</p>	<p>⁴² So I came today to the spring,</p> <p>and said, ‘O LORD, the God of my master Abraham, if now You will make my journey on which I go successful; ⁴³ behold, I am standing by the spring, and may it be that the maiden who comes out to draw, and to whom I say, ‘Please let me drink a little water from your jar’; ⁴⁴ and she will say to me, ‘You drink, and I will draw for your camels also’; let her be the woman whom the LORD has appointed for my master’s son.’</p>
---	--

<p>¹⁵ Before he had finished speaking, behold, Rebekah who was born to Bethuel the son of Milcah, the wife of Abraham's brother Nahor, came out with her jar on her shoulder. ¹⁶ The girl was very beautiful, a virgin, and no man had had relations with her; and she went down to the spring and filled her jar and came up. ¹⁷ Then the servant ran to meet her, and said, 'Please let me drink a little water from your jar.'</p> <p>¹⁸ She said, 'Drink, my lord'; and she quickly lowered her jar to her hand, and gave him a drink. ¹⁹ Now when she had finished giving him a drink, she said, 'I will draw also for your camels until they have finished drinking.' ²⁰ So she quickly emptied her jar into the trough, and ran back to the well to draw, and she drew for all his camels. ²¹ Meanwhile, the man was gazing at her in silence, to know whether the LORD had made his journey successful or not. ²² When the camels had finished drinking, the man took a gold ring weighing a half-shekel and two bracelets for her wrists weighing ten shekels in gold,</p> <p>²³ and said, 'Whose daughter are you? Please tell me, is there room for us to lodge in your father's house?'</p> <p>²⁴ She said to him, 'I am the daughter of Bethuel, the son of Milcah, whom she bore to Nahor.' ²⁵ Again she said to him, 'We have plenty of both straw and feed, and room to lodge in.'</p> <p>²⁶ Then the man bowed low and worshiped the LORD. ²⁷ He said, 'Blessed be the LORD, the God of my master Abraham, who has not forsaken His lovingkindness and His truth toward my master; as for me, the LORD has guided me in the way to the house of my master's brothers.'</p>	<p>⁴⁵ Before I had finished speaking in my heart, behold, Rebekah came out with her jar on her shoulder, and went down to the spring and drew, and I said to her, 'Please let me drink.'</p> <p>⁴⁶ She quickly lowered her jar from her shoulder, and said, 'Drink, and I will water your camels also'; so I drank, and she watered the camels also.</p> <p>⁴⁷ Then I asked her, and said, 'Whose daughter are you?'</p> <p>And she said, 'The daughter of Bethuel, Nahor's son, whom Milcah bore to him'; and I put the ring on her nose, and the bracelets on her wrists.</p> <p>⁴⁸ And I bowed low and worshiped the LORD, and blessed the LORD, the God of my master Abraham, who had guided me in the right way to take the daughter of my master's kinsman for his son. ⁴⁹ So now if you are going to deal kindly and truly with my master, tell me; and if not, let me know, that I may turn to the right hand or the left.'</p>
--	--

⁵⁰ Then Laban and Bethuel replied, 'The matter comes from the LORD; so we cannot speak to you bad or good. ⁵¹ Here is Rebekah 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 ground before the LORD. ⁵³ The servant brought out articles of silver and articles of gold, and garments, and gave them to Rebekah; he also gave precious things to her brother and to her mother. ⁵⁴ Then he and the men who were with him ate and drank and spent the night.

The Servant's Seventh Speech

When they arose in the morning, he said, 'Send me away to my master.' ⁵⁵ But her brother and her mother said, 'Let the girl stay with us a few days, say ten; afterward she may go.'

The Servant's Eighth Speech

⁵⁶ 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 And they said, 'We will call the girl and consult her wishes.' ⁵⁸ Then they called Rebekah and said to her, 'Will you go with this man?' And she said, 'I will go.' ⁵⁹ Thus they sent away their sister Rebekah and her nurse with Abraham's servant and his men. ⁶⁰ They blessed Rebekah and said to her, 'May you, our sister, become

thousands of ten thousands, and may your descendants possess the gate of those who hate them.’⁶¹ Then Rebekah arose with her maids, and they mounted the camels and followed the man. So the servant took Rebekah and departed.

⁶² Now Isaac had come from going to Beer-lahai-roi; for he was living in the Negev. ⁶³ Isaac went out to meditate in the field toward evening; and he lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, camels were coming. ⁶⁴ Rebekah lifted up her eyes, and when she saw Isaac she dismounted from the camel. ⁶⁵ She said to the servant, ‘Who is that man walking in the field to meet us?’

The Servant’s Ninth Speech

And the servant said, ‘He is my master.’ Then she took her veil and covered herself. ⁶⁶ The servant told Isaac all the things that he had done. ⁶⁷ Then Isaac brought her into his mother Sarah’s tent, and he took Rebekah, and she became his wife, and he loved her; thus Isaac was comforted after his mother’s death.