

The Story of Rebecca

The Story of Rebecca A Wife for Isaac: Genesis 24

24:1 Abraham was old, well advanced in years, and God had blessed Abraham with everything.

24:2 He said to the senior servant of his household, who was in charge of all that he owned, 'Place your hand under my thigh.

24:3 I will bind you by an oath to God, Lord of heaven and earth that you will not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites among whom I live.

24:4 Instead, you must go to my native land, to my birthplace, and obtain a wife for my son Isaac.'

24:5 'But what if the girl does not want to come back with me to this land?' asked the servant. 'Shall I bring your son back to the land that you left?'

24:6 'Be most careful in this respect,' replied Abraham. 'Do not bring my son back there!

24:7 God, the Lord of heaven, took me away from my father's house and the land of my birth. He spoke to me and made an oath. 'To your offspring I will give this land.' He will send His angel before you, and you will indeed find a wife there for my son.

24:8 If the girl does not want to come back with you, then you shall be absolved of my oath. But [no matter what,] do not bring my son back there!'

24:9 The servant placed his hand under the thigh of Abraham his master, and he took an oath regarding this.

24:10 The servant then took ten of his master's camels, bringing along the best things his master owned. He set off and went to Aram Naharayim, to the city of Nachor.

24:11 [When he arrived,] he let the camels rest on their knees outside the city, beside the well. It was in the evening when women go out to draw water.

24:12 He prayed, 'O God, Lord of my master Abraham: Be with me today, and grant a favor to my master Abraham.

24:13 I am standing here by the well and the daughters of the townsmen are coming out to draw water.



24:14 If I say to a girl, 'Tip over your jug and let me have a drink,' and she replies, 'Drink, and I will also water your camels,' she will be the one whom You have designated for Your servant Isaac. [If there is such a girl,] I will know that You have granted a favor for my master.'

24:15 He had not yet finished speaking, when Rebecca appeared. She had been born to Bethuel, the son of Milcah, the wife of Abraham's brother Nachor. Her jug was on her shoulder.

24:16 The girl was extremely good-looking, [and] she was a virgin untouched by any man. The girl went down, filled her jug, and then came up again.

24:17 The servant ran toward her. 'If you would, let me sip a little water from your jug,' he said.

24:18 'Drink, Sir,' she replied. She quickly lowered her jug to her hand and gave him a drink.

24:19 When he had finished drinking, she said, 'Let me draw water for your camels, so they can [also] drink their fill.'

24:20 She quickly emptied her jug into the trough and ran to the well again to draw water. She drew water for all his camels.

24:21 The man stood there gaping at her. But he remained silent, waiting to determine for certain whether or not God had made his journey successful.

24:22 When the camels had finished drinking, he took a gold ring weighing half a shekel, and two gold bracelets, weighing ten gold shekels, for her arms.

24:23 'Whose daughter are you?' he asked. 'If you would, tell me if there is a place in your father's house for us to spend the night.'

24:24 She replied, 'I am the daughter of Bethuel, son of Milcah, whom she bore to Nachor.'

24:25 She then said, 'We have plenty of straw and fodder, as well as a place for people to spend the night.'

24:26 The man bowed low and prostrated himself to God.

24:27 He said, 'Blessed be God, Lord of my master Abraham, who has not withdrawn the kindness and truth that He grants to my master. Here I am, still on the road, and God has led me to the house of my master's close relatives!'

