

LESSON 22
Genesis 24:28 - 67

Fellowship question: What comes more naturally to you when an opportunity presents itself? Are you cautious and carefully investigate the option, or do you jump right in?

OBSERVATION – Lord, help me to discover it!

Skim Genesis 24:1-27 to refresh your memory of Abraham's servant and his assignment to procure a bride for Isaac, Abraham's son.

Now read verses 28-67.

1. List the events of Chapter 24: (verses covered in Lesson 21 are done for you)

- (v. 1-9) Abraham sends his senior servant to find a wife for Isaac from the land of Abraham's relatives.
Servant swears:
 - a. he will find a wife for Isaac from the land of Abraham's relatives (not from the daughters of the Canaanites) and
 - b. he will not take Isaac back to Mesopotamia.
- (v. 10-14) Servant journeys (with camels and gifts) to the city of Nahor. Near a spring outside the city, the servant asks God to reveal the woman he seeks by two criteria:
 - 1) he will ask her for a drink for himself
 - 2) she will give him water and then (of her own volition) water his camels also
- (v. 15-21) Rebekah (Abraham's great-niece) comes on the scene and fulfills the criteria
- (v. 22-24) Servant gives her gifts and inquires who she is; she invites him to her family's home for lodging; servant worships the LORD.
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2. Re-read chapter 24, looking for details about the servant, Rebekah, Laban, and Isaac. What does the Text tell you about each of them and what can you deduce about them from their actions?

From the Text

My Deductions

The Servant

<u>From the Text</u>	<u>My Deductions</u>
Rebekah	
Laban	
Isaac	

3. List the choices/decisions that are made the narrative of chapter 24, and note who is making them:

Skill Builder

Reread the passage; what else stands out?

Further Observations

Themes (Main Ideas)

INTERPRETATION – Lord, help me to understand it.

4. A substantial amount of papyrus was used to record the quest to find a wife for Isaac. The event was important enough to be told and then recounted immediately in the narrative. Discovering New Testament parallels may be enlightening as to possible reasons behind this:
- a. Starting with the following simple summation of chapter 24, use your observations and what you have learned over the course of this study to explore the nuances of the statement. Some examples are given to get you started.

Father Abraham	→ sends a servant	→ to find a bride	→ for his son, Isaac.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • loves Isaac (Gen 22:2) • wealthy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • trustworthy • his master's representative 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • chosen by God • chooses to go 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • his father's only begotten son (Gen 22:2) • child of the promise

b. Now consider how this parallels the gospel of Jesus Christ and the believer's response to it. Use the cross references below (or find your own!) and add what you discover:

God, the Father,	→ utilizes a Helper	→ to procure a bride	→ for His Son.
John 17:23	John 6:44	Ephesians 5:25-27	John 3:16
Philippians 4:19	John 16:13	Revelation 21:9-10	Acts 13:32-33
Ephesians 1:3-14	Ephesians 1:3-14	Ephesians 1:3-14	Ephesians 1:3-14
		2 Thessalonians 2:13	Hebrews 1:2

Skill Builder

5. Identify Spiritual Principles: (Refer to p.11- 4 to review the concept.)
- What statements of truth about the themes and main ideas of Genesis 24:28 – 67 can be declared?
 - What does Genesis 24:28-67 reveal about God's character?
 - What do you know to be true according to God's Word that is applicable across time and culture?

APPLICATION – Lord, help me to live it!

6. Consider what it cost Rebekah to choose to believe and follow the servant to become the bride of the son. Through her willingness and obedience, she filled a part in God's promises to Abraham. What has it cost you to become the bride of the Son? In willingness and obedience, how have you been utilized by God in His story?
7. As a follower of Jesus Christ, His Spirit resides in you. Thus, in addition to being a member of the bride of Christ, you are also part of God's work to reach those yet to become part of Christ's Church. How are you allowing God to use your gifts and resources in that endeavor?

what do I know
to be true? ✓

Skill Builder

Further Applications:

FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION OR CONTEMPLATION:

- I) Rebekah's family bestows a traditional marriage blessing on her in verse 60. Assuming that Rebekah later learned of the promises that God made Abraham in Genesis 12:1-3, 13:14-17, 15:5, and 17:1-8, what might she have thought when she reflected on her family's blessing to her?
- II) Look back at what you determined in question 2 about Rebekah's character. Now read Genesis 27. Do Rebekah's actions in Genesis 27 surprise you? Why or why not?
- III) Isaac and Rebekah's son, Jacob will have dealings with Laban in Genesis 29. Do you see any indications of Laban's heart in Genesis 24 that hint toward his character which is on full display in Genesis 29?

REFERENCES

Wiersbe, Warren W. *Be Obedient (Genesis 12-25): Learning the Secret of Living by Faith (The BE Series Commentary)* (p. 4). David C Cook. Kindle Edition.

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Cross References for Lesson 22

John 17:23

²³ I in them and You in Me, that they may be perfected in unity, so that the world may know that You sent Me, and loved them, even as You have loved Me.

Philippians 4:19

¹⁹ And my God will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.

Ephesians 1:3-14

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, ⁴ just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. In love ⁵ He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will, ⁶ to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. ⁷ In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace ⁸ which He lavished on us. In all wisdom and insight ⁹ He made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His kind intention which He purposed in Him ¹⁰ with a view to an administration suitable to the fullness of the times, that is, the summing up of all things in Christ, things in the heavens and things on the earth. In Him ¹¹ also we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will, ¹² to the end that we who were the first to hope in Christ would be to the praise of His glory. ¹³ In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation—having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise, ¹⁴ who is given as a pledge of our

inheritance, with a view to the redemption of God's own possession, to the praise of His glory.

John 6:44

⁴⁴No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up on the last day.

John 16:13

¹³But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come.

Ephesians 5:25-27

²⁵Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her, ²⁶so that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, ²⁷that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she would be holy and blameless.

Revelation 21:9-10

⁹Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues came and spoke with me, saying, "Come here, I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb."

¹⁰And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me the holy city, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God,

2 Thessalonians 2:13

¹³But we should always give thanks to God for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God has chosen you from the beginning for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and faith in the truth.

John 3:16

¹⁶"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.

Acts 13:32-33

³²And we preach to you the good news of the promise made to the fathers, ³³that God has fulfilled this *promise* to our children in that He raised up Jesus, as it is also written in the second Psalm, 'YOU ARE MY SON; TODAY I HAVE BEGOTTEN YOU.'

Hebrews 1:2

²in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world.

Genesis 12:1-3

Now the LORD said to Abram,

“Go forth from your country,
And from your relatives
And from your father's house,
To the land which I will show you;
²And I will make you a great nation,
And I will bless you,
And make your name great;
And so you shall be a blessing;
³And I will bless those who bless you,
And the one who curses you I will curse.
And in you all the families of the earth will be blessed.”

Genesis 13:14-17

¹⁴The LORD said to Abram, after Lot had separated from him, “Now lift up your eyes and look from the place where you are, northward and southward and eastward and westward; ¹⁵for all the land which you see, I will give it to you and to your descendants forever. ¹⁶I will make your descendants as the dust of the earth, so that if anyone can number the dust of the earth, then your descendants can also be numbered. ¹⁷Arise, walk about the land through its length and breadth; for I will give it to you.”

Genesis 15:5

⁵And He took him outside and said, "Now look toward the heavens, and count the stars, if you are able to count them." And He said to him, "So shall your descendants be."

Genesis 17:1-8

Now when Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram and said to him,

"I am God Almighty;

Walk before Me, and be blameless.

²"I will establish My covenant between Me and you, And I will multiply you exceedingly."

³Abram fell on his face, and God talked with him, saying,

⁴"As for Me, behold, My covenant is with you, And you will be the father of a multitude of nations.

⁵"No longer shall your name be called Abram, But your name shall be Abraham;

For I have made you the father of a multitude of nations.

⁶I will make you exceedingly fruitful, and I will make nations of you, and kings will come forth from you. ⁷I will establish My covenant between Me and you and your descendants after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your descendants after you. ⁸I will give to you and to your descendants after you, the land of your sojournings, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession; and I will be their God."

Genesis 27

Now it came about, when Isaac was old and his eyes were too dim to see, that he called his older son Esau and said to him, "My son." And he said to him, "Here I am." ²Isaac said, "Behold now, I am old *and* I do not know the day of my death. ³Now then, please take your gear, your quiver and your bow, and go out to the field and hunt game for me; ⁴and prepare a savory dish for me such as I love, and bring it to me that I may eat, so that my soul may bless you before I die."

⁵Rebekah was listening while Isaac spoke to his son Esau. So when Esau went to the field to hunt for game to bring *home*, ⁶Rebekah said to her son Jacob, “Behold, I heard your father speak to your brother Esau, saying, ⁷“Bring me *some* game and prepare a savory dish for me, that I may eat, and bless you in the presence of the LORD before my death.” ⁸Now therefore, my son, listen to me as I command you. ⁹Go now to the flock and bring me two choice young goats from there, that I may prepare them *as* a savory dish for your father, such as he loves. ¹⁰Then you shall bring *it* to your father, that he may eat, so that he may bless you before his death.” ¹¹Jacob answered his mother Rebekah, “Behold, Esau my brother is a hairy man and I am a smooth man. ¹²Perhaps my father will feel me, then I will be as a deceiver in his sight, and I will bring upon myself a curse and not a blessing.” ¹³But his mother said to him, “Your curse be on me, my son; only obey my voice, and go, get *them* for me.” ¹⁴So he went and got *them*, and brought *them* to his mother; and his mother made savory food such as his father loved. ¹⁵Then Rebekah took the best garments of Esau her elder son, which were with her in the house, and put them on Jacob her younger son. ¹⁶And she put the skins of the young goats on his hands and on the smooth part of his neck. ¹⁷She also gave the savory food and the bread, which she had made, to her son Jacob.

¹⁸Then he came to his father and said, “My father.” And he said, “Here I am. Who are you, my son?” ¹⁹Jacob said to his father, “I am Esau your firstborn; I have done as you told me. Get up, please, sit and eat of my game, that you may bless me.” ²⁰Isaac said to his son, “How is it that you have *it* so quickly, my son?” And he said, “Because the LORD your God caused *it* to happen to me.” ²¹Then Isaac said to Jacob, “Please come close, that I may feel you, my son, whether you are really my son Esau or not.” ²²So Jacob came close to Isaac his father, and he felt him and said, “The voice is the voice of Jacob, but the hands are the hands of Esau.” ²³He did not recognize him, because his hands were hairy like his brother Esau’s hands; so he blessed him. ²⁴And he said, “Are you really my son Esau?” And he said, “I am.” ²⁵So he said, “Bring *it* to me, and I will eat of my son’s game, that I may bless you.” And he brought *it* to him, and he ate; he also brought him wine and he drank. ²⁶Then his father Isaac said to

him, "Please come close and kiss me, my son." ²⁷ So he came close and kissed him; and when he smelled the smell of his garments, he blessed him and said,

"See, the smell of my son
Is like the smell of a field which the LORD has blessed;

²⁸ Now may God give you of the dew of heaven,

And of the fatness of the earth,

And an abundance of grain and new wine;

²⁹ May peoples serve you,

And nations bow down to you;

Be master of your brothers,

And may your mother's sons bow down to you.

Cursed be those who curse you,

And blessed be those who bless you."

³⁰ Now it came about, as soon as Isaac had finished blessing Jacob, and Jacob had hardly gone out from the presence of Isaac his father, that Esau his brother came in from his hunting. ³¹ Then he also made savory food, and brought it to his father; and he said to his father, "Let my father arise and eat of his son's game, that you may bless me." ³² Isaac his father said to him, "Who are you?" And he said, "I am your son, your firstborn, Esau." ³³ Then Isaac trembled violently, and said, "Who was he then that hunted game and brought *it* to me, so that I ate of all *of it* before you came, and blessed him? Yes, and he shall be blessed." ³⁴ When Esau heard the words of his father, he cried out with an exceedingly great and bitter cry, and said to his father, "Bless me, *even* me also, O my father!" ³⁵ And he said, "Your brother came deceitfully and has taken away your blessing." ³⁶ Then he said, "Is he not rightly named Jacob, for he has supplanted me these two times? He took away my birthright, and behold, now he has taken away my blessing." And he said, "Have you not reserved a blessing for me?" ³⁷ But Isaac replied to Esau, "Behold, I have made him your master, and all his relatives I have given to him as servants; and with grain and new wine I have sustained him. Now as for you then, what can I do, my son?" ³⁸ Esau said to his father, "Do you have only one blessing, my father? Bless me, *even* me also, O my father." So Esau lifted his voice and wept.

³⁹Then Isaac his father answered and said to him,

“Behold, away from the fertility of the earth shall be your dwelling,
And away from the dew of heaven from above.

⁴⁰“By your sword you shall live,
And your brother you shall serve;
But it shall come about when you become restless,
That you will break his yoke from your neck.”

⁴¹ So Esau bore a grudge against Jacob because of the blessing with which his father had blessed him; and Esau said to himself, “The days of mourning for my father are near; then I will kill my brother Jacob.” ⁴² Now when the words of her elder son Esau were reported to Rebekah, she sent and called her younger son Jacob, and said to him, “Behold your brother Esau is consoling himself concerning you *by planning* to kill you. ⁴³ Now therefore, my son, obey my voice, and arise, flee to Haran, to my brother Laban! ⁴⁴ Stay with him a few days, until your brother's fury subsides, ⁴⁵ until your brother's anger against you subsides and he forgets what you did to him. Then I will send and get you from there. Why should I be bereaved of you both in one day?”

⁴⁶ Rebekah said to Isaac, “I am tired of living because of the daughters of Heth; if Jacob takes a wife from the daughters of Heth, like these, from the daughters of the land, what good will my life be to me?”

Genesis 29:1-30

Then Jacob went on his journey, and came to the land of the sons of the east. ² He looked, and saw a well in the field, and behold, three flocks of sheep were lying there beside it, for from that well they watered the flocks. Now the stone on the mouth of the well was large. ³ When all the flocks were gathered there, they would then roll the stone from the mouth of the well and water the sheep, and put the stone back in its place on the mouth of the well.

⁴ Jacob said to them, “My brothers, where are you from?” And they said, “We are from Haran.” ⁵ He said to them, “Do you know Laban the son of Nahor?” And they said, “We know *him*.” ⁶ And he said to them, “Is it well with him?” And they said, “It is well, and here is Rachel his daughter

coming with the sheep.” ⁷He said, “Behold, it is still high day; it is not time for the livestock to be gathered. Water the sheep, and go, pasture them.” ⁸But they said, “We cannot, until all the flocks are gathered, and they roll the stone from the mouth of the well; then we water the sheep.”

⁹While he was still speaking with them, Rachel came with her father's sheep, for she was a shepherdess. ¹⁰When Jacob saw Rachel the daughter of Laban his mother's brother, and the sheep of Laban his mother's brother, Jacob went up and rolled the stone from the mouth of the well and watered the flock of Laban his mother's brother. ¹¹Then Jacob kissed Rachel, and lifted his voice and wept. ¹²Jacob told Rachel that he was a relative of her father and that he was Rebekah's son, and she ran and told her father.

¹³So when Laban heard the news of Jacob his sister's son, he ran to meet him, and embraced him and kissed him and brought him to his house. Then he related to Laban all these things. ¹⁴Laban said to him, “Surely you are my bone and my flesh.” And he stayed with him a month.

¹⁵Then Laban said to Jacob, “Because you are my relative, should you therefore serve me for nothing? Tell me, what shall your wages be?” ¹⁶Now Laban had two daughters; the name of the older was Leah, and the name of the younger was Rachel. ¹⁷And Leah's eyes were weak, but Rachel was beautiful of form and face. ¹⁸Now Jacob loved Rachel, so he said, “I will serve you seven years for your younger daughter Rachel.” ¹⁹Laban said, “It is better that I give her to you than to give her to another man; stay with me.” ²⁰So Jacob served seven years for Rachel and they seemed to him but a few days because of his love for her.

²¹Then Jacob said to Laban, “Give *me* my wife, for my time is completed, that I may go in to her.” ²²Laban gathered all the men of the place and made a feast. ²³Now in the evening he took his daughter Leah, and brought her to him; and *Jacob* went in to her. ²⁴Laban also gave his maid Zilpah to his daughter Leah as a maid. ²⁵So it came about in the morning that, behold, it was Leah! And he said to Laban, “What is this you have done to me? Was it not for Rachel that I served with you? Why then have you deceived me?” ²⁶But Laban said, “It is not the practice in our place to marry off the younger before the firstborn. ²⁷Complete the week of this

one, and we will give you the other also for the service which you shall serve with me for another seven years.”²⁸ Jacob did so and completed her week, and he gave him his daughter Rachel as his wife. ²⁹ Laban also gave his maid Bilhah to his daughter Rachel as her maid. ³⁰ So *Jacob* went in to Rachel also, and indeed he loved Rachel more than Leah, and he served with Laban for another seven years.

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